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Proposed Classes

14  
15 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

16 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, OAKLAND DIVISION

17 STACIA STINER; HELEN CARLSON, by  
and through her Guardian Ad Litem, JOAN  
18 CARLSON; LAWRENCE QUINLAN, by and  
through his Guardian Ad Litem, LORESIA  
19 VALLETTE; EDWARD BORIS, by and  
through his Guardian Ad Litem, MICHELE  
20 LYTLE; RALPH SCHMIDT, by and through  
his Guardian Ad Litem, HEATHER FISHER;  
21 PATRICIA LINDSTROM, as successor-in-  
interest to the Estate of ARTHUR  
22 LINDSTROM; BERNIE JESTRABEK-  
HART; and JEANETTE ALGARME; on their  
23 own behalves and on behalf of others similarly  
situated,

24 Plaintiffs,

25 v.

26 BROOKDALE SENIOR LIVING, INC.;  
BROOKDALE SENIOR LIVING  
27 COMMUNITIES, INC.; and DOES 1 through  
100,

28 Defendants.

Case No. 4:17-cv-03962-HSG

**THIRD AMENDED COMPLAINT  
FOR DECLARATORY AND  
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND  
DAMAGES**

**CLASS ACTION**

1. **Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.)**
2. **Unruh Civil Rights Act (Cal. Civ. Code §§ 51 et seq.)**
3. **Consumer Legal Remedies Act (Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750 et seq.)**
4. **Elder Financial Abuse (Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code §§ 15610.30)**
5. **Unlawful, Unfair and Fraudulent Business Practices (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 et seq.)**

## INTRODUCTION

1  
2 1. Plaintiffs and the proposed Classes bring this action for declaratory and  
3 injunctive relief and damages to stop the unlawful and fraudulent practices of Brookdale  
4 Senior Living, Inc. and Brookdale Senior Living Communities, Inc. (“BROOKDALE” or  
5 “Defendants”).

6 2. Plaintiffs are elderly or dependent individuals living in California who have  
7 significant care needs and disabilities. Plaintiffs and their families were overwhelmed by  
8 and required assistance with their activities of daily living including, but not limited to,  
9 assistance with managing and taking medication, housekeeping, laundry, dressing, bathing,  
10 toileting, hygiene, food preparation, and transportation. Plaintiffs and their families and  
11 the classes they seek to represent either chose a BROOKDALE facility or chose to stay in  
12 a facility purchased by BROOKDALE because they believed BROOKDALE’s repeated  
13 promises to provide the care and assistance that would allow them to age with dignity.  
14 Instead, Plaintiffs, their family members, and the proposed class members have all  
15 encountered in BROOKDALE a system of understaffed assisted living facilities that fails  
16 to consistently provide even the most basic level of promised care.

17 3. Defendant BROOKDALE has engaged in a policy and practice of violating  
18 Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (“ADA”), 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 *et*  
19 *seq.*, accompanying regulations, and the Unruh Civil Rights Act (“Unruh Act”), California  
20 Civil Code §§ 51 *et seq.* Among other things, Defendant has violated the ADA by failing  
21 to make its assisted living facilities readily accessible to and usable by persons with  
22 disabilities even though both the ADA and the Unruh Act impose affirmative duties upon  
23 Defendants to make their assisted living facilities accessible. As set forth below,  
24 Defendants have a policy and practice of leaving physical access barriers in place in their  
25 newly constructed, altered and/or existing facilities in violation of the ADA and the Unruh  
26 Act. Defendants have failed to perform new construction and alterations in compliance  
27 with applicable federal and state disability access standards, including but not limited to  
28 the 1991 Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (“ADAAG”) and the

1 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design, and have failed to evaluate their newly  
2 constructed and/or altered assisted living facilities to identify and remediate non-compliant  
3 and inaccessible construction and alterations therein. Defendants have also failed and  
4 refused to identify and remove physical access barriers from their existing assisted living  
5 facilities where such barrier removal was readily achievable within the meaning of the  
6 ADA. As a result of Defendants' corporate policies and practices regarding disability  
7 access, Defendants' assisted living facilities are characterized by multiple, pervasive  
8 physical access barriers that limit or deny full and equal access to persons with disabilities.

9 4. Moreover, Defendants have failed to make reasonable modifications to its  
10 policies, practices and procedures that are necessary for persons with disabilities to have  
11 full and equal access to and enjoyment of the services, goods, facilities, privileges,  
12 advantages and accommodations provided by BROOKDALE's facilities. Defendants'  
13 goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and/or accommodations include  
14 providing assistance with activities of daily living (assistance with eating, housekeeping  
15 and laundry, bathing, grooming, dressing, toileting, personal hygiene, provision of  
16 nutritious meals), medication management (ordering and storage of medications, assistance  
17 taking medications), social and recreational activities (group exercise, games, movies,  
18 scenic drives, happy hours and social mixers, and assistance with arrangements for  
19 utilization of local resources), and transportation to and coordination of off-site services.  
20 Plaintiffs have specifically requested that Defendant BROOKDALE make reasonable  
21 modifications to its staffing policies, practices and procedures for its assisted living  
22 facilities in order to ensure that there is staffing in sufficient numbers and with adequate  
23 training to provide timely and effective assistance and care to residents with disabilities.  
24 Despite the fact that such modifications are necessary to ensure that residents with  
25 disabilities receive full and equal access to and enjoyment of Defendants' goods, services,  
26 facilities, privileges, advantages, and/or accommodations, and despite the fact that such  
27 modifications will not result in any fundamental alteration to BROOKDALE's public  
28 accommodations, Defendants have refused to do so.

1           5.       In addition, Defendants have violated the ADA by failing and refusing to  
2 provide residents with mobility disabilities with full and equal access to and enjoyment of  
3 its transportation services. Further, Defendants have discriminated against residents with  
4 disabilities by failing to provide them with an emergency evacuation plan that is designed  
5 for and reasonably calculated to ensure the prompt and effective evacuation of persons  
6 with disabilities in the event of emergency.

7           6.       Defendant BROOKDALE has also engaged in a policy and practice of  
8 violating the Consumer Legal Remedies Act (“CLRA”), Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750 *et seq.*,  
9 committing Elder Financial Abuse, Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 15610.30, and Unlawful,  
10 Unfair and Fraudulent Business Practices (“UCL”), Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 *et*  
11 *seq.* Defendants promise to provide the elderly and disabled the “quality of life they’ve  
12 earned,” but Defendants instead engage in a scheme to defraud seniors, persons with  
13 disabilities, and their family members. In order to induce the elderly and disabled to move  
14 into and stay at its California assisted living facilities, BROOKDALE makes  
15 misrepresentations and misleading statements and conceals material facts about the quality  
16 and availability of care available at BROOKDALE. Reasonable consumers are misled to  
17 believe, and reasonably expect, that BROOKDALE determines each resident’s needs and  
18 staffs each facility accordingly to deliver personalized care to meet those needs. Instead,  
19 BROOKDALE systemically understaffs its facilities, cuts caregiver hours, and fails to  
20 train workers, all to boost its profitability, while the residents in BROOKDALE’s care are  
21 forced to endure increasingly expensive monthly charges and worsening care. The results  
22 of BROOKDALE’s callous and profit-driven approach are devastating: as multiple reports  
23 by state regulators confirm, residents are left without assistance for hours after falling, they  
24 are given the wrong medications, they are denied clean clothing, showers, and nutritious  
25 food, and they are left in their own waste for long periods of time.

26           7.       On any given day, residents of BROOKDALE’s many California facilities  
27 live with a substantial risk that they will not receive the care and services they have paid  
28 for and that they need. Scores of family and resident council meetings and hundreds of

1 communications to BROOKDALE management have failed to rectify these problems,  
2 leaving Plaintiffs and the class no choice but to seek redress in this Court.

3       8. This lawsuit seeks to end this systemic discrimination against persons with  
4 disabilities by requiring Defendants to provide them with full and equal access to and  
5 enjoyment of BROOKDALE's facilities, services, goods, privileges, advantages and  
6 accommodations. This action seeks to require that Defendants staff their facilities with a  
7 sufficient number of adequately trained staff to ensure that residents with disabilities are  
8 provided with full and equal access to and enjoyment of the services specified in  
9 BROOKDALE's own resident assessments. In addition, this action seeks to require that  
10 Defendants provide assistive living facilities that are readily accessible to and usable by  
11 persons with disabilities as required by the ADA. Further, Plaintiffs seek injunctive relief  
12 requiring Defendants to provide full and equal access to and enjoyment of Defendants'  
13 transportation services and activities. Plaintiffs also seek injunctive relief requiring  
14 Defendants to provide adequate emergency planning and evacuation procedures for  
15 residents with disabilities. With respect to the CLRA, the UCL and the Elder Financial  
16 Abuse statute, this action seeks to require Defendants to disclose to prospective and current  
17 residents, their family members or responsible parties, and the class that BROOKDALE's  
18 existing staffing policies and procedures preclude it from providing its residents with all  
19 the care and services they have been promised and are paying for. Further, this action  
20 seeks to enjoin BROOKDALE from charging residents or their responsible parties  
21 monthly fees based on their Personal Service Plans until BROOKDALE implements  
22 staffing policies and procedures that enable it to deliver those services on a consistent  
23 basis.

24       9. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law and, unless BROOKDALE is  
25 preliminarily and permanently enjoined, Plaintiffs will continue to suffer irreparable harm  
26 as a result of being denied full and equal access to and enjoyment of BROOKDALE's  
27 goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and/or accommodations. Plaintiffs seek  
28 declaratory and injunctive relief and statutory and actual damages as set forth below

1 against BROOKDALE for its policy and practice of denying Plaintiffs full and equal  
2 access to and enjoyment of its services and facilities and violating the ADA and its  
3 accompanying regulations, the Unruh Act, and the CLRA, for committing Elder Financial  
4 Abuse, and for engaging in Unlawful, Unfair and Fraudulent Business Practices. Plaintiffs  
5 also seek recovery of reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and litigation expenses under  
6 federal and state law.

#### 7 **EXHAUSTION OF PRE-LAWSUIT PROCEDURES FOR STATE LAW CLAIMS**

8 10. By letter dated June 2, 2017, Plaintiffs notified Defendants of Plaintiffs'  
9 intent to file suit against it based on violations of the Consumer Legal Remedies Act, as  
10 required by California Civil Code § 1782. BROOKDALE received the letter on June 6,  
11 2017. More than 30 days have passed since BROOKDALE's receipt, and BROOKDALE  
12 has not corrected or remedied the violations alleged in the notice and herein.

13 11. Though they were not required to do so, Plaintiffs also notified  
14 BROOKDALE of its multiple violations of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities  
15 Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1201 *et seq.*, the Unruh Civil Rights Act, California's elder financial  
16 abuse law, and California's Unfair Competition Law.

#### 17 **JURISDICTION**

18 12. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction of this action pursuant to  
19 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343(a)(3)-(4). The Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C.  
20 §§ 12101 *et seq.*, presents federal questions and confers jurisdiction on this Court over  
21 Plaintiffs' claims regardless of the amount in controversy. This Court also has subject  
22 matter jurisdiction of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A) because this is a  
23 class action in which the proposed class includes at least 100 members, the amount in  
24 controversy exceeds \$5,000,000, exclusive of interests and costs, and at least one putative  
25 class member is a citizen of a state different from one of the defendants. Plaintiffs seek  
26 damages in the amount of a minimum \$9,000 per class member and believe that the class  
27 consists of over 5,000 persons, making the amount in controversy well in excess of  
28 \$5,000,000. BROOKDALE is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business

1 in Tennessee, making it a citizen of both Delaware and Tennessee, and each of the named  
2 Plaintiffs are citizens of the State of California. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367, this Court  
3 has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' pendent claims under California law.

4 13. Defendants are subject to personal jurisdiction in this Court because  
5 Defendants have sufficient minimum contacts in California, or otherwise intentionally  
6 avail themselves of the California market through ownership and/or management of  
7 assisted living facilities located in California, derivation of substantial revenues from  
8 California, and other activities, so as to render the exercise of jurisdiction over Defendants  
9 by the California courts consistent with the traditional notions of fair play and substantial  
10 justice.

#### 11 **VENUE**

12 14. Venue is proper in the Northern District of California pursuant to 28 U.S.C.  
13 § 1391(b), because the acts upon which this action is based occurred in part in this District  
14 within the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Lake, Monterey, Napa, San Mateo, Santa  
15 Clara, Santa Cruz, and Sonoma.

16 15. A substantial part of the events or omissions which gave rise to Plaintiffs'  
17 claims arose in the County of Sonoma and thus, pursuant to Civil Local Rules 3-2(c) and  
18 (d), assignment to the Oakland Division of the District Court for the Northern District of  
19 California is proper.

#### 20 **THE PARTIES**

21 16. Plaintiff STACIA STINER is a qualified person with disabilities within the  
22 meaning of the ADA and the Unruh Civil Rights Act. She is also a dependent adult  
23 pursuant to Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 15610.23; a disabled person pursuant to Cal. Civ.  
24 Code § 1761(g); and a consumer pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(d). Ms. STINER is 48  
25 years old. She needs assistance with the following activities of daily living: housekeeping,  
26 laundry, dressing, bathing, managing medications, toileting, and transportation. She uses a  
27 wheelchair for mobility. STACIA STINER has been a resident of BROOKDALE San  
28 Ramon since approximately February 2016. She is a resident of Contra Costa County in

1 the State of California.

2 17. Plaintiff HELEN CARLSON was a qualified person with disabilities within  
3 the meaning of the ADA and the Unruh Civil Rights Act. She was also an elder pursuant  
4 to Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 15610.27; a senior citizen and a disabled person pursuant to  
5 Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1761(f), 1761(g); and a consumer pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(d).  
6 HELEN CARLSON died on January 19, 2019. At the time of her death, Ms. CARLSON  
7 was 95 years old. Prior to her death, she needed assistance with the following activities of  
8 daily living: managing medications, transferring, toileting, bathing, dressing, grooming,  
9 transportation, food preparation and meal setup, housekeeping, and laundry. She used a  
10 wheelchair for mobility. At the time of her death, HELEN CARLSON was and had been a  
11 resident of BROOKDALE Fountaingrove since approximately October 2011. She was a  
12 resident of Sonoma County in the State of California.

13 18. Plaintiff LAWRENCE QUINLAN is a qualified person with disabilities  
14 within the meaning of the ADA and the Unruh Civil Rights Act. He is also an elder  
15 pursuant to Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 15610.27; a senior citizen and a disabled person  
16 pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1761(f), 1761(g); and a consumer pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code  
17 § 1761(d). LAWRENCE QUINLAN is 88 years old. He uses a wheelchair for mobility  
18 and has dementia. LAWRENCE QUINLAN stayed at the facility at BROOKDALE  
19 Hemet for respite on several occasions between 2013 and 2015. He became a long-term  
20 resident of the assisted living at BROOKDALE Hemet on approximately September 13,  
21 2015 and left the facility on or about April 30, 2017. He is currently a resident of an  
22 unrelated assisted living facility in Riverside County in the State of California. LORESIA  
23 VALLETTE is LAWRENCE QUINLAN'S granddaughter. Since January 25, 2016, she  
24 and her uncle Phillip Quinlan—who is Mr. QUINLAN's son—have shared power of  
25 attorney for Mr. QUINLAN. On September 22, 2017, this Court appointed Ms.  
26 VALLETTE as Mr. QUINLAN's guardian ad litem for the purposes of prosecuting this  
27 lawsuit.

28 19. Plaintiff EDWARD BORIS was a qualified person with disabilities within



1 the meaning of the ADA and the Unruh Civil Rights Act. He was also an elder pursuant to  
2 Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 15610.27; a senior citizen and a disabled person pursuant to Cal.  
3 Civ. Code §§ 1761(f), 1761(g); and a consumer pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(d). He  
4 was an assisted living resident at BROOKDALE Fountaingrove from September 2015  
5 through July 2016. He was then a resident of the skilled nursing facility at BROOKDALE  
6 Fountaingrove. Mr. BORIS died on September 14, 2018. At the time of his death, Mr.  
7 BORIS was 86 years old. During his time as an assisted living resident at BROOKDALE  
8 Fountaingrove, EDWARD BORIS used a walker and wheelchair. At the time of his death,  
9 he was a resident of Sonoma County in the State of California. MICHELE LYTLE is  
10 EDWARD BORIS's daughter. Ms. LYTLE has held Mr. BORIS's power of attorney  
11 since 2011 and has taken action on his behalf as his attorney in fact since 2015. On  
12 January 17, 2019, the Court appointed MICHELE LYTLE as the guardian ad litem of  
13 EDWARD BORIS for the purposes of prosecuting this lawsuit. MICHELE LYTLE is the  
14 successor-in-interest of EDWARD BORIS, and a successor-in-interest declaration will be  
15 filed shortly.

16         20. Plaintiff PATRICIA "PAT" LINDSTROM is the wife of ARTHUR "ART"  
17 LINDSTROM. ART LINDSTROM died on February 23, 2018, and PAT LINDSTROM  
18 is his successor-in-interest. A successor-in-interest declaration was filed concurrently with  
19 the Second Amended Complaint. *See* ECF No. 52-1. At all times relevant to this  
20 complaint, Mr. LINDSTROM was a qualified person with disabilities within the meaning  
21 of the ADA and the Unruh Civil Rights Act. He was also an elder pursuant to Cal. Welf.  
22 & Inst. Code § 15610.27; a senior citizen and disabled person pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code  
23 §§ 1761(f), 1761(g); and a consumer pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(d). Mr.  
24 LINDSTROM was 83 years old when he died. He suffered from diabetes, kidney failure,  
25 heart disease, sleep apnea, and incontinence; used a cane to walk; and experienced  
26 dementia-related cognitive impairment, including general memory loss, difficulty  
27 remembering words, and difficulty speaking when under pressure. He needed assistance  
28 with the following activities of daily living: bathing, shaving, administration of

1 medication, dressing, laundry, and preparing nutritious meals. He was a resident of  
2 BROOKDALE Scotts Valley from approximately November 2015 until his death. PAT  
3 LINDSTROM is a resident of Santa Cruz County in the State of California.

4 21. Plaintiff RALPH SCHMIDT is a qualified person with disabilities within the  
5 meaning of the ADA and the Unruh Civil Rights Act. He is also a dependent adult  
6 pursuant to Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 15610.23; a disabled person pursuant to Cal. Civ.  
7 Code § 1761(g); and a consumer pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(d). RALPH  
8 SCHMIDT is 54 years old, is blind, and has significant cognitive impairments, including  
9 short-term memory loss. Both his blindness and cognitive impairments are the result of a  
10 traumatic brain injury suffered more than 20 years ago. Mr. SCHMIDT has a court-  
11 appointed conservator who manages his financial, medical, and legal affairs. He needs  
12 assistance with the following activities of daily living: housekeeping, laundry, navigating  
13 when outside of his dwelling, preparing nutritious meals, and transportation.

14 Mr. SCHMIDT was an assisted living resident at the facility currently known as  
15 BROOKDALE Tracy from approximately September 2011 through October 30, 2017. He  
16 currently resides at an assisted living facility not affiliated with BROOKDALE and is a  
17 resident of Stanislaus County in the State of California. HEATHER FISHER is a  
18 professional fiduciary and has held a license from the California Professional Fiduciaries  
19 Bureau since March 14, 2014. On August 17, 2017, the Superior Court of San Joaquin  
20 County appointed Ms. FISHER to serve as conservator for RALPH SCHMIDT, replacing  
21 Mary F. Gallagher who had been Mr. SCHMIDT's conservator since approximately  
22 November 2011. The Court appointed Ms. FISHER and Mr. SCHMIDT's guardian ad  
23 litem for the purpose of prosecuting this lawsuit on January 17, 2019.

24 22. Plaintiff BERNIE JESTRABEK-HART is a qualified person with disabilities  
25 within the meaning of the ADA and the Unruh Civil Rights Act. She is also an elder  
26 pursuant to Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 15610.27; a senior citizen and disabled person  
27 pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1761(f), 1761(g); and a consumer pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code  
28 § 1761(d). BERNIE JESTRABEK-HART is 73 years old. She needs assistance with the

1 following activities of daily living: dressing, bathing, food preparation, and transportation.  
2 She uses an electric wheelchair and cane for mobility. BERNIE JESTRABEK-HART has  
3 been a resident of BROOKDALE Scotts Valley since approximately October 2015. She is  
4 a resident of Santa Cruz County in the State of California.

5 23. Plaintiff JEANETTE ALGARME is a qualified person with disabilities  
6 within the meaning of the ADA and the Unruh Civil Rights Act. She is also an elder  
7 pursuant to Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 15610.27; a senior citizen and a disabled person  
8 pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1761(f), 1761(g); and a consumer pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code  
9 § 1761(d). JEANETTE ALGARME is 74 years old. She needs assistance with the  
10 following activities of daily living: physical assistance transferring into the bathroom and  
11 shower from her bedroom; dressing and grooming, including physical assistance with  
12 dressing tasks; hands-on assistance while showering; and evacuation in an emergency.  
13 She uses an electric wheelchair for mobility. JEANETTE ALGARME is and has been a  
14 resident of BROOKDALE Brookhurst since approximately April 2018. She is a resident  
15 of Orange County in the State of California.

16 24. Defendant BROOKDALE SENIOR LIVING, INC. is a corporation  
17 organized under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal place of business in  
18 Brentwood, Tennessee. Defendant BROOKDALE SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITIES,  
19 INC. is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal  
20 place of business in Brentwood, Tennessee. BROOKDALE SENIOR LIVING, INC. and  
21 BROOKDALE SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITIES, INC. will be referred to collectively  
22 as “BROOKDALE” or “Defendants.” BROOKDALE owns, manages, and/or operates  
23 approximately eighty-nine (89) assisted living facilities throughout California. It is the  
24 largest chain of senior living facilities in California and the United States.  
25 BROOKDALE’s operations are centralized, hierarchical and standardized, and all of  
26 BROOKDALE’s assisted living facilities in California use the same uniform corporate  
27 policies, practices and procedures. These corporate policies, practices and procedures  
28 control all aspects of the operations, staffing and staff training in its assisted living

1 facilities. All of BROOKDALE's assisted living facilities in California are required to  
2 follow the uniform policies, practices and procedures established by BROOKDALE's  
3 corporate headquarters.

4 25. BROOKDALE's unlawful conduct as alleged herein has been widespread,  
5 repeated, and consistent at each of its locations. The operations of BROOKDALE's  
6 assisted living facilities in California are standardized, if not identical. BROOKDALE's  
7 conduct, as alleged herein, was and is part of a statewide plan, practice, course of conduct  
8 and scheme, and affects all of the residents of BROOKDALE's assisted living facilities.

9 26. Defendants DOES 1-100 are sued herein under fictitious names because  
10 Plaintiffs do not presently know their true names and capacities. Plaintiffs will seek leave  
11 to amend this Complaint to allege their true names and capacities when such are  
12 discovered. Plaintiffs allege that each of these Defendants was responsible in some  
13 capacity for the events alleged herein, or is a necessary party for obtaining appropriate  
14 relief. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that in carrying out each of  
15 the acts and violations alleged in this Complaint, each Defendant acted as an agent,  
16 principal, and/or representative for each other Defendant.

### 17 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

18 27. BROOKDALE is the largest provider of assisted living for senior citizens  
19 and persons with disabilities in the nation and has the largest number of assisted living  
20 facility residents within the state of California. On information and belief, Plaintiffs allege  
21 that there are more than 5,000 residents in Defendants' eighty-nine facilities in California.

22 28. Assisted living facilities, also called Residential Care Facilities for the  
23 Elderly ("RCFEs"), offer room, board and daily assistance for seniors and persons with  
24 disabilities in certain activities of daily living ("ADLs"), such as preparing meals,  
25 shopping, transportation, preparing and taking medication, housekeeping, laundry, bathing,  
26 toileting, grooming, dressing, and others.

27 29. Assisted living facilities are intended to provide a level of care appropriate  
28 for those who are unable to live by themselves, but who do not have medical conditions

1 requiring more extensive nursing care.

2       30. In recent years, BROOKDALE has increasingly been accepting and retaining  
3 more residents with conditions and care needs that were once handled almost exclusively  
4 in skilled nursing facilities. This has allowed it to increase not only the potential resident  
5 pool but also the amounts of money charged to residents and/or their family members.

6       31. At BROOKDALE facilities, residents are charged a base rate, which  
7 includes room, board, basic maintenance, housekeeping, laundry, dining services, planned  
8 social and recreational programs, scheduled transportation services, staffing 24 hours a  
9 day, observation and consultation, and assistance with access to outside services.  
10 BROOKDALE uses its resident assessment system to assess each resident before  
11 admission and then again periodically throughout residency and/or whenever there is a  
12 change of the resident's condition. By performing these assessments, BROOKDALE  
13 determines what additional services a resident needs, such as assistance with ADLs, and  
14 develops a Personal Service Plan for the resident. Each additional need, or service, is  
15 assigned a monthly Personal Service Rate, which is added onto the resident's base rate.  
16 The more personal services determined by BROOKDALE to be needed by a resident, the  
17 more money BROOKDALE charges that resident.

18       32. Every month, BROOKDALE sends each resident or his or her responsible  
19 party an invoice for services that BROOKDALE represents it will provide in the following  
20 month. These invoices reflect the monthly rate for the Basic Services set forth in  
21 BROOKDALE's standard residency agreements, the Personal Service Rate that is based  
22 on each resident's Personal Service Plan, and any adjustments. On information and belief,  
23 these monthly invoices range from approximately \$4,000 to \$10,000 per person per month.

24       33. On information and belief, as of January 1, 2016, BROOKDALE increased  
25 the Basic Service Rate and Personal Service Rate for residents in its California facilities by  
26 roughly 6%, and as of January 1, 2017, it raised these rates again by approximately 7%. In  
27 standard form letters sent to residents attempting to explain these steep rate increases,  
28 BROOKDALE attributed them to increases in "the operating costs of your community,"

1 including costs for “utility usage, insurance, supplies, and food.” But in fact the Consumer  
2 Price Index for the Bay Area rose only 3.4% between approximately January 1, 2016 and  
3 December 31, 2016.

4 **Brookdale Fails to Provide Full and Equal Access To and Enjoyment of Its Facilities**  
5 **and Services to Persons With Disabilities In Violation of the ADA and the Unruh**  
6 **Civil Rights Act**

6 **Physical Access Violations**

7 34. BROOKDALE has violated Title III of the ADA and the Unruh Civil Rights  
8 Act by failing to provide full and equal access to its facilities and services. Rooms  
9 occupied by persons with mobility disabilities and common areas at the BROOKDALE  
10 San Ramon, Windsor, Fountaingrove, Scotts Valley, and likely other facilities, do not meet  
11 federal or state accessibility standards. Under Title III, fifty percent of the residential  
12 rooms in long-term care facilities must meet the requirements of the 1991 ADAAG or the  
13 2010 ADA Standards. BROOKDALE’s facilities do not meet these standards.

14 35. There is a pattern of physical access barriers in BROOKDALE facilities, as  
15 described below:

- 16 a. Wheelchair users are placed in rooms that do not have sufficient  
17 turning space in the bathrooms or the bedroom area. This means that  
18 they often cannot even use their bathroom unless they are able to  
19 transfer out of their wheelchair and enter without it. Those who can  
20 enter in their wheelchair usually do not have enough space to transfer  
21 safely onto the toilet or into the shower or to use the sink or vanity  
22 space. Some residents have given up on using their inaccessible toilet  
23 and must rely on adult briefs and caregiving staff to clean them.
- 24 b. There is no clearance for wheelchairs under the sinks and/or the sinks  
25 are too high for a wheelchair user to reach them, preventing residents  
26 from using them.
- 27 c. The grab bars that do exist in the bathrooms are not compliant with  
28 applicable access standards, and there are no roll-in showers. Both of

1           these barriers are safety hazards, increasing the likelihood of falls.  
2           They also prevent most persons with mobility disabilities from  
3           bathing as independently as possible. Some wheelchair users have  
4           stopped using their showers altogether and instead take sponge baths,  
5           hardly an adequate substitute.

6           d.     There are barriers to using the outdoor space for the residents' rooms,  
7           including hard-to-open sliding doors, a lip at the threshold of the door,  
8           and insufficient space to accommodate a wheelchair. This prevents  
9           persons with mobility disabilities from using their outdoor space as  
10          persons without disabilities can.

11          e.     The closets do not have accessible hanging and storage space, in that  
12          they are placed out of the reach of a wheelchair user. This prevents  
13          persons with mobility disabilities from accessing their clothing and  
14          other personal items, forcing them to rely on others for assistance.

15          f.     Kitchen countertops and sinks are too high for a wheelchair user to  
16          access, preventing those residents from fully using their kitchens.

17          g.     Heavy doors in common areas cannot be used independently by and  
18          pose a safety risk to many persons with disabilities.

19          36.    These physical access barriers, which residents live with on a daily basis,  
20          prevent them from having full and equal access to their rooms as required by law.

### 21 **Understaffing**

22          37.    BROOKDALE does not schedule or provide sufficient numbers of trained  
23          staff to deliver promised services and meet the needs of its residents. Plaintiffs allege on  
24          information and belief that BROOKDALE staffs its facilities based on predetermined labor  
25          budgets and desired profit margins. Pursuant to Defendants' corporate policies and  
26          procedures, the executive directors who manage individual BROOKDALE facilities must  
27          request permission from Defendants' corporate headquarters to deviate from these pre-  
28          determined budgets. Executive directors have a disincentive to request increased labor

1 budgets for their facilities because they are not eligible for bonuses unless they meet  
2 earnings targets set by Defendants' corporate headquarters. As a result of Defendants'  
3 corporate policies, practices and procedures BROOKDALE's assisted living facilities are  
4 inadequately staffed.

5 38. Reports issued by California Department of Social Services' Community  
6 Care Licensing Division ("Community Care Licensing"), the state agency that regulates  
7 assisted living facilities, indicate that inadequate staffing pervades Defendants' California  
8 facilities. For instance, Community Care Licensing issued a citation to BROOKDALE  
9 Corona after a licensing inspector found "that there are not enough staff present" and  
10 observed five residents sitting unsupervised in the dining room and 19 residents in the  
11 activity room with only one staff member present. In March 2017, Community Care  
12 Licensing cited a BROOKDALE facility in Santa Cruz County after a licensing inspector  
13 found that the facility did not have an adequate amount of staff to meet residents' needs.  
14 In June 2016, BROOKDALE Oceanside received a citation because it had only two  
15 caregivers on duty during daytime hours in the assisted living part of its facility.

16 39. Plaintiffs allege on information and belief that BROOKDALE uses pre-  
17 determined staffing schedules at its facilities and does not change these schedules or the  
18 number of staff hours worked when the facility has more residents or residents with greater  
19 needs. Community Care Licensing records demonstrate the inadequacy of Defendants'  
20 staffing to meet even the most basic needs of residents. For instance, a personnel report  
21 that BROOKDALE filed with Community Care Licensing in February 2017 indicates that  
22 BROOKDALE Fountaingrove, a facility in Sonoma County, is understaffed for the night  
23 shift from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. That schedule lists only four resident caregivers  
24 assigned to the night shift, three of whom work only three days a week, with the result that  
25 in many instances there are as few as one resident caregiver on duty during the night shift  
26 to care for approximately 100 residents on three floors. Moreover, the official numbers of  
27 caregivers on duty is often quite deceptive, as BROOKDALE frequently pulls caregivers  
28 from their responsibilities in order to perform other tasks, such as serving meals in the



1 dining room.

2 40. As a direct result of Defendants' discriminatory staffing practices, residents  
3 with disabilities have not received or run a substantial risk of not receiving the personal  
4 services, emergency and evacuation response, dining services, housekeeping and laundry  
5 services, transportation, and activities for which they are paying and that are necessary for  
6 full and equal enjoyment of Defendants' goods, services, facilities, benefits, advantages  
7 and accommodations.

8 ***Impact of Understaffing on Personal Services***

9 41. The lack of sufficient numbers of trained staff at BROOKDALE means that  
10 residents with disabilities who need and pay for assistance with bathing, dressing, brushing  
11 their teeth, toileting, incontinence care, and other hygiene assistance do not receive it on a  
12 routine basis. Scheduled showers are routinely skipped by staff who do not have time to  
13 bathe residents. Staff often leave residents unattended on the toilet because another  
14 resident has activated their call pendant, and there is no one else available to respond.  
15 Residents have been left on their bed undressed by staff called away to attend to other  
16 residents in need.

17 42. Residents who need assistance getting to the bathroom often wait for long  
18 periods of time for staff to respond to their call pendants. Because they must wait so long  
19 for assistance, some residents have given up using the toilet altogether, instead relying on  
20 adult briefs and a caregiver to clean and change them when they have time. Incontinent  
21 residents often wait for thirty minutes or more for a staff member to help them change out  
22 of soiled briefs, raising the risk of urinary tract infections and decubitus ulcers. For  
23 example, an inspector from Community Care Licensing found in May 2016 that  
24 BROOKDALE San Pablo had insufficient staff to meet the residents' needs, noting that  
25 "[i]ndividuals requiring incontinence care are not always changed in a timely manner." In  
26 November 2016, a licensing inspector found that even though a resident at BROOKDALE  
27 Cherry Hills was paying for regular incontinence checks, she was left lying on the floor for  
28 an extended amount of time after a fall because staff failed to check on her. In March of

1 2017, a licensing inspector cited BROOKDALE Palm Springs for not providing a resident  
2 with those basic and personal care services—assistance with showering, dressing,  
3 transportation and medication—that the resident needed and for which the facility was  
4 being paid.

5 43. Insufficient staffing has also caused and continues to cause errors in  
6 medication administration, including providing the wrong dosage or the wrong medication,  
7 untimely or missed doses, and/or a failure to implement physicians' orders. Community  
8 Care Licensing has documented several examples from BROOKDALE's Sonoma County  
9 facilities that illustrate the broader problem. Community Care Licensing records show that  
10 the agency cited BROOKDALE Chanate five times on consecutive visits between October  
11 28, 2015 and October 13, 2016 for failing to give residents their prescribed medications.  
12 At BROOKDALE Windsor, a resident received a double dose of medication because the  
13 nurse who administered the first dose failed to document that it had been given. On a  
14 different occasion, staff gave a resident at BROOKDALE Windsor a medication that had  
15 been prescribed for a different resident. Meanwhile, at BROOKDALE Rohnert Park,  
16 licensing inspectors found that staff were not properly trained on storing and administering  
17 residents' medication, leading to a narcotic pill that went missing in August 2016 and  
18 staff's failure to administer medications in October 2016. Numerous other reports issued  
19 by Community Care Licensing confirm that problems with medication administration  
20 pervade Defendants' facilities throughout California. For example, Community Care  
21 Licensing cited BROOKDALE Palm Springs when 20 residents missed their medication  
22 doses on December 24, 2016 because there was no med tech on duty. At BROOKDALE  
23 San Ramon, someone stole a number of residents' medication from the facility during the  
24 overnight shift ("NOC SHIFT") between July 9 and 10, 2017. The facility did not inform  
25 all of the residents' family members of the theft. When one resident's daughter-in-law,  
26 who learned about the theft from the resident, asked the facility's acting Executive  
27 Director, Shawn Cull, which employees were on duty during the NOC shift, he told her  
28 that there were only two employees on duty to respond to all residents at the facility. The

1 facility has an occupancy of between approximately 70 to 80 residents. Because no one  
2 was immediately available at the facility to pick up refills, at least one resident did not  
3 receive her pain medication until later that evening and was extremely anxious until that  
4 time. Another resident's family was not informed of the theft until almost 6 p.m., after the  
5 resident's physician's offices had closed and the family could not obtain a refill. That  
6 resident was given an inadequate substitute pain medication in the evening, which was  
7 distressing to the resident and her family members, who had to reassure and calm her. The  
8 following day, although BROOKDALE was notified that the refill was ready for pick-up at  
9 10 a.m., the resident told her family that she did not receive her prescribed pain medication  
10 until 4 p.m.

11 44. BROOKDALE's understaffing creates many dangerous situations for  
12 residents. Among those are an increase in elopements from facilities by persons with  
13 cognitive impairments, because the facilities do not hire staff in sufficient numbers or with  
14 the training necessary to monitor residents and prevent escapes. For example,  
15 BROOKDALE Oceanside was cited in April and September of 2016 for relying on  
16 delayed egress systems to compensate for insufficient staffing, resulting in resident  
17 elopements. An informal conference was held by Community Care Licensing with  
18 BROOKDALE Oceanside management in December 2016 as a result of the elopements  
19 and other compliance failures. Subsequently, on April 26, 2017, BROOKDALE staff  
20 failed to monitor residents on an outing, and one wandered away for approximately an  
21 hour.

22 ***Impact of Understaffing on Pendant Call Systems and Medical Emergencies***

23 45. BROOKDALE'S failure to staff sufficiently results in caregivers' inability to  
24 respond promptly to call pendants, if at all. BROOKDALE has represented that residents  
25 who wear a call pendant, and pay a monthly fee for this service, may push a button to alert  
26 staff if they have an emergency, and staff will immediately respond to provide assistance.  
27 Residents with disabilities rely heavily on these call pendants for assistance with basic  
28 tasks and activities of daily living, as well as for emergencies. However, the call pendants

1 do not notify staff of the resident's location should they not be in their room. In or about  
2 late 2016, a BROOKDALE San Ramon resident fell and hit his head on the pavement in  
3 the facility parking lot and pressed his pendant. No one responded. Bleeding profusely  
4 from his head, he used his mobile phone to call the front desk. The son of another  
5 resident, a fire chief with emergency response training, found the resident in the parking  
6 lot just as BROOKDALE's bookkeeper and maintenance director responded to the  
7 resident's telephone call. Because those employees have no caregiver or emergency  
8 response training, they would not even touch the resident. The fire chief had to call 911  
9 and administer first aid while waiting.

10 46. Moreover, contrary to Defendants' representations, staff do not immediately  
11 respond when residents use their call pendants. For instance, in November 2016, a  
12 resident in the BROOKDALE Paso Robles facility pushed her emergency pendant after  
13 falling in her room and waited 22 hours on the floor with broken bones until staff finally  
14 found her. That same month, a resident at the BROOKDALE Fountaingrove fell, injured  
15 her head, pressed her call pendant, and waited thirty minutes bleeding profusely from her  
16 head before staff arrived. She died 10 days later. In January 2017, a former resident of  
17 BROOKDALE Fountaingrove waited three hours for staff to respond to a call.  
18 BROOKDALE's policy and practice of not maintaining its call pendant system properly  
19 and of not providing sufficient staff to respond to call pendants deprives residents with  
20 disabilities of full and equal enjoyment of its goods, services, facilities, and benefits.

21 47. Community Care Licensing records indicate lengthy emergency response  
22 times at Defendants' facilities throughout California. For example, in February 2017 a  
23 licensing inspector found that staff at BROOKDALE Riverside routinely took over 10  
24 minutes to respond to emergency pendant calls, and on one occasion took 36 minutes to  
25 respond. At BROOKDALE Orangevale, a licensing inspector tested an emergency call  
26 pendant during a January 2017 visit and found that it took over 45 minutes for facility staff  
27 to respond. At BROOKDALE North Tarzana, a review of the facility's records revealed  
28 numerous response times of over 30 minutes, including multiple response times of over an

1 hour. A licensing inspector who tested emergency pull cords at BROOKDALE  
2 Chatsworth found that it took staff 24 minutes to respond during a June 2016 inspection;  
3 during another visit, the inspector found that it took staff 30 minutes to respond, and that  
4 they did so only after the inspector alerted the facility administrators. At BROOKDALE  
5 Oceanside, an inspector found that as of April and May 2016, there were times when staff  
6 did not answer residents' calls for 15 to 45 minutes. The inspector's report noted that there  
7 were only two direct caregivers on duty during the day and evening shifts at the facility,  
8 which has a capacity of 186 residents, and that those caregivers were responsible for  
9 numerous tasks in addition to answering emergency calls on two floors. Community Care  
10 Licensing cited BROOKDALE Fountaingrove at the end of March 2017 after a review of  
11 the pendant system report revealed many instances of extremely lengthy response times,  
12 noting in particular a pendant pressed at 5:23 p.m. which was not answered for over 39  
13 minutes and a pendant set off at 5:45 p.m. to which staff did not respond for one hour and  
14 27 minutes.

15 48. Even when Defendants' staff do respond within a reasonable amount of time  
16 to a request for assistance, the response is often inadequate. In one case, staff at  
17 BROOKDALE Fountaingrove failed to notify a resident's family after the resident had a  
18 fall and was sent to the emergency room. Staff also failed to send identifying information  
19 or documents with the resident, as required by Defendants' policies and procedures. As a  
20 result, the resident was listed as a Jane Doe until the next morning. A doctor at the  
21 hospital told the resident's daughter that he would have operated on the resident shortly  
22 after she was admitted, but had to wait until the next morning because he had no family  
23 contact numbers to call. The Community Care Licensing inspector who investigated this  
24 incident noted that she observed insufficient staffing at BROOKDALE Fountaingrove to  
25 ensure that the facility's own policies and procedures were being followed. On another  
26 occasion, a BROOKDALE Fountaingrove resident pressed the call button on her pendant  
27 because she could tell she was going to have terrible diarrhea. While she waited for a  
28 response, the resident headed for the toilet, but by the time she got there, she had already

1 soiled herself and her nightgown. Although a caregiver responded to the pendant call,  
2 when the caregiver looked in the bathroom and saw the resident sitting on the toilet, she  
3 left without providing assistance and never returned. The resident screamed for help and  
4 pressed the emergency button next to the toilet, but no one responded until roughly an hour  
5 later, when a new set of caregivers started their shifts.

6 49. Residents must resort to calling 911 for assistance when staff fail to promptly  
7 respond to their call pendants. For example, public records kept by the Rincon Valley &  
8 Windsor Fire Protection Districts revealed that in a one-year period from June 2016  
9 through May 2017, the agency responded to 83 emergency calls from 907 Adele Drive, the  
10 address of BROOKDALE Windsor. Community Care Licensing records indicate that this  
11 facility has a capacity of 80, but often has fewer than 70 residents, suggesting that  
12 BROOKDALE Windsor residents averaged well over one 911 call per person over the past  
13 year. Many of these calls were classified as “medical assists,” meaning the Rincon  
14 Valley & Windsor Fire Protection Districts provided assistance to another group or agency  
15 that had primary responsibility for medical care, such as assisting with moving a heavy  
16 patient. Several of these 911 calls were classified as instances where a member of the  
17 public called the fire protection districts for routine help, such as assisting a person in  
18 returning to a bed or chair, with no transport or medical treatment given.

19 50. In other cases, Defendants’ staff failed to monitor residents’ health status as  
20 promised, placing residents in danger and distress in situations where the resident was not  
21 able to call for help. At BROOKDALE Fountaingrove, one resident was left in her  
22 wheelchair all night because she requires staff assistance to get in and out of her  
23 wheelchair, but staff failed to help her into bed and never checked on her during the night.  
24 In another case, a resident at BROOKDALE Scotts Valley fell in his apartment and went  
25 without food or water for 24 to 30 hours because staff failed to check on him. The resident  
26 was taken to a hospital, where doctors diagnosed him with dehydration and  
27 rhabdomyolysis, a condition in which damaged skeletal muscle tissue breaks down and the  
28 damaged muscle cells are released into the bloodstream, causing further injury. At

1 BROOKDALE Riverside, a resident fell while outside and suffered severe sunburns  
2 because staff failed to regularly check on him. In November 2016, Community Care  
3 Licensing issued a citation to BROOKDALE Hemet based on an incident in which staff  
4 left a resident with a known risk of falling unattended in a dining room chair. The resident  
5 fell and hit his head, requiring ten stitches. Just three days later, Defendants' staff again  
6 left the resident unattended, and he fell and re-injured his head. The licensing inspector  
7 noted that this resident had additional staff supervision as part of his care plan, but that  
8 BROOKDALE Hemet lacked sufficient staff to meet the resident's needs.

9 51. Because Defendants' staff are stretched so thin responding to emergency  
10 calls and attending to their other duties, they have attempted to dissuade residents from  
11 calling for assistance. Residents have been told by overworked caregivers to use their call  
12 buttons "only in an emergency," despite the fact that, short of screaming for help, this is  
13 the only way to alert caregivers that they need the assistance for which they are paying  
14 BROOKDALE. In many instances, residents feel bad for overworked caregivers and  
15 attempt to perform tasks on their own, despite paying BROOKDALE for these services.  
16 This has led to residents' falling or otherwise injuring themselves.

17 *Impact of Understaffing on Dining Services*

18 52. BROOKDALE's policy and practice of understaffing has resulted in its  
19 cutting staffing hours and eliminating positions in dining services. As a result, residents  
20 wait for long periods of time to be served. Some residents give up in frustration. Food is  
21 often served cold, and residents do not dare to make a special request, for fear that the wait  
22 will be extreme. Moreover, the quality of the food has so deteriorated that it is in many  
23 cases nearly inedible. Fresh ingredients are rare, meat of poor quality is hidden under  
24 sauces, and both residents and licensing inspectors have encountered food beyond its  
25 expiration date. The understaffing also prevents staff from maintaining a clean and  
26 hygienic dining area.

27 53. At BROOKDALE San Ramon, the hours of serving staff were cut, and  
28 servers have left as a result, leaving the dining department severely understaffed. At

1 breakfast, there is often one server for 80 people. On at least one day during June 2017,  
2 there were no servers in the dining room for breakfast, and the activities director was  
3 cleaning the tables while the chef both cooked and served meals. At BROOKDALE  
4 Windsor, licensing inspectors found a single staff member working morning shifts in the  
5 dining room, with dirty dishes and food droppings strewn about because no other staff  
6 members were available to clean up. BROOKDALE Riverside received a Community  
7 Care Licensing citation after investigators found that food was served cold and residents  
8 had to wait an unreasonable amount of time for food to be served. The investigator  
9 attributed this problem to understaffing, noting in her report that “[i]t was revealed there is  
10 not enough servers for the number of residents in the dining room at one time.” On a visit  
11 to BROOKDALE Corona, the licensing inspector found five residents sitting in the dining  
12 room without supervision, and noted that caregivers were expected to serve lunch, clean  
13 the dining room after meals, and sweep the floors in the dining room in addition to their  
14 other duties. The same inspector found uncovered and dried-out ham and cheese  
15 sandwiches in the refrigerator and unrefrigerated cartons of strawberry milk in a cupboard.

16         54. The long waits and substandard meals in the dining room mean that some  
17 residents either purchase their own food or often forgo meals altogether, despite the fact  
18 that residents are paying BROOKDALE for three meals per day and snacks. Residents’  
19 nutrition needs are not being met, and to the extent that they look forward to meals as a  
20 pleasant social experience, they are being deprived of that benefit as well. Residents have  
21 made numerous complaints to Defendants about the dining service, individually and  
22 through the family and resident councils. For example, the Resident Council at  
23 BROOKDALE San Ramon has been complaining about the problems in dining services  
24 for over two years. Yet residents have seen no durable improvements. There may be  
25 temporary improvements from time to time, but the overall trend is actually downward.

26             ***Impact of Understaffing on Housekeeping and Laundry***

27         55. BROOKDALE’s policy and practice of understaffing extends to  
28 housekeeping and laundry services. For example, on information and belief,



1 BROOKDALE San Ramon went for many months with only one housekeeper to clean  
2 approximately 80 rooms. As a result, the maintenance director and the executive director  
3 also had to clean rooms and consequently had less time to perform maintenance and  
4 administrative duties. Residents' rooms have been left in deplorable and often unsanitary  
5 conditions, including toilet seats and showers covered in feces and rooms which smell  
6 strongly of urine.

7 56. BROOKDALE routinely fails to wash residents' personal belongings and  
8 bed linens. Even when BROOKDALE's staff take these items for laundering, residents'  
9 clothes and linens are often lost, or they are given back other residents' clothing or linen  
10 instead of their own. Residents are left in dirty and malodorous clothing. For example,  
11 Loresia Vallette, the granddaughter of former BROOKDALE Hemet resident  
12 LAWRENCE QUINLAN observed that her grandfather's clothes were never washed, and  
13 that staff continued to dress him in the same pair of urine-stained pants. Some residents or  
14 their family members have despaired of waiting and begun to perform these services on  
15 their own, despite BROOKDALE's promise to provide them as part of their base rate.

16 **Discrimination in Transportation/Activities**

17 57. Due to chronic understaffing at Defendants' facilities, promised  
18 transportation services and activities are often sporadic or nonexistent. Many residents  
19 rely on BROOKDALE for transportation to medical and lab appointments, church, grocery  
20 shopping, banking and other activities. Additionally, they expected and would enjoy both  
21 on- and off-site activities. Yet they do not receive these services on a regular basis, if at  
22 all. Scheduled activities—such as poker, bingo and movies—are frequently cancelled, and  
23 BROOKDALE regularly fails to provide the promised transportation services to its  
24 residents. Residents are often told about cancellations at the last minute for shuttles to  
25 planned events, such as church services. The lack of staffing at BROOKDALE San  
26 Ramon means that its activities director must fulfill multiple duties. In addition to her  
27 expected duties, she often works in the dining room serving food or cleaning and at the  
28 front desk as a receptionist. She is frequently the only driver for facility-provided

1 transportation. On several occasions, residents of BROOKDALE San Ramon have been  
2 left waiting outside a medical office or a church because BROOKDALE staff forgot to  
3 pick them up and had to rely on others to take them back to the facility.

4 58. Additionally, BROOKDALE has implemented policies and practices  
5 regarding its provision of transportation services that discriminate against persons with  
6 mobility disabilities. Residents at BROOKDALE San Ramon who use wheelchairs must  
7 be able to transfer from their chairs to a seat in the bus, despite the existence of a  
8 wheelchair lift and a system for securing wheelchairs in at least one of BROOKDALE San  
9 Ramon's buses. Making this transfer is impossible and/or unsafe for many wheelchair  
10 users. The facility also requires wheelchair users to arrange for a family member or an  
11 outside care attendant to accompany them on any off-site activity, which deters many  
12 wheelchair users from participating and imposes a surcharge on those who do. The facility  
13 also limits the number of wheelchair users for each off-site trip to two. At BROOKDALE  
14 Fountaingrove, wheelchair users are limited to two off-site trips per month. At least one  
15 wheelchair user at BROOKDALE San Ramon was told that she could not participate in  
16 regular Saturday trips to the grocery store and shopping, because the driver "couldn't  
17 handle her."

#### 18 **Emergency Evacuation Procedures**

19 59. BROOKDALE has emergency and evacuation policies and procedures in  
20 place for at least some of its facilities, but these policies and procedures do not take into  
21 account the needs of persons with disabilities, or if they do, Defendants have not informed  
22 the residents. Residents with disabilities have been told to wait in their rooms for someone  
23 to come, and although the facilities have emergency drills, staff have not demonstrated for  
24 residents what will happen in the event of an actual emergency.

25 60. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and on that basis allege, that these  
26 practices have been and are an official policy and practice by which Defendants operate  
27 their businesses and/or services.

28 61. Defendants' failure and refusal to provide equal services to persons with

1 disabilities is humiliating and degrading to and creates a serious safety risk for the  
2 members of the proposed class of persons with disabilities.

3 62. Defendants are responsible for their illegal operations and discriminatory  
4 policies and practices as described herein. BROOKDALE residents, their family  
5 members, and staff members have raised these issues repeatedly with members of  
6 BROOKDALE management to no avail.

7 63. Defendants have been notified of the civil rights violations described herein,  
8 but have refused to provide necessary reasonable modifications to its staffing policies,  
9 practices and procedures to provide residents with disabilities full and equal enjoyment of  
10 their goods, services, facilities, activities, benefits and accommodations and to comply  
11 with the requirements of the ADA and the Unruh Civil Rights Act .

12 **Retaliation Against Resident Councils and Their Members**

13 64. Pursuant to Cal. Health & Safety Code § 1569.157(a), residential care  
14 facilities must assist the residents in establishing and maintaining a resident council.  
15 Moreover, a facility must respond in writing to any written concerns or recommendations  
16 submitted by the resident council within 14 days. Cal. H&S Code § 1569.157(c).

17 65. California law also prohibits assisted living facilities from willfully  
18 interfering with the “formation, maintenance, or promotion of a resident council.” Cal.  
19 H&S Code § 1569.157(g). The law defines “willful interference” as including  
20 “discrimination or retaliation in any way against an individual as a result of his or her  
21 participation in a resident council, refusal to publicize resident council meetings or provide  
22 appropriate space for either meetings or a bulletin board, or failure to respond to written  
23 requests by the resident council in a timely manner.” Cal. H&S Code § 1569.157(g).

24 66. BROOKDALE has not responded in writing to at least four letters sent to its  
25 corporate offices by Ms. JESTRABEK-HART in her capacity as chair of the  
26 BROOKDALE Scotts Valley residents’ council. The letters addressed the lack of  
27 adequate staffing, facility maintenance concerns, the lack of emergency signals in the  
28 laundry rooms, common room doors that are difficult to open, and the high price of meals

1 for visitors. The executive director at the Scotts Valley facility responded to one of the  
2 letters orally, but BROOKDALE has not responded in writing to any of the above-  
3 mentioned letters, in violation of Cal. H&S Code§ 1569.157(c) and (g) .

4 **Brookdale Misrepresents, Makes Misleading Statements, and Conceals Material**  
5 **Facts About the Quality and Availability of Care It Provides to All Residents**

6 67. As a result of Defendants' corporate policies and practices, BROOKDALE  
7 subjects all residents, regardless of disability, to a substantial risk that they will not receive  
8 the care and services they require and have paid for on any given day, as described in  
9 Paragraphs 36-60. BROOKDALE lures residents to move into or stay at its facilities by  
10 misrepresenting in various corporate written materials that it will provide the basic,  
11 personal, and therapeutic services each resident needs based on individualized assessments  
12 performed by BROOKDALE staff, and by failing to disclose and concealing that it cannot  
13 provide the promised services to all residents because its facilities are chronically  
14 understaffed.

15 **Standardized Residency Agreements**

16 68. In order to move in to one of BROOKDALE's California facilities, residents  
17 must sign one of Defendants' standardized Residency Agreements. In its standardized  
18 Residency Agreement, BROOKDALE represents to residents prior to move-in and  
19 throughout their residency that it will provide them with a standard set of basic services,  
20 additional personal services identified in the Personal Service Plan, and any select and  
21 therapeutic services for which the resident chooses to pay. At the time of signing the  
22 Residency Agreement, residents or their responsible parties are required to confirm that  
23 they have reviewed and understand the document.

24 69. In Section I.A of its standardized Residency Agreement, BROOKDALE  
25 affirmatively represents to prospective residents that "[i]n order to provide you with care,  
26 supervision and assistance with instrumental activities of daily living in order to meet your  
27 needs, we will provide you with the following Basic Services": accommodations,  
28 including a residential suite and use of common areas; three meals a day plus snacks 24

1 hours a day; basic utilities; “light housekeeping once a week”; weekly laundry service of  
2 the resident’s “personal belongings and bed linens”; “planned social and recreational  
3 programs”; transportation services; and staffing by “Community associates ... available 24  
4 hours a day, seven days a week.” Section I.A further represents that BROOKDALE will  
5 observe the resident’s “health status to identify social and health care needs” and “will  
6 consult with you regarding social and health-related issues.” In addition, BROOKDALE  
7 represents in Section I.A of its standardized Residency Agreement that “[w]e will provide  
8 personal services that are included as part of the personal service assessment.”

9       70. In Section I.B of its standardized Residency Agreement, BROOKDALE  
10 represents that “[p]rior to moving in and periodically throughout your residency, we will  
11 use a personal service assessment to determine the personal services you require. The  
12 personal service assessment will be used to develop your Personal Service Plan.”

13       71. Defendants’ standardized price schedule for personal care services is  
14 attached to the standardized Residency Agreement. This price schedule includes a variety  
15 of personal services, such as staff assistance with ordering, storing, and taking medication;  
16 staff assistance with eating, dressing, bathing, using the toilet, and other activities of daily  
17 living; escort and mobility assistance to get around Defendants’ facilities; and help taking  
18 care of residents’ pets. This price schedule lists the monthly costs of each service and  
19 details how Defendants’ caregivers and other staff will provide the services. For instance,  
20 a resident may require and agree to pay for “[s]taff attention while you administer your  
21 insulin injections”; “additional staff involvement” for residents who are reluctant to accept  
22 care; and bathroom assistance such as “reminders to get to the bathroom,” “pulling up and  
23 down pants, handling toilet paper, wiping, changing protective undergarments and getting  
24 onto and off of toilet,” as well as “weight-bearing or balance assistance from one  
25 associate” for residents “unable to stand independently while using the bathroom.”

26       72. BROOKDALE repeats these representations in the Personal Service Plan  
27 that it prepares for each resident before the resident moves in and updates periodically  
28 throughout his or her residency. The Personal Service Plan lists the types of staff

1 assistance that the resident requires and has agreed to pay for, along with the monthly fee  
2 for each. For example, the Personal Service Plan for one former resident states that  
3 Defendants' staff will "[p]rovide physical assistance to and from the dining room and/or  
4 community activities as needed" for a monthly fee of \$273. Standardized language in the  
5 Personal Service Plan states that "[t]he Personal Service Assessment and the Physician  
6 Plan of Care are used to determine the personal services that you require at move-in and  
7 periodically throughout your residency. The Personal Service Assessment will be used to  
8 develop your Personal Service Plan."

9       73. Pursuant to Sections I.B and III.F of its standardized Residency Agreement,  
10 "[t]he results of the assessment, our method for evaluating your personal care needs, and  
11 the cost of providing the additional personal services (the 'Personal Service Rate') will be  
12 shared with you," and a change in the Personal Service Plan be offered or required "when  
13 we determine additional services are requested or required" and after 60 days' written  
14 notice has been provided.

15       74. In Section I.C of its standardized Residency Agreement, BROOKDALE  
16 represents that it will make "Select Services and Therapeutic Services ... available to you  
17 at your request," but that the fees for these services are not included in the rates residents  
18 pay for basic services and personal services. Defendants' standardized Residency  
19 Agreement incorporates by reference a standardized price list which features prices for the  
20 select and therapeutic services that Defendants make available, many of which consist of  
21 staff assistance with the resident's activities of daily living. For example, residents may  
22 elect to pay for tray service in their rooms for up to three meals a day or for additional  
23 laundry and housekeeping services beyond what is provided in the basic service rate.

24       75. Every month, BROOKDALE sends each resident or his or her responsible  
25 party an invoice for services that the company represents it will provide the following  
26 month. These invoices list the monthly rate for basic services, the Personal Service Rate  
27 that is based on each resident's Personal Service Plan, and any rate adjustments.

28       76. BROOKDALE repeats these representations in the letters it periodically

1 sends all residents informing them of increases in the rates they owe for basic services,  
2 personal services, and select and therapeutic services. Using standardized language,  
3 Defendants' rate increase letters notify the resident of changes to his or her monthly rates  
4 for these services, which BROOKDALE attributes to increases in the cost of "providing  
5 the services you desire and depend upon."

#### 6 **Defendants' Communications Regarding the Merger and New Assessment System**

7 77. In early 2014, Emeritus Senior Living ("Emeritus"), at the time a major  
8 chain of senior living facilities, sent residents a standardized letter informing them of the  
9 merger between BROOKDALE and Emeritus. The letter promised that residents would  
10 not be impacted by the change but would "receive the same excellent care and service you  
11 expect at your community" and would "continue to enjoy all the amenities of your  
12 community." It further stated the merger would create a "senior living company offering  
13 the most comprehensive set of senior care solutions" with a commitment to "customer-  
14 focused cultures and a commitment to continuous improvement and innovation." Rather  
15 than inform residents that the merger would result in even lower staffing levels and poorly  
16 trained staff, the letter promised a continuum of care with likely improvements.

17 78. In or about October 2015, BROOKDALE sent residents a standardized letter  
18 informing them of an upgrade to its community assessment and care planning system  
19 effective December 1, 2015. The upgrade would involve a conversion to a "new personal  
20 service system" which would "enhance our ability to match your needs and preferences  
21 with the right services at the right time." The letter promised "benefits from  
22 enhancements," which included, *inter alia*, "[p]ersonalized service planning and care  
23 systems."

24 79. Based on these representations, Plaintiffs, and the putative class members  
25 reasonably expected that the merger would result in improvements in care, or at the very  
26 least, would not result in a decline in services. Additionally, they reasonably expected that  
27 the conversion to the new assessment and care planning system would result in improved  
28 delivery of basic services, personal services, and select and therapeutic services for which

1 they were paying.

## 2 **Defendants' Marketing Materials**

3 80. Defendants' public website, www.brookdale.com, prominently features  
4 online marketing materials directed at prospective residents. In a section of its website  
5 entitled "What is Assisted Living?", BROOKDALE claims that its "assisted living  
6 communities have staff and programs in place that support and assist residents with daily  
7 living and basic care in a homelike or apartment setting. Residents receive three meals a  
8 day, recreational and social activities, housekeeping, linen service, apartment maintenance  
9 and transportation. That means your loved one gets all the benefits of retired life, without  
10 the hassle of daily chores."

11 81. Defendants' online marketing materials also tout the personalized services  
12 that its assisted living facilities provide. The company's website explains that "[o]ur  
13 trained caregivers provide attention and assistance with medication support, bathing,  
14 dressing, cooking and other tasks throughout the day. Our staff will also coordinate  
15 services with outside healthcare providers and monitor residents to ensure they are healthy.  
16 So your loved one gets the care they need while enjoying the quality of life they've  
17 earned."

18 82. Defendants' online marketing materials promise a "Culinary Arts" program  
19 that uses "only the freshest meat, seafood, produce, herbs and spices."

20 83. Defendants' online marketing materials further represent that "[a]t  
21 Brookdale, we believe in delivering senior care that's tailored to you and your loved one  
22 based on those unique needs and desires. That's why we provide a variety of options.  
23 This personalized approach ensures that you and your family get exactly what you need  
24 without paying for what you don't."

25 84. BROOKDALE represents to prospective and current residents that it tailors  
26 its services to residents' personal needs. According to Defendants' representations, the  
27 process begins with an individualized assessment, which BROOKDALE uses to produce a  
28 Personal Service Plan for each resident. The Personal Service Plan includes a list of



1 services for which the resident pays a monthly fee. Defendants’ affirmative  
2 representations give rise to a reasonable expectation on the part of the reasonable  
3 consumer that BROOKDALE will determine and then provide the amount of caregiver and  
4 other staff time that is necessary to provide the personal services for which residents are  
5 paying.

6 85. BROOKDALE makes similar representations in the standardized marketing  
7 folder it distributes to prospective and incoming residents. In this marketing folder,  
8 BROOKDALE represents that at its facilities, “Carefully selected and trained associates do  
9 more than assist with activities of daily living such as dressing, bathing and dispensing of  
10 medications; they implement custom care plans designed to meet the individual needs of  
11 each resident ... It all begins with a Personal Service Assessment. We take the time to  
12 listen to our residents so that we understand how to establish clinical, dining and program  
13 support that works for them in a meaningful way. We recognize their individual needs and  
14 preferences and respond to them accordingly. So, whether it’s a scented lotion, a unique  
15 snack, a favorite recipe or a lifelong interest, we integrate everything we learn to create a  
16 truly individualized living experience.” Elsewhere in this marketing folder,  
17 BROOKDALE represents that it “provide[s] customized care solutions to meet residents’  
18 unique needs and complement their vision for all the places they would still like their lives  
19 to go. From our trained staff to our wide variety of amenities and activities, we strive to  
20 offer personalized care and exceptional service at competitive and affordable rates. Fees  
21 for care and services are based on each resident’s needs and preferences, as determined by  
22 the Living Accommodation selected and their Personal Service Plan ... This provides  
23 customer value because **our residents only pay for what they need and want.**”  
24 (Emphasis in original). BROOKDALE’s marketing folder also promises an industry-  
25 leading dining services program that “continue[s] to satisfy the preferences and nutritional  
26 needs of residents with dining choices that offer mealtime fulfillment while meeting  
27 dietary requirements.”

28 86. Based on all of Defendants’ representations, Plaintiffs, the putative class

1 members, and the general consuming public reasonably expect that BROOKDALE will  
2 ensure adequate staffing to perform the services promised to residents, including by  
3 providing sufficient levels of qualified and adequately trained staff to perform the services  
4 identified in each resident's Personal Service Plan.

#### 5 **Defendants' Failures to Disclose**

6 87. Contrary to Defendants' representations regarding its provision of services,  
7 BROOKDALE has a corporate policy and practice of staffing its facilities according to a  
8 system that ensures all BROOKDALE residents run the continuing risk of not receiving  
9 the services for which they are paying, of not having their care needs met, and of suffering  
10 injury from the lack of care.

11 88. In addition to the Community Care Licensing records described in  
12 Paragraphs 38-39, 42-44, 47-50 and 53, current and former residents of BROOKDALE  
13 facilities confirm that Defendants' staffing levels do not change when updates to personal  
14 service assessments show that residents require additional personal services.  
15 BROOKDALE has in many cases modified residents' Personal Service Plans—and raised  
16 monthly personal service fees accordingly—even though BROOKDALE failed to conduct  
17 an updated personal service assessment, failed to provide residents or their responsible  
18 parties with the results and method of the assessment, and/or failed to provide 60 days'  
19 written notice. Despite paying higher fees as a result of these changes to their Personal  
20 Service Plans, residents and their families have observed that neither the services provided  
21 nor staffing levels increased and, in many cases, decreased.

22 89. Caregivers have informed residents that they would like to work a 40-hour  
23 week, but BROOKDALE allows certain caregivers to work only 24 hours in a week.  
24 Residents and their family members have also observed that BROOKDALE fails to ensure  
25 that all staff members receive necessary training. At BROOKDALE Fountaingrove, the  
26 facility's interim executive director admitted to residents' families that BROOKDALE has  
27 insufficient staff to meet residents' needs.

28

**Brookdale's Misrepresentations and Concealed Facts Were Material**

1  
2 90. BROOKDALE's misrepresentations and the facts it conceals are material to  
3 the reasonable consumer. An important and significant factor in choosing to move oneself  
4 or one's relative to a BROOKDALE facility, to stay there after the facility was purchased  
5 by BROOKDALE, and/or to continue to agree to pay the amounts charged by  
6 BROOKDALE is the provision of staffing that is necessary to provide the services its  
7 residents need and for which the residents are paying.

8 91. BROOKDALE's misrepresentations, misleading statements and omissions  
9 regarding its provision of staffing are material to prospective residents and their family  
10 members. Assurances that a facility will provide the amount of staffing necessary to  
11 provide basic services and meet the personal service needs of residents based on  
12 BROOKDALE's own assessments is a substantial factor (and indeed often the most  
13 important factor) in deciding to enter a certain facility. The named Plaintiffs would not  
14 have, and the members of the putative class would in all reasonable probability not have,  
15 entered BROOKDALE's facilities or stayed at these facilities after BROOKDALE  
16 purchased them from other companies, or they would have insisted on paying a lower  
17 price, if they had known that, although BROOKDALE would charge them based on the  
18 staffing associated with their Personal Service Plans, BROOKDALE did not and does not  
19 provide adequate staffing to carry out the services identified in residents' Personal Service  
20 Plans, nor does it provide adequate staffing to perform basic services and select and  
21 therapeutic services.

22 92. This is true even for residents who currently are nearly independent. These  
23 residents chose an assisted living facility as opposed to an independent living community  
24 or remaining at home because they wish to "age in place." They may not need significant  
25 assistance with the activities of daily living initially, but they will become more dependent  
26 as they age and do not want to move again when that happens. Moreover, even the most  
27 independent residents depend on the basic services that BROOKDALE promised them,  
28 such as food, laundry, and housekeeping. A key factor for these residents in selecting

1 BROOKDALE is that the facility will provide the staffing that BROOKDALE itself has  
2 determined is necessary to meet their assessed needs, both now and as those needs  
3 increase.

4 93. BROOKDALE has a duty to disclose that its staffing policies and procedures  
5 preclude it from consistently providing basic services, personal services, and select and  
6 therapeutic services, because of, among other things, the substantial safety risk to current  
7 and future residents from BROOKDALE's conduct.

8 94. The non-disclosure is material because, among other things, BROOKDALE  
9 knows that its conduct risks the safety of its residents. In addition to individual complaints  
10 made by residents and family members, family and resident councils send regular  
11 correspondence to Executive Directors of BROOKDALE facilities, as well as regional and  
12 national managers regarding the problems outlined above. In the case of BROOKDALE  
13 San Ramon and BROOKDALE Fountaingrove, local and regional management employees  
14 have attended numerous meetings of the Family and Resident Councils and have made  
15 unfulfilled promises to address the concerns outlined above. Moreover, Community Care  
16 Licensing has conducted numerous licensing inspections which are delivered to  
17 BROOKDALE executives and managers of California facilities, describing the failure of  
18 various facilities to meet state laws and regulations.

19 95. BROOKDALE is fully aware of the facts alleged above. Yet,  
20 BROOKDALE has failed to disclose and actively concealed from residents, prospective  
21 residents and their family members the true facts about how staffing is provided at  
22 BROOKDALE's California facilities.

### 23 **Barriers to Moving Out**

24 96. BROOKDALE's misrepresentations, misleading statements, and material  
25 omissions affect not only the decision of residents to enter the facility but also the decision  
26 to stay at a BROOKDALE facility.

27 97. In choosing assisted living in general and a BROOKDALE facility in  
28 particular, the resident forgoes other options such as their former home, an independent

1 living community, or other facilities. Once in a facility, there are significant physical,  
2 emotional and other burdens for the residents that are triggered if they terminate residency,  
3 including impacts such as “transfer trauma.” BROOKDALE knows and relies on this fact.  
4 As BROOKDALE notes on its website “[a]s a resident’s health needs increase, they may  
5 transition from one level to the next—all within the same community. This provides a  
6 permanent link to friends and families for them by assuring they remain in a single  
7 location.”

8         98. BROOKDALE puts great effort into increasing and maintaining building  
9 occupancy to the detriment of their current and future residents. Plaintiffs allege on  
10 information and belief that when residents or their family members complain about  
11 staffing and/or conditions at a BROOKDALE facility, employees are instructed to reassure  
12 them that things will improve and that the incident or incidents are temporary snags. For  
13 example, the Family Council of BROOKDALE Fountaingrove was meeting every month  
14 for many months to address the inadequate staffing, slow response times to call buttons,  
15 and other health and safety issues faced by the Fountaingrove residents. BROOKDALE  
16 representatives, including Vice President of Regional Operations Sharyl Ronan and  
17 Interim Executive Director Dan Devine, appeared at many meetings, listened to the  
18 numerous complaints, and assured those present that they are looking into the problems  
19 and all will be well. Notwithstanding these claims, members of the Family Council report  
20 little to no changes or action items undertaken by BROOKDALE staff after these  
21 meetings.

22         99. Similarly, residents and family members at BROOKDALE San Ramon hold  
23 monthly Family Council and Resident Council meetings and have informed facility  
24 management, as well as Rick Flynn, District Director of Operations, former Executive  
25 Director Steve Millard, Executive Director Shawn Cull, and former Acting Director Bill  
26 Grady of the problems described above. In January 2017, Mr. Flynn, Mr. Grady and  
27 Mr. Cull attended a Family Council meeting at which family members and residents  
28 demanded answers to their questions about understaffing, poorly trained staff, undelivered

1 services, food and dining deficiencies, cancelled activities, and problems with call  
 2 pendants. They were reassured at the meeting and subsequently told by email  
 3 correspondence that BROOKDALE was working “diligently” on solutions and had  
 4 reached out to the District Vice President of Operations Sheila Garner, who would be  
 5 helping to resolve the problems. BROOKDALE also represented that management had  
 6 “made progress in our hiring process for clinical and dining,” and was monitoring the call  
 7 pendant system and providing additional training to staff. Since that time, BROOKDALE  
 8 announced the hiring of additional employees but concealed from residents that it was  
 9 simultaneously cutting the hours of its current employees, cuts which have led to  
 10 significant staff turnover. Residents and family members report that the problems  
 11 described above have in fact worsened.

12       100. Such reassurances from BROOKDALE are common when residents and  
 13 family members raise concerns about the quality of care and services they are receiving.  
 14 On information and belief, Regional Vice Presidents and Executive Directors are  
 15 instructed to minimize potential move-outs. Executive Directors are regularly told by  
 16 upper management to do everything they can to “save” the move-out.

17       101. BROOKDALE thereby unjustly continues to profit from the original fraud  
 18 by perpetuating the misrepresentations, misleading statements, and failures to disclose.

### 19                   **Named Plaintiffs’ Experiences in Brookdale Facilities**

#### 20       **Stacia Stiner**

21       102. STACIA STINER has been a resident at BROOKDALE San Ramon since  
 22 approximately February 13, 2016. On or about February 12, 2016, STACIA STINER’s  
 23 mother, Rita Stiner, read, reviewed, and signed an agreement with BROOKDALE as  
 24 STACIA STINER’s legal representative and power of attorney. As part of this  
 25 “RESIDENCY AGREEMENT”, BROOKDALE stated that “[i]n order to provide you with  
 26 care, supervision and assistance with instrumental activities of daily living in order to meet  
 27 your needs, we will provide you with the following Basic Services, which are included in  
 28 the Basic Service Rate,” which included, among other things, the room, three daily meals

1 and snacks on demand, weekly room cleaning, weekly laundry and linen service, planned  
2 activities, transportation, observation, and the availability of staff “24 hours a day, seven  
3 days a week.” This standard residency agreement also stated that:

4 [p]rior to moving in and periodically throughout your residency, we will use  
5 a personal service assessment to determine the personal services you require.  
6 The personal service assessment will be used to develop your Personal  
7 Service Plan. The results of the assessment, our method for evaluating your  
8 personal care needs, and the cost of providing the additional personal  
9 services (the “Personal Service Rate”) will be shared with you.

8 The Personal Service Plan lists the types of staff assistance that Ms. STINER requires and  
9 has agreed to pay for, along with the monthly fee for each type of staff assistance. In  
10 addition, Ms. STINER’s mother Rita Stiner has received and reviewed, as enclosures to  
11 BROOKDALE’s rate increase letters, a personal service schedule and list of select and  
12 therapeutic services. These documents describe a variety of available services, list the  
13 monthly or per-occurrence fee for each service, and detail how BROOKDALE’s  
14 caregivers or other staff will provide the service. Every month, BROOKDALE sends  
15 Ms. STINER, through Rita Stiner, an invoice for services that the company impliedly  
16 represents it will provide in the following month. These invoices list the monthly rate for  
17 the basic services set forth in BROOKDALE’s standardized residency agreements, the  
18 Personal Service Rate that is based on Ms. STINER’s Personal Service Plan, and any rate  
19 adjustments.

20 103. Ms. STINER, through her legal representative and power of attorney, Rita  
21 Stiner, read and reasonably understood BROOKDALE’s representations as statements that  
22 BROOKDALE would perform assessments to determine needed services and staff  
23 BROOKDALE San Ramon in a manner that would allow it to consistently provide the  
24 services that BROOKDALE promised and Ms. STINER was paying for. Ms. STINER,  
25 through Rita Stiner, relied on these representations in making the decision to enter  
26 BROOKDALE San Ramon. BROOKDALE did not disclose to STACIA or Rita STINER  
27 at any time prior to her admission nor has it disclosed since that time that its corporate  
28 policy and procedure of providing pre-determined staffing at its facilities precludes

1 BROOKDALE from providing the care and services residents have been promised and  
2 places all residents at a substantial risk that they will not receive the care and services they  
3 have paid for on any given day. If BROOKDALE had disclosed this material fact to  
4 STACIA and/or Rita STINER prior to or early in Ms. STINER's residency, RITA  
5 STINER would have looked for another facility for STACIA or would have told  
6 BROOKDALE that her daughter would not agree to pay the rates charged by  
7 BROOKDALE.

8 104. Beginning in October 2016, BROOKDALE initiated increases in  
9 Ms. STINER's basic service and personal service rates. Ms. STINER and her mother Rita  
10 Stiner have been unable to decipher the changes in Ms. STINER's bills. On or about  
11 October of 24, 2016, Rita Stiner received a letter from BROOKDALE's Executive  
12 Director informing her that Ms. STINER's basic service rate would increase from \$3,205  
13 to \$3,429 per month and that her personal service rate would increase by approximately  
14 6%. During an in-person meeting in January of 2017, BROOKDALE staff told Rita Stiner  
15 that Ms. STINER's personal service rates would rise as follows: the monthly medication  
16 management fee would rise from \$567 to \$631; the monthly fee for staff assistance with  
17 dressing and grooming tasks would rise from \$454 to \$505; the monthly fee for assistance  
18 with two showers per week would rise from \$113 to \$631 per week (a significant increase  
19 because STACIA STINER was purportedly requiring more than the allotted 20 minutes of  
20 caregiver time per shower); and the monthly fee for assistance with toileting would  
21 increase from \$397 to \$442. Rita Stiner had conversations with Shawn Cull, the acting  
22 Executive Director, during which he told her that BROOKDALE would not charge the full  
23 amount of the increases listed above. Despite numerous communications with Mr. Cull  
24 and the billing department, the monthly bills remain confusing and BROOKDALE has  
25 sent Rita Stiner notices of late payment and even a "30-DAY FINAL DEMAND TO PAY"  
26 in December 2016, stating that "[i]n order to provide the care our residents expect and  
27 deserve and at the same time support the professional staff we employ, it's imperative that  
28 we receive our monthly rent and any additional charges in a timely fashion." Brookdale



1 subsequently withdrew the demand, but the bills remain confusing, and every time there is  
2 an increase in Ms. STINER's monthly rates, the rate on Ms. STINER's bills does not  
3 correspond to the information given to her or her mother by Mr. Cull about the increase.

4 105. Although Ms. STINER is a wheelchair user, BROOKDALE has not  
5 provided her with a room that has any physical access features. It does not have sufficient  
6 turning space in the bathroom area, making it difficult for Ms. STINER to enter the  
7 bathroom in her wheelchair and impossible for Ms. STINER to turn around in the  
8 bathroom. The bathroom does not have a roll-in shower, and the grab bars do not comply  
9 with applicable access standards, preventing her from bathing independently and creating a  
10 serious safety hazard. Ms. STINER cannot reach most of the hanging or the storage space  
11 in her closet and therefore cannot access her clothing or other personal items without  
12 assistance from others. Ms. STINER's room has a balcony, but a two-inch lip leading out  
13 to the balcony and insufficient turning space once outside makes it inaccessible to  
14 Ms. STINER. She once tried to enter and exit the balcony by herself, but has not  
15 attempted to do so since because the experience scared her. The complete lack of  
16 accessible features in Ms. STINER's room prevents her from being as independent as  
17 possible and causes her to rely on personal assistance from BROOKDALE staff. In fact,  
18 Ms. STINER is charged more than \$400 per month for toilet assistance because "resident  
19 is unable to use the bathroom on their own." BROOKDALE charges Ms. STINER an  
20 elevated rate of over \$600 for two showers per week because, according to BROOKDALE  
21 management, she requires more than the allotted 20 minutes per shower. Compounding  
22 this problem is BROOKDALE's understaffing in care services, which means that  
23 Ms. STINER must wait to accomplish most of her activities of daily living, if at all. This  
24 puts Ms. STINER in humiliating, frustrating and hazardous situations on a daily basis.

25 106. Despite STACIA STINER's paying approximately \$600 per month for  
26 BROOKDALE to "order and coordinate medications between family, health care  
27 providers and pharmacy," Rita Stiner must pick up medication for her daughter at least  
28 once per week, frequently with only one-day notice from BROOKDALE. Rita Stiner also

1 does the majority of her daughter's laundry because BROOKDALE frequently loses her  
2 clothing or returns the wrong clothing to her.

3 107. Understaffing in the dining services department means that Ms. STINER has  
4 had to wait up to 45 minutes just to order breakfast.

5 108. On some days, there is only one caregiver available in the mornings, causing  
6 Ms. STINER to wait anywhere from 10 minutes to one hour for assistance getting dressed.  
7 At night, Ms. STINER requires assistance if she needs to use the toilet. She waits  
8 anywhere from 10 minutes to an hour for staff to respond and will occasionally have to  
9 urinate in her bed when assistance takes too long to arrive. She frequently resorts to using  
10 her mobile phone to call the outside line when staff do not respond to her call pendant.  
11 Due to short-staffing, caregivers often attempt to leave Ms. STINER in the middle of  
12 assisting her with bathing or toileting because they must respond to call pendants from  
13 other residents or because they left another resident on the commode to respond to Ms.  
14 STINER. Ms. STINER objects and insists that the caregivers finish assisting her before  
15 they leave, but she knows that other residents are too afraid to speak up for themselves and  
16 are often stranded by caregivers.

17 109. Ms. STINER enjoys getting out of the facility and participating in off-site  
18 activities. However, BROOKDALE requires that, because she is a wheelchair user, she be  
19 accompanied by a family member or a private personal caregiver. Although she has been  
20 able to participate in scenic drives or lunches by herself, Ms. STINER had to pay  
21 approximately \$180 for a personal assistant to participate in a trip to a casino in Cache  
22 Creek in approximately August 2016. Ms. STINER enjoys outings to the casino, but  
23 BROOKDALE still requires that she take her mother or a private caregiver on those trips.  
24 Outings are also limited to two wheelchair users per outing on a first come, first served  
25 basis. If Ms. STINER does not sign up immediately, she will lose her ability to participate  
26 on a particular outing. This is true of other wheelchair users in the facility.

27 110. In case of fire and other emergencies, BROOKDALE staff has told  
28 Ms. STINER to remain in her room until they come and get her. However, staff members

1 have not come to get Ms. STINER when fire alarms go off at the facility, nor have they  
2 given her any additional instructions about how they would assist her in exiting the  
3 facility.

4 **Helen Carlson**

5 111. HELEN CARLSON was a resident at BROOKDALE Fountaingrove from  
6 October 2011 until her death on January 19, 2019. When Ms. CARLSON moved into the  
7 facility, it was owned and operated by Emeritus and was known as Emeritus at Santa Rosa.  
8 Prior to move-in, CARLSON's daughter-in-law JOAN CARLSON, acting as  
9 Ms. CARLSON's legal representative and power of attorney, read, reviewed, and signed a  
10 standardized residency agreement with Emeritus. In this agreement, Emeritus promised to  
11 provide a list of "core services" that are substantially similar to the basic services  
12 enumerated in Defendants' standardized residency agreement. Emeritus also agreed to  
13 "perform a comprehensive Resident Evaluation prior to your admission in the Community,  
14 regularly thereafter, and as your condition warrants, in order to determine the level of  
15 Personal Care Services that you need. We will develop your Service Plan, based on your  
16 Resident Evaluation, that describes how we will provide these services. You will receive  
17 services appropriate to your individual needs, as described in your Service Plan." The  
18 agreement reserved Emeritus's right to assign the agreement to any successor-in-interest  
19 selected by Emeritus.

20 112. Ms. CARLSON, through her legal representative and power of attorney  
21 JOAN CARLSON, read and reasonably understood Emeritus's representations in the  
22 residency agreement as statements that Emeritus used its resident assessment system and  
23 results generated by it to determine and provide staffing levels necessary to meet residents'  
24 needs. Ms. CARLSON also reasonably understood and expected that Emeritus would staff  
25 Emeritus at Santa Rosa in a manner that would allow it to consistently provide the services  
26 that Emeritus promised and Ms. CARLSON would be paying for. Ms. CARLSON,  
27 through JOAN CARLSON, read and relied on the representations in the residency  
28 agreement in making the decision to enter Emeritus at Santa Rosa. As Ms. CARLSON's

1 legal representative and power of attorney, JOAN CARLSON read and signed the  
2 agreement acknowledging that she understood and agreed to all of the terms contained in  
3 the agreement. In or about February 2014, JOAN CARLSON received and read a letter  
4 from Emeritus informing residents about the merger between BROOKDALE and  
5 Emeritus. The letter promised that residents would not be impacted by the change but  
6 would “receive the same excellent care and service you expect at your community” and  
7 would “continue to enjoy all the amenities of your community.” It further stated the  
8 merger would create a “senior living company offering the most comprehensive set of  
9 senior care solutions” with a commitment to “consumer-focused cultures and a  
10 commitment to continuous improvement and innovation.”

11       113. JOAN CARLSON, as her mother-in-law’s power of attorney and legal  
12 representative, read the letter and reasonably understood that the care her mother-in-law  
13 received would be no worse than the care she had received under Emeritus, and possibly  
14 improve. BROOKDALE did not inform JOAN or HELEN CARLSON nor did they have  
15 any reason to believe that BROOKDALE would not staff the facility with sufficient staff  
16 in numbers and training to provide the services for which Ms. CARLSON and the other  
17 residents were paying.

18       114. In 2015, BROOKDALE merged with Emeritus, and Emeritus at Santa Rosa  
19 became BROOKDALE Fountaingrove. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and on that  
20 basis allege, that Emeritus assigned its residency agreements with existing residents to  
21 BROOKDALE, and that BROOKDALE assumed any liability arising from those  
22 agreements.

23       115. On November 17, 2015, JOAN CARLSON read, reviewed, and signed an  
24 agreement with BROOKDALE as Ms. CARLSON’s legal representative and power of  
25 attorney. This agreement, entitled “AMENDMENT TO CONTINUING CARE  
26 RESIDENCE AND SERVICES AGREEMENT,” amended the residency agreement that  
27 Ms. CARLSON signed with Emeritus and that was assigned to BROOKDALE after the  
28 merger with Emeritus. Pursuant to this amendment, references to “core services” and

1 “personal care services” were replaced with the terms “basic services” and “personal  
2 services,” and Emeritus’s price schedules for various services were replaced with  
3 BROOKDALE’s standardized personal services price schedule and lists of select and  
4 therapeutic services. The parties agreed that except as otherwise amended, the terms of the  
5 prior residency agreement would remain in full force and effect.

6 116. BROOKDALE has also prepared and periodically updated a Personal  
7 Service Plan for Ms. CARLSON. Ms. CARLSON’s Personal Service Plan lists the type of  
8 staff assistance that Ms. CARLSON requires and has agreed to pay for, along with the  
9 monthly fee for each type of staff assistance. In addition, Ms. CARLSON has received  
10 and reviewed as enclosures to BROOKDALE’s rate increase letters a personal service  
11 price schedule and list of select and therapeutic services. These documents describe a  
12 variety of available services, list the monthly or per-occurrence fee for each service, and  
13 detail how BROOKDALE’s caregivers or other staff will provide the service. Every  
14 month, BROOKDALE sends Ms. CARLSON, through JOAN CARLSON, an invoice for  
15 services that the company impliedly represents it will provide in the following month.  
16 These invoices list the monthly rate for the basic services set forth in BROOKDALE’s  
17 standardized residency agreements, the Personal Service Rate that is based on  
18 Ms. CARLSON’s Personal Service Plan, and any rate adjustments.

19 117. Ms. CARLSON, through her legal representative and power of attorney  
20 JOAN CARLSON, read and reasonably understood BROOKDALE’s representations—as  
21 well as Emeritus’s representations in the agreement that was assigned to BROOKDALE  
22 and expressly incorporated into BROOKDALE’s November 17, 2015 agreement with  
23 Ms. CARLSON—as statements that BROOKDALE would perform assessments to  
24 determine needed services and staff BROOKDALE Fountaingrove in a manner that would  
25 allow it to consistently provide the services that BROOKDALE promised and that  
26 Ms. CARLSON was paying for. Ms. CARLSON, through JOAN CARLSON, read and  
27 relied on these representations in making the decision to stay at the facility despite the  
28 change in ownership.

1           118. In December 2017, BROOKDALE told JOAN CARLSON that Ms.  
2 CARLSON would need to move into the memory care section of BROOKDALE  
3 Fountaingrove. When Ms. CARLSON moved, BROOKDALE presented JOAN  
4 CARLSON with a new RESIDENCY AGREEMENT. On or about December 18, 2017,  
5 JOAN CARLSON read, reviewed, and signed an agreement with BROOKDALE as Ms.  
6 CARLSON's legal representative and power of attorney. As part of this RESIDENCY  
7 AGREEMENT, BROOKDALE stated that "[i]n order to provide you with care,  
8 supervision and assistance with instrumental activities of daily living in order to meet your  
9 needs, we will provide you with the following Basic Services, which are included in the  
10 Basic Service Rate," which included, among other things, the room, three daily meals and  
11 snacks on demand, weekly room cleaning, weekly laundry and linen service, planned  
12 activities, transportation, observation, and the availability of staff "24 hours a day, seven  
13 days a week." This standard residency agreement also stated that:

14           [p]rior to moving in and periodically throughout your residency, we will use  
15 a personal service assessment to determine the personal services you require.  
16 The personal service assessment will be used to develop your Personal  
17 Service Plan. The results of the assessment, our method for evaluating your  
personal care needs, and the cost of providing the additional personal  
services (the "Personal Service Rate") will be shared with you.

18 The Personal Service Plan lists the types of staff assistance that Ms. CARLSON requires  
19 and has agreed to pay for, along with the monthly fee for each type of staff assistance. In  
20 addition, JOAN CARLSON has received and reviewed, as enclosures to BROOKDALE's  
21 rate increase letters, a personal service schedule and list of select and therapeutic services.  
22 These documents describe a variety of available services, list the monthly or per-  
23 occurrence fee for each service, and detail how BROOKDALE's caregivers or other staff  
24 will provide the service.

25           119. Ms. CARLSON, through her legal representative and power of attorney,  
26 JOAN CARLSON, read and reasonably understood BROOKDALE's representations as  
27 statements that BROOKDALE would perform assessments to determine needed services  
28 and staff BROOKDALE Fountaingrove in a manner that would allow it to consistently

1 provide the services and supervision that BROOKDALE promised she would receive in  
2 their memory care unit and for which Ms. CARLSON was paying. Ms. CARLSON,  
3 through JOAN CARLSON, relied on these representations in making the decision to move  
4 into the memory care unit of BROOKDALE Fountaingrove. BROOKDALE has never  
5 disclosed to Ms. CARLSON or JOAN CARLSON that its corporate policy and procedure  
6 of providing pre-determined staffing at its facilities precludes BROOKDALE from  
7 providing the supervision, care and services residents have been promised and places all  
8 residents at a substantial risk that they will not receive the care and services they have paid  
9 for on any given day.

10       120. Until her death in January 2019, BROOKDALE charged Ms. CARLSON a  
11 Basic Service Rate of \$5,290 per month, plus a Personal Service Rate of \$4,173 per month  
12 and a Select and Therapeutic Services rate of \$105 per month, minus a loyalty credit of  
13 \$529 per month. Ms. CARLSON's Personal Service Rate included, among other things, a  
14 \$580 monthly fee for staff assistance with ordering, storing, and taking medications; a  
15 \$811 monthly fee for staff assistance with dressing and grooming; a \$637 monthly fee for  
16 assistance with her oxygen and respiratory equipment; a \$1,507 monthly fee for help  
17 setting up, cleaning and assistance with nebulizer treatments; a \$116 monthly fee for staff  
18 assistance with showering; a \$927 monthly fee for staff assistance with using the  
19 bathroom; a \$522 monthly fee for staff assistance with accomplishing and/or participating  
20 in daily routines due to memory loss or cognitive impairment; a \$290 monthly fee for help  
21 going to and from the dining room and/or community activities; and a \$290 monthly fee  
22 for "additional staff involvement because of demonstrating anxious, disruptive or  
23 obsessive behavior requiring additional attention." Ms. CARLSON also paid \$100 per  
24 month for incontinence supplies, which BROOKDALE represents its staff will order and  
25 stock.

26       121. Beginning in early 2016, JOAN CARLSON and her husband Ralph Carlson  
27 began to observe a decline in the quality of care provided to Ms. CARLSON. On one  
28 occasion, JOAN discovered that despite promising to fax certain paperwork to

1 Ms. CARLSON's primary care physician in advance of a scheduled appointment,  
2 BROOKDALE's staff never did so. In addition, JOAN and Ralph CARLSON stopped  
3 receiving phone calls to notify them of Ms. CARLSON's injuries and other noteworthy  
4 incidents.

5 122. In June 2016, Ms. CARLSON was admitted to the hospital after falling while  
6 attempting to get out of bed. BROOKDALE's staff failed to call JOAN or Ralph  
7 CARLSON, even though they are listed as Ms. CARLSON's emergency contacts. As a  
8 result, Ms. CARLSON spent several hours in the emergency room without a family  
9 member present, and she was charged for ambulance transport back to BROOKDALE  
10 Fountaingrove because no family member was present to give her a ride.

11 123. In December 2016, Ms. CARLSON's doctor took her off the blood thinner  
12 Coumadin. Nonetheless, in January and February 2017, staff at BROOKDALE  
13 Fountaingrove continued to order and stock Coumadin for Ms. CARLSON.  
14 BROOKDALE charged Ms. CARLSON a monthly fee for staff assistance with ordering  
15 and storing medications, even though BROOKDALE's staff failed to adequately perform  
16 that service.

17 124. JOAN and Ralph CARLSON have also observed numerous failures by staff  
18 to assist Ms. CARLSON with using the bathroom, even though Ms. CARLSON paid a  
19 monthly fee for that service. In addition, even though Ms. CARLSON paid a monthly fee  
20 for staff to order and stock incontinence products, she often ran out of such products  
21 because BROOKDALE's staff do not check whether supplies are running low or if orders  
22 need to be adjusted.

23 125. Ms. CARLSON was unable to use the bathroom sink and kitchenette sink in  
24 her previous suite because they are installed at a height that makes them inaccessible for  
25 wheelchair users. Ms. CARLSON required glasses to see and dentures to eat, but  
26 BROOKDALE staff frequently misplaced or lost these assistive devices.

27 126. JOAN and Ralph CARLSON complained to managers at BROOKDALE  
28 Fountaingrove about these problems on numerous occasions. Although BROOKDALE



1 management repeatedly reassured JOAN and Ralph CARLSON that BROOKDALE would  
2 address their concerns, they did not see any improvement when Ms. CARLSON resided in  
3 assisted living. Since Ms. CARLSON has resided at BROOKDALE Fountaingrove,  
4 BROOKDALE has never disclosed that its staffing policies and procedures preclude it  
5 from providing its residents all of the care and services they have been promised and  
6 places all residents at an inherent and substantial risk that they will not receive the care and  
7 services they have paid for on any given day. If BROOKDALE had disclosed this material  
8 fact to JOAN CARLSON early in Ms. CARLSON's residency, she would have looked for  
9 another facility for Ms. CARLSON and would have told BROOKDALE that Ms.  
10 CARLSON would not agree to pay the rates charged by BROOKDALE.

11       127. In December 2017, BROOKDALE told JOAN and Ralph CARLSON that  
12 HELEN CARLSON needed to move to memory care, and that she would receive  
13 additional supervision and care if she moved to the memory care unit and paid additional  
14 fees. BROOKDALE told them that if they did not move Ms. CARLSON into memory  
15 care at BROOKDALE Fountaingrove, Ms. CARLSON would have to move out of  
16 Fountaingrove entirely, and gave JOAN CARLSON only a little over a week to  
17 decide. Because of the short time frame, JOAN CARLSON was unable to investigate  
18 whether there were comparable facilities in the area that might have accepted Ms.  
19 CARLSON. JOAN CARLSON ultimately felt she had no choice but to move Ms.  
20 CARLSON into the memory care unit at BROOKDALE Fountaingrove. Her decision was  
21 based on BROOKDALE's representations about additional supervision and care, her fear  
22 that Ms. CARLSON would suffer severe trauma if she were to be transferred to an entirely  
23 new facility, and the lack of time to investigate other options. In the memory care unit,  
24 just as in assisted living, Ms. CARLSON was housed in a room with multiple inaccessible  
25 features, including a sink, toilet, and closet that are not wheelchair-accessible.

26 **Lawrence Quinlan**

27       128. LAWRENCE QUINLAN stayed at the facility at BROOKDALE Hemet for  
28 short-term respite on several occasions between 2013 and 2015. On approximately July

1 14, 2015, he was admitted to BROOKDALE Hemet for a “respite stay” following a  
2 hospitalization and rehabilitation for a broken leg. On July 10, 2015, BROOKDALE gave  
3 his granddaughter, LORESIA VALLETTE, a Residency Agreement for LAWRENCE  
4 QUINLAN. Ms. VALLETTE read, reviewed, and signed the agreement with  
5 BROOKDALE on behalf of LAWRENCE QUINLAN. BROOKDALE did not ask  
6 LAWRENCE QUINLAN whether he could sign the document or whether LORESIA  
7 VALLETTE held Power of Attorney for him. BROOKDALE did not ask Ms.  
8 VALLETTE for documentation showing that she had the legal authority to sign the  
9 Residency Agreement on behalf of LAWRENCE QUINLAN.

10 129. LAWRENCE QUINLAN left BROOKDALE Hemet for his home on or  
11 about September 5, 2015. On September 13, 2015, he was re-admitted to BROOKDALE  
12 Hemet as a long-term resident. Prior to LAWRENCE QUINLAN’s move-in, on or about  
13 September 13, 2015, BROOKDALE gave his son, Phillip Quinlan, a Residency  
14 Agreement for LAWRENCE QUINLAN. Phillip Quinlan read, reviewed, and signed the  
15 agreement with BROOKDALE on behalf of LAWRENCE QUINLAN. BROOKDALE  
16 did not ask LAWRENCE QUINLAN whether he could sign the document or whether  
17 Phillip Quinlan held Power of Attorney for him. BROOKDALE did not ask Phillip  
18 Quinlan for documentation showing that he had the legal authority to sign the Residency  
19 Agreement on behalf of LAWRENCE QUINLAN. In fact, on page 15 of the Residency  
20 Agreement, under his signature, Phillip Quinlan filled in the name and contact information  
21 of his niece and LAWRENCE QUINLAN’s granddaughter, LORESIA VALLETTE, under  
22 the section titled “LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE/RESPONSIBLE PARTY ADDRESS.”  
23 In its Resident Information/Emergency Contact Sheet, BROOKDALE listed LORESIA  
24 VALLETTE as Mr. QUINLAN’s “Legally Responsible Party” for both “Financial” and  
25 “Health Care.”

26 130. As part of the “RESIDENCY AGREEMENT” provided first to Ms.  
27 VALLETTE and then to Phillip Quinlan, BROOKDALE stated that “[i]n order to provide  
28 you with care, supervision and assistance with instrumental activities of daily living in

1 order to meet your needs, we will provide you with the following Basic Services, which  
2 are included in the Basic Service Rate.” These included, among other things, the room,  
3 three daily meals and snacks on demand, weekly room cleaning, weekly laundry and linen  
4 service, planned activities, transportation, observation, and the availability of staff “24  
5 hours a day, seven days a week.” This standard residency agreement also stated that:

6 [p]rior to moving in and periodically throughout your residency, we will use  
7 a personal service assessment to determine the personal services you require.  
8 The personal service assessment will be used to develop your Personal  
9 Service Plan. The results of the assessment, our method for evaluating your  
personal care needs, and the cost of providing the additional personal  
services (the “Personal Service Rate”) will be shared with you.

10 The Personal Service Plan listed the types of staff assistance that Mr. QUINLAN required  
11 and had agreed to pay for, along with the monthly fee for each type of staff assistance.

12 131. Mr. QUINLAN’s son, Phillip Quinlan, and his granddaughter, LORESIA  
13 VALLETTE, read the agreement on LAWRENCE QUINLAN’s behalf and reasonably  
14 understood BROOKDALE’s representations as statements that BROOKDALE would  
15 perform assessments to determine needed services and staff BROOKDALE Hemet in a  
16 manner that would allow it to consistently provide the services that BROOKDALE  
17 promised and for which Mr. QUINLAN was paying. Ms. VALLETTE and Phillip Quinlan  
18 relied on these representations in making the decision to place Mr. QUINLAN at  
19 BROOKDALE Hemet and to pay BROOKDALE the monthly fees from Mr. QUINLAN’s  
20 accounts. BROOKDALE did not disclose to LAWRENCE QUINLAN, Phillip Quinlan, or  
21 LORESIA VALLETTE at any time prior to his admission nor has it disclosed since that  
22 time that its corporate policy and procedure of providing pre-determined staffing at its  
23 facilities precludes BROOKDALE from providing the care and services residents have  
24 been promised and places all residents at a substantial risk that they will not receive the  
25 care and services they have paid for on any given day. If BROOKDALE had disclosed  
26 this material fact to LAWRENCE QUINLAN, Phillip Quinlan, or LORESIA VALLETTE,  
27 they would have looked for another facility for Mr. QUINLAN and would not have agreed  
28 to pay the rates charged by BROOKDALE from LAWRENCE QUINLAN’s accounts.

1           132. Mr. QUINLAN is a wheelchair-user. He has right hemiparesis and aphasia  
2 due to past strokes. He has mild dementia. During the time Mr. QUINLAN was a resident  
3 at BROOKDALE Hemet, he required assistance with the following activities of daily  
4 living: bathing, personal hygiene, dressing, laundry, housecleaning, taking medication,  
5 preparing meals, toileting, and transfers to and from his wheelchair. During Mr.  
6 QUINLAN's long-term stay at BROOKDALE Hemet, he paid for but was not consistently  
7 provided that assistance.

8           133. Although he was paying for assistance with laundry, dressing and showering,  
9 Mr. QUINLAN's granddaughter and son noticed that he smelled horrible and wore dirty  
10 clothing. When Ms. VALLETTE asked BROOKDALE staff why Mr. QUINLAN smelled  
11 so bad, they blamed him for refusing to take a shower. BROOKDALE then raised Mr.  
12 QUINLAN's monthly personal care rate by \$700, even though they were not giving him  
13 the promised showers, because he was "resistant." Ms. VALLETTE requested that  
14 BROOKDALE's staff call her if Mr. QUINLAN refused to shower or change his clothing  
15 so that she could speak with her grandfather and try to convince him to cooperate.  
16 BROOKDALE staff rarely called Ms. VALLETTE, but the facility continued to charge  
17 Mr. QUINLAN a premium for showers and dressing assistance they were not providing.

18           134. Over time, BROOKDALE continued to increase Mr. QUINLAN's monthly  
19 care rates, blaming his resistance to care. Ms. VALLETTE accepted the care rate  
20 increases with the expectation that Mr. QUINLAN would actually receive the services for  
21 which BROOKDALE was charging him. Despite the increased fees, BROOKDALE staff  
22 rarely provided the promised assistance with showering, dressing or toileting to Mr.  
23 QUINLAN. Toward the end of Mr. QUINLAN's stay at BROOKDALE Hemet, the  
24 Executive Director told Ms. VALLETTE that they would need to move Mr. QUINLAN to  
25 the memory care unit and take away his motorized scooter in order to care for him. This  
26 would result in another increase in his monthly rate. In April 2017, frustrated by  
27 BROOKDALE's failure to provide the assistance her grandfather needed and for which he  
28 was paying increasingly higher fees, Ms. VALLETTE told BROOKDALE that Mr.

1 QUINLAN would be moving out. Prior to the move-out date, Ms. VALLETTE and  
 2 Phillip Quinlan took Mr. QUINLAN to a physician's office to get a tuberculosis test.  
 3 When he transferred out of his wheelchair, they saw that the seating pad was soaked with  
 4 urine and that the plastic was breaking down as a result. It was clear that neither the  
 5 seating pad nor Mr. QUINLAN had been washed for a very long time. Although Mr.  
 6 QUINLAN's move-out date was scheduled for early May 2017, Ms. VALLETTE moved  
 7 him out on April 30, 2017. Mr. QUINLAN is a currently a resident of an unrelated  
 8 assisted living facility in Riverside, California.

9 **Edward Boris**

10 135. EDWARD BORIS was a resident at BROOKDALE Fountaingrove's  
 11 assisted living facility from approximately September 10, 2015 to approximately July 21,  
 12 2016. On or about September 10, 2015, EDWARD BORIS's daughter MICHELE  
 13 LYTLE, read, reviewed, and signed a "RESIDENCY AGREEMENT" with  
 14 BROOKDALE as EDWARD BORIS's legal representative and power of attorney. As  
 15 part of this "RESIDENCY AGREEMENT," BROOKDALE stated that "[i]n order to  
 16 provide you with care, supervision and assistance with instrumental activities of daily  
 17 living in order to meet your needs, we will provide you with the following Basic Services,  
 18 which are included in the Basic Service Rate." These included, among other things, the  
 19 room, three daily meals, planned activities, transportation, and the availability of staff "24  
 20 hours a day, seven days a week." This standard residency agreement also stated that:

21 [p]rior to moving in and periodically throughout your residency, we will use  
 22 a personal service assessment to determine the personal services you require.  
 23 The personal service assessment will be used to develop your Personal  
 24 Service Plan. The results of the assessment, our method for evaluating your  
 25 personal care needs, and the cost of providing the additional personal service  
 26 (the "Personal Service Rate") will be shared with you.

25 136. Among the personal services Mr. BORIS required and agreed to pay for  
 26 were catheter care, changing, and emptying; toileting assistance; assistance going to and  
 27 from the dining room and other activities; medication administration; pharmacy services,  
 28 including medication pick-up; assistance bathing; and application of topical anti-fungal

1 medication. On top of a \$4,545 monthly Basic Service Rate, BROOKDALE charged Mr.  
2 BORIS a \$2,697 monthly personal service fee. In addition to the residency agreement's  
3 promises of adequate care and service provision, Ms. LYTLE received and reviewed a  
4 variety of rate increase letters and invoices that listed the fees for services BROOKDALE  
5 agreed its caregivers and other staff would provide to Mr. BORIS. Mr. BORIS, through  
6 his legal representative and power of attorney, MICHELE LYTLE, read and reasonably  
7 understood BROOKDALE's representations as statements that BROOKDALE would  
8 perform assessments to determine needed services and staff BROOKDALE Fountaingrove  
9 in a manner that would allow it to consistently provide the services that BROOKDALE  
10 promised and for which Mr. BORIS was paying. Mr. BORIS, through MICHELE  
11 LYTLE, relied on these representations in making the decision to enter BROOKDALE  
12 Fountaingrove and to pay BROOKDALE the monthly fees it charged him.

13 137. BROOKDALE did not disclose to Mr. BORIS or his legal representative at  
14 any time prior to his admission nor has it disclosed since that time that its corporate policy  
15 and procedure of providing pre-determined staffing at its facilities precludes  
16 BROOKDALE from providing the care and services residents have been promised and  
17 places all residents at a substantial risk that they will not receive the care and services they  
18 have paid for on any given day. If BROOKDALE had disclosed this material fact to Mr.  
19 BORIS or his legal representative prior to or early in his residency, they would have  
20 looked for another facility for Mr. BORIS and would not have agreed to pay the rates  
21 charged by BROOKDALE.

22 138. BROOKDALE staff failed to regularly monitor Mr. BORIS's catheter, even  
23 though Mr. BORIS required and paid for that service. On one occasion in May 2016, Mr.  
24 BORIS's catheter overflowed, disconnected, and spilled urine all over his room. On July  
25 20, 2016, Mr. BORIS's catheter developed a blockage, but BROOKDALE's staff failed to  
26 identify or address the problem for about 24 hours. Mr. BORIS's girlfriend, who visited  
27 Mr. BORIS at BROOKDALE Fountaingrove on the evening of July 20, noticed blood in  
28 the catheter bag and reported it to BROOKDALE's staff. Staff came to Mr. BORIS's

1 room, but they were rushed, failed to identify the blockage, and did nothing to assist Mr.  
2 BORIS. Instead, they told Mr. BORIS's girlfriend not to worry. The next day, Mr.  
3 BORIS was in extreme pain; there was still a blockage and very little urine appeared in the  
4 catheter bag. Mr. BORIS's condition continued to deteriorate and eventually his girlfriend  
5 took him to a local hospital, where doctors diagnosed the blocked catheter. As a result of  
6 the blockage, Mr. BORIS suffered a urinary tract infection and kidney failure, and had to  
7 stay in intensive care for several days. After his discharge from the hospital, Mr. BORIS's  
8 condition was so bad that he had to be transferred out of assisted living and into skilled  
9 nursing.

10       139. Aware that BROOKDALE's failure to adequately provide the care and  
11 services it had promised contributed to Mr. BORIS's declining health, Ms. LYTLE sought  
12 to move him out of BROOKDALE's custody. Ms. LYTLE conducted significant research  
13 and held onsite interviews with at least three other skilled nursing facilities. However,  
14 because Mr. BORIS's condition had deteriorated so significantly, she was unable to find  
15 any facility willing to accept Mr. BORIS as a resident. Thus, the same inadequate care  
16 that contributed to Mr. BORIS's illness prevented Ms. LYTLE from moving Mr. BORIS  
17 into a different facility.

18       140. From February 2016 through the end of his time in BROOKDALE's assisted  
19 living facility, Mr. BORIS had a recurring fungal infection on his legs and in his groin  
20 area. His doctor ordered him to keep the area clean and apply a topical medication twice a  
21 day. Even though Mr. BORIS paid thousands of dollars per month for necessary personal  
22 services, including help with bathing and administering medications, BROOKDALE staff  
23 failed to bathe Mr. BORIS or apply his topical medication regularly. As a result, the  
24 infection persisted for months. At times, the infected area was bloody and emitted a foul  
25 odor that pervaded Mr. BORIS's room.

26       141. Mr. BORIS took a blood thinning medication as well as several other  
27 medications. When he was in assisted living at BROOKDALE Fountaingrove, he paid  
28 \$726 per month for staff assistance with ordering, storing, and administering his

1 medications, but BROOKDALE staff regularly failed to perform these tasks. At one point  
2 in May 2016, BROOKDALE staff failed to give Mr. BORIS his blood thinning medication  
3 for three days straight. The problem was discovered only after Mr. BORIS's girlfriend  
4 noticed the lapse. On several other occasions, staff failed to refill Mr. BORIS's  
5 prescriptions, so his girlfriend had to pick them up herself. One time, Mr. BORIS's  
6 medication for his fungal infection ran out and staff failed to replace it for several days.

7 142. One of the main reasons MICHELE LYTLE sought out an assisted living  
8 facility for her father was that Mr. BORIS needed regular staff assistance to prevent and  
9 respond to falls. However, on numerous occasions during his stay in the BROOKDALE  
10 Fountaingrove assisted living facility, Mr. BORIS fell in his room and was left on the  
11 ground for extended periods of time because the facility was so understaffed employees  
12 could not regularly check on him. When Ms. LYTLE reported this problem to staff at  
13 BROOKDALE Fountaingrove, they dismissed the falls as minor even though Mr. BORIS  
14 had bruises on his body. Other times, even though BROOKDALE had agreed to provide  
15 Mr. BORIS with toileting assistance multiple times per day and charged him a substantial  
16 monthly fee for that service, he was left sitting in his own feces because BROOKDALE  
17 staff failed to check on him or help him use the bathroom. When he resided in assisted  
18 living, Mr. BORIS had difficulty getting around on his own, even with the assistance of a  
19 walker or wheelchair. He is also very introverted. As a result, he seldom left his room for  
20 meals unless prompted by staff. Although BROOKDALE charged Mr. BORIS a monthly  
21 fee for help going to and from the dining room, staff frequently failed to prompt Mr.  
22 BORIS at mealtimes or bring him food from the dining room, so he often missed meals.  
23 BROOKDALE charged Mr. BORIS \$5 per meal when meals were supposedly brought to  
24 his room. However, when Ms. LYTLE asked BROOKDALE staff how often her father  
25 had been eating, they were unable to answer. Because BROOKDALE often failed to  
26 prompt Mr. BORIS to attend meals or to supply them in his room, Mr. BORIS relied on his  
27 girlfriend to take prepared food to him.

28 143. Even though BROOKDALE promises weekly laundry service in its



1 residency agreement, staff frequently failed to wash Mr. BORIS's clothes and laundry on a  
2 weekly basis. In addition, staff often dumped Mr. BORIS's clean laundry in a pile in his  
3 room, even though he was not capable of putting it away himself. MICHELE LYTLE  
4 brought these problems to the attention of managers at BROOKDALE Fountaingrove.  
5 BROOKDALE management assured Ms. LYTLE that they were working to address her  
6 concerns, but she never saw significant improvement during the time that Mr. Boris  
7 resided in assisted living. Mr. BORIS ultimately had to move out of assisted living  
8 precisely because of a serious infection he developed due to BROOKDALE staff's failure  
9 to monitor his catheter. BROOKDALE has never disclosed to Mr. BORIS or Ms. LYTLE  
10 that its staffing policies and procedures preclude it from consistently providing its residents  
11 the care and services they have been promised and places all residents in an inherent and  
12 substantial risk that they will not receive the care and services they have paid for on any  
13 given day. However, several low-level, non-managerial BROOKDALE employees  
14 admitted to Ms. LYTLE that the BROOKDALE Fountaingrove assisted living facility was  
15 understaffed, that caregivers' hours were being cut, and that they did not have enough time  
16 or resources to adequately attend to Mr. BORIS and the other residents.

17 **Ralph Schmidt**

18       144. RALPH SCHMIDT is 54 years old, is blind, and has significant cognitive  
19 impairments, including short-term memory loss. Both his blindness and cognitive  
20 impairments are the result of a traumatic brain injury suffered more than 20 years ago. Mr.  
21 SCHMIDT has a court-appointed conservator who manages his financial, medical, and  
22 legal affairs. He needs assistance with the following activities of daily living:  
23 housekeeping, laundry, navigating when outside of his dwelling, preparing nutritious  
24 meals, and transportation.

25       145. RALPH SCHMIDT was a resident at the assisted living facility currently  
26 known as BROOKDALE Tracy from approximately September 2011 to October 30, 2017.  
27 The BROOKDALE Tracy facility was operated by Emeritus when Mr. SCHMIDT moved  
28 in. However, BROOKDALE took over operation of the facility following its merger with

1 Emeritus.

2 146. In or about April 2014, Emeritus announced that it would merge with  
3 BROOKDALE. At the time of the merger, Mr. SCHMIDT's then-conservator and legal  
4 representative, Ms. Gallagher, had no reason to believe that the care Mr. SCHMIDT would  
5 receive from BROOKDALE would be any worse than the care he had received under  
6 Emeritus. BROOKDALE did not inform Mr. SCHMIDT or his conservator nor did they  
7 have any reason to believe that BROOKDALE would not staff the facility with sufficient  
8 staff in numbers and training to provide the services for which Mr. SCHMIDT and the  
9 other residents were paying.

10 147. After taking over operations at the Tracy assisted living facility,  
11 BROOKDALE, on or about July 5, 2016, required Ms. Gallagher, Ms. FISHER's  
12 predecessor as RALPH SCHMIDT's conservator, to execute an updated Residency  
13 Agreement with BROOKDALE on Mr. SCHMIDT's behalf. As part of this  
14 "RESIDENCY AGREEMENT," BROOKDALE stated that "[i]n order to provide you with  
15 care, supervision and assistance with instrumental activities of daily living in order to meet  
16 your needs, we will provide you with the following Basic Services, which are included in  
17 the Basic Service Rate." These included, among other things, the room, three daily meals,  
18 housekeeping, laundry and linen service, planned social activities, transportation, and the  
19 availability of staff "24 hours a day, seven days a week." This standard residency  
20 agreement also stated that:

21 [p]rior to moving in and periodically throughout your residency, we will use  
22 a personal service assessment to determine the personal services you require.  
23 The personal service assessment will be used to develop your Personal  
24 Service Plan. The results of the assessment, our method for evaluating your  
personal care needs, and the cost of providing the additional personal service  
(the "Personal Service Rate") will be shared with you.

25 Among the personal services Mr. SCHMIDT required were assistance navigating from his  
26 second-floor room to the dining room at meal times and to other community spaces,  
27 prompts to engage in community and social activities, and medication management. In  
28 exchange for these necessary services, as of July 2016, Mr. SCHMIDT payed a monthly

1 fee of over \$1,000 in addition to his basic service rate.

2       148. Mr. SCHMIDT, through his conservator, read and reasonably understood  
3 BROOKDALE's representations as statements that BROOKDALE would perform  
4 assessments to determine needed services and staff BROOKDALE Tracy in a manner that  
5 would allow it to consistently provide the services that BROOKDALE promised and for  
6 which Mr. SCHMIDT was paying. Mr. SCHMIDT, through his conservator, relied on  
7 these representations in making the decision to remain at BROOKDALE Tracy and to pay  
8 BROOKDALE the monthly fees it charged him. BROOKDALE did not disclose to Mr.  
9 SCHMIDT or his legal representative at any time that its corporate policy and procedure of  
10 providing pre-determined staffing at its facilities precludes BROOKDALE from providing  
11 the care and services residents have been promised and places all residents at a substantial  
12 risk that they will not receive the care and services they have paid for on any given day. If  
13 BROOKDALE had disclosed this material fact to Mr. SCHMIDT or his legal  
14 representative, they would have looked much sooner for another facility for Mr.  
15 SCHMIDT and would not have agreed to pay the rates charged by BROOKDALE from  
16 Mr. SCHMIDT's estate's funds.

17       149. During his time with BROOKDALE, Mr. SCHMIDT lived in a second-floor  
18 room. Because of his blindness, short-term memory loss, and other cognitive impairments,  
19 Mr. SCHMIDT was unable to navigate to the dining room or other public areas from the  
20 second floor, which would have required him to use stairs or operate an elevator.  
21 Placement on the second floor caused Mr. SCHMIDT to require the assistance of  
22 BROOKDALE staff for escort services he would not have needed had he been on the first  
23 floor, and BROOKDALE mandated that Mr. SCHMIDT pay for the escort services he  
24 received. Thus the second-floor placement both unnecessarily reduced Mr. SCHMIDT's  
25 autonomy and increased the fees he paid to BROOKDALE. A first-floor room would have  
26 provided Mr. SCHMIDT greater autonomy and would have reduced BROOKDALE's  
27 charges for escort services. However, when Ms. Gallagher asked if Mr. SCHMIDT could  
28 be moved to an apartment that would accommodate his needs, BROOKDALE responded

1 that a first-floor room would be more expensive and would thus negate any savings from  
2 the elimination of escort fees.

3 150. Because Mr. SCHMIDT required staff assistance to navigate from his  
4 second-floor room to the dining room and other common areas, he frequently waited for  
5 staff to come and assist him. Mr. SCHMIDT used a call button to summon an escort for  
6 each meal and typically waited twenty to thirty minutes before a BROOKDALE staff  
7 member would arrive. Mr. SCHMIDT faced similarly lengthy waits when he wanted to  
8 return to his room. These waits greatly frustrated Mr. SCHMIDT.

9 151. BROOKDALE responded to Mr. SCHMIDT's frustration and need for  
10 appropriate accommodations in shockingly inappropriate ways. Professing to be  
11 concerned that Mr. SCHMIDT might harm someone with his tapping cane, BROOKDALE  
12 staff once took it away from him for several weeks. This rendered Mr. SCHMIDT unable  
13 to safely navigate around even the first floor of the BROOKDALE Tracy facility.  
14 BROOKDALE staff did not return Mr. SCHMIDT's tapping cane until his conservator  
15 personally intervened. On other occasions, BROOKDALE staff failed to provide Mr.  
16 SCHMIDT with a tapping cane or notify his conservator of his need for one when his  
17 previous cane was broken and unusable. BROOKDALE's response to Mr. SCHMIDT's  
18 frustration with slow staff responses to calls for assistance simply rendered Mr. SCHMIDT  
19 more dependent on BROOKDALE staff.

20 152. Several times during Mr. SCHMIDT's years at BROOKDALE, he formed  
21 relationships with other residents who would assist him in navigating from his apartment  
22 to the dining room at meals times. During these periods in which Mr. SCHMIDT had the  
23 assistance of other residents, he did not rely on BROOKDALE staff as frequently for  
24 escort services. Nevertheless, BROOKDALE continued to charge Mr. SCHMIDT the  
25 same escort fee.

26 153. Because of his short-term memory loss and other cognitive impairments, Mr.  
27 SCHMIDT occasionally lost the key to the door of his apartment during his time at  
28 BROOKDALE Tracy. On one occasion, rather than replace his key, BROOKDALE staff

1 gave Mr. SCHMIDT a blank, uncut key, and told him that it was the key to his apartment.  
2 Mr. SCHMIDT believed what BROOKDALE staff told him and could not understand why  
3 the key would not unlock his door. This caused Mr. SCHMIDT great distress and made  
4 him unnecessarily reliant on BROOKDALE staff to open his apartment door when he  
5 wanted to enter his room.

6 154. On several occasions the toilet in Mr. SCHMIDT's apartment overflowed.  
7 BROOKDALE responded by locking Mr. SCHMIDT out of the bathroom in his apartment  
8 altogether. Rather than fix the problems with the toilet, BROOKDALE gave Mr.  
9 SCHMIDT, via his conservator, HEATHER FISHER, the option of a portable toilet in Mr.  
10 SCHMIDT's room or paying for a full-time personal caretaker at the additional cost of  
11 \$250 per day. Mr. SCHMIDT's estate was unable to bear the expense of a full-time  
12 personal caretaker, so Ms. FISHER reluctantly accepted the option of a portable toilet.  
13 However, BROOKDALE failed to regularly empty the toilet, which caused Mr.  
14 SCHMIDT's room to have an unpleasant odor. Mr. SCHMIDT responded by routinely  
15 emptying the portable toilet himself, directly onto the roof outside of his window. Aware  
16 of the problem and Mr. SCHMIDT's response, BROOKDALE failed to remove fecal  
17 matter sitting just outside of Mr. SCHMIDT's window.

18 155. Mr. SCHMIDT also disliked using the portable toilet as he found it too small  
19 for him to comfortably sit on. He would have preferred to use a toilet outside of his room,  
20 but staff responded so slowly to his call button that calling for an escort to a bathroom was  
21 not a realistic option. On one occasion, he pressed his call button to use the bathroom  
22 around 11:00 p.m., and no staff member ever responded.

23 156. Denial of access to his bathroom also meant that Mr. SCHMIDT could not  
24 shower without the assistance of BROOKDALE staff. Having locked him out of his  
25 bathroom, BROOKDALE staff allowed Mr. SCHMIDT to shower only twice per week,  
26 usually at night. This too distressed Mr. SCHMIDT, as he preferred to shower more  
27 frequently and to do so in the morning. Moreover, if Mr. SCHMIDT was engaged in an  
28 activity and declined to shower at the moment the opportunity was offered, he could

1 shower only once per week.

2 157. Although BROOKDALE promised to provide housekeeping among its basic  
3 services, Mr. SCHMIDT's apartment was not well cared for and was rarely clean. His  
4 carpets were covered with stains and frequently dirty. The windows to his room had no  
5 blinds, and the screens had been almost completely torn off. Before BROOKDALE  
6 locked Mr. SCHMIDT out of the bathroom in his apartment, BROOKDALE also failed to  
7 keep it clean. The bathroom was frequently dirty and unhygienic.

8 **Art Lindstrom**

9 158. ART LINDSTROM was a resident of BROOKDALE Scotts Valley from  
10 approximately November 2015 until his death on February 23, 2018. His wife, PAT  
11 LINDSTROM, has also been a resident of BROOKDALE Scotts Valley from  
12 approximately November 2015 and remains a resident of the facility. On or about October  
13 31, 2015, ART LINDSTROM and his wife PAT LINDSTROM read, reviewed, and signed  
14 a "RESIDENCY AGREEMENT" with BROOKDALE. As part of this "RESIDENCY  
15 AGREEMENT," BROOKDALE stated that "[i]n order to provide you with care,  
16 supervision and assistance with instrumental activities of daily living in order to meet your  
17 needs, we will provide you with the following Basic Services, which are included in the  
18 Basic Service Rate." These included, among other things, the room, three daily meals,  
19 planned activities, transportation, ongoing observation and consultation regarding social  
20 and health care needs, and the availability of staff "24 hours a day, seven days a week."

21 159. BROOKDALE also provided a standard form further elaborating on the  
22 "Services and Care Covered by [the] Basic Service Rate." These services and care  
23 described included "housekeeping," "routine wellness monitoring," "consultation with [a]  
24 Brookdale clinical team," and "signature dining programs with nutritious meals and snacks  
25 planned by a registered dietician."

26 160. Mr. and Ms. LINDSTROM read and reasonably understood  
27 BROOKDALE's representations in the RESIDENCY AGREEMENT and other standard  
28 documents as statements that BROOKDALE would staff the Scotts Valley facility in a

1 manner that would allow it to consistently provide them with the care, supervision and  
2 assistance they needed and for which they were paying BROOKDALE, which included the  
3 services and care covered by the Basic Service Rate. Mr. and Ms. LINDSTROM relied  
4 on these representations in making the decision to enter BROOKDALE Scotts Valley.  
5 BROOKDALE did not disclose to Mr. and Ms. LINDSTROM at any time prior to their  
6 admission nor has it disclosed since that time that its corporate policy and procedure of  
7 providing predetermined staffing at its facilities precludes BROOKDALE from providing  
8 the care and services residents have been promised and places all residents at a substantial  
9 risk that they will not receive the care and services they have paid for on any given day. If  
10 BROOKDALE had disclosed this material fact to Mr. and Ms. LINDSTROM prior to or  
11 early in their residency, they would have looked for another facility and would not have  
12 agreed to pay the rates charged by BROOKDALE.

13       161. When Mr. and Ms. LINDSTROM moved in to BROOKDALE, their “basic  
14 service rate” was approximately \$5,900 per month plus an additional \$400 monthly  
15 second-resident fee. In addition to these recurring charges, Mr. and Ms. LINDSTROM  
16 were made to pay move-in fees totaling more than \$8,000. When Mr. and Ms.  
17 LINDSTROM moved from their initial two-bedroom suite into a studio apartment, their  
18 rate decreased to \$4,295 per month plus the \$400 monthly second-resident fee.

19       162. During his residency at BROOKDALE Scotts Valley, Mr. LINDSTROM  
20 was diabetic; used a cane to walk; suffered from kidney failure, heart disease, and sleep  
21 apnea; had a dementia-related cognitive impairment; and had difficulty controlling his  
22 weight. He required assistance with the following activities of daily living: bathing,  
23 shaving, administration of medication, dressing, laundry, and preparing nutritious meals.  
24 Because Mr. and Ms. LINDSTROM could not afford the additional care fees related to  
25 many of these activities, Ms. LINDSTROM assisted Mr. LINDSTROM with most of these  
26 tasks. However, Mr. and Ms. LINDSTROM sought and BROOKDALE promised to  
27 provide assistance with preparing nutritious meals and snacks planned by a registered  
28 dietician and to personally assess and provide necessary health and social services. These

1 promises were among the principal reasons Mr. and Ms. LINDSTROM decided to live at  
2 BROOKDALE Scotts Valley. Although BROOKDALE promised to prepare meals  
3 appropriate for Mr. LINDSTROM's personal condition as part of its basic services, it  
4 failed to do so.

5 163. After they moved in to BROOKDALE Scotts Valley, Mr. and Ms.  
6 LINDSTROM discovered that there was no registered dietician on staff to make sure Mr.  
7 LINDSTROM received meals appropriate for his condition. Mr. and Ms. LINDSTROM  
8 also discovered that BROOKDALE's policy and practice of understaffing prevented  
9 kitchen staff from preparing and serving Mr. LINDSTROM meals appropriate for someone  
10 with diabetes. Because there were too few staff to pay attention to individual residents'  
11 dietary needs, those who were unfamiliar with Mr. LINDSTROM's condition and personal  
12 health requirements often served him oversized portions of foods unsuitable for a diabetic  
13 when they noticed he was a large man. Mr. LINDSTROM's cognitive impairment made it  
14 especially difficult for him to resist tempting but unhealthy food once it was on his plate.

15 164. The lack of adequate staffing left Mr. LINDSTROM without the  
16 individualized nutritional attention and assistance he required. As a result, after moving  
17 into BROOKDALE, Mr. LINDSTROM gained 20 pounds, which exacerbated his  
18 difficulty walking and put him at increased risk of complications from diabetes. Because  
19 his dementia was also exacerbated by his diabetes, Mr. LINDSTROM's cognitive decline  
20 may have accelerated.

21 165. When the Mr. and Ms. LINDSTROM moved in to BROOKDALE Scotts  
22 Valley, there was an onsite physical therapist available to advise and assist residents with  
23 recovery from injuries. The availability of a physical therapist was attractive to Mr. and  
24 Mrs. LINDSTROM, and they relied on BROOKDALE's representation that the onsite  
25 physical therapist would be available to them. They also understood that BROOKDALE's  
26 promise to provide continuous monitoring and consultation on health would include  
27 keeping an onsite physical therapist on staff.

28 166. Approximately six months after Mr. and Ms. LINDSTROM arrived at



1 BROOKDALE Scotts Valley, however, the physical therapist left, and BROOKDALE  
2 failed to hire a replacement. After entering BROOKDALE, Mr. LINDSTROM suffered a  
3 knee injury and would have used the onsite physical therapist's services during his  
4 recovery had that been an option. Instead, Mr. LINDSTROM had to seek less convenient  
5 physical therapy services outside of the BROOKDALE facility.

6 **Bernie Jestrabek-Hart**

7 167. BERNIE JESTRABEK-HART has been a resident of BROOKDALE Scotts  
8 Valley since approximately October 17, 2015. On or about September 30, 2015, BERNIE  
9 JESTRABEK-HART read, reviewed, and signed a "RESIDENCY AGREEMENT" with  
10 BROOKDALE. As part of this "RESIDENCY AGREEMENT," BROOKDALE stated  
11 that "[i]n order to provide you with care, supervision and assistance with instrumental  
12 activities of daily living in order to meet your needs, we will provide you with the  
13 following Basic Services, which are included in the Basic Service Rate." These included,  
14 among other things, the room, three daily meals, planned activities, transportation, and the  
15 availability of staff "24 hours a day, seven days a week." This standard residency  
16 agreement also stated that:

17 [p]rior to moving in and periodically throughout your residency, we will use  
18 a personal service assessment to determine the personal services you require.  
19 The personal service assessment will be used to develop your Personal  
20 Service Plan. The results of the assessment, our method for evaluating your  
personal care needs, and the cost of providing the additional personal service  
(the "Personal Service Rate") will be shared with you.

21 The Personal Service Plan lists the types of staff assistance that Ms. JESTRABEK-HART  
22 requires and has agreed to pay for, along with the monthly fee for each type of staff  
23 assistance. Ms. JESTRABEK-HART has also received and reviewed a variety of rate  
24 increase letters and invoices that list the fees for services BROOKDALE agreed its  
25 caregivers and other staff would provide to her.

26 168. Ms. JESTRABEK-HART read and reasonably understood BROOKDALE's  
27 representations in the RESIDENCY AGREEMENT, invoices and rate increase letters as  
28 statements that BROOKDALE would perform assessments to determine needed services

1 and staff BROOKDALE Scotts Valley in a manner that would allow it to consistently  
2 provide the services that BROOKDALE promised and for which Ms. JESTRABEK-  
3 HART was paying. Ms. JESTRABEK-HART relied on these representations in making  
4 the decision to enter BROOKDALE Scotts Valley. BROOKDALE did not disclose to Ms.  
5 JESTRABEK-HART at any time prior to her admission nor has it disclosed since that time  
6 that its corporate policy and procedure of providing predetermined staffing at its facilities  
7 precludes BROOKDALE from providing the care and services residents have been  
8 promised and places all residents at a substantial risk that they will not receive the care and  
9 services they have paid for on any given day. If BROOKDALE had disclosed this material  
10 fact to Ms. JESTRABEK-HART prior to or early in her residency, she would have looked  
11 for another facility and would not have agreed to pay the rates charged by BROOKDALE.

12       169. When Ms. JESTRABEK-HART moved in to BROOKDALE, her “basic  
13 service rate” was approximately \$3,700 per month. In addition, Ms. JESTRABEK-HART  
14 would pay a monthly fee of \$750 for assistance showering at least four times per week and  
15 daily dressing and undressing. These personal care services were among the principal  
16 reasons Ms. JESTRABEK-HART sought to live in an assisted-living setting. Over and  
17 above these monthly payments, BROOKDALE required Ms. JESTRABEK-HART to pay  
18 approximately \$1,350 in move-in fees.

19       170. Despite these hefty monthly rates and move-in fees, BROOKDALE began to  
20 increase Ms. JESTRABEK-HART’s basic service rate just months after her arrival and at  
21 least annually thereafter. By January 2018, BROOKDALE had increased Ms.  
22 JESTRABEK-HART’s basic service rate to \$4,477, a 21% increase above her initial rate  
23 of \$3,700 in just over two years. In January 2018, BROOKDALE increased Ms.  
24 JESTRABEK-HART’s fee for assistance with dressing and showering from \$750 to \$834  
25 per month, an 11.2% increase.

26       171. Ms. JESTRABEK-HART uses an electric wheelchair and cane for mobility,  
27 and many common areas at BROOKDALE Scotts Valley are difficult or dangerous for her  
28 and others with mobility disabilities to access. A number of doors that connect common

1 indoor space to outdoor courtyards are heavy and difficult to open. Several doors to  
2 laundry rooms and bathrooms in common spaces are also heavy and difficult to open.  
3 Attempting to open these doors is dangerous for Ms. JESTRABEK-HART, as the weight  
4 of the door could injure her directly or cause her to fall.

5 172. Lack of safety precautions in laundry rooms at BROOKDALE Scotts Valley  
6 present unreasonable risk to residents with mobility disabilities. On one occasion, Ms.  
7 JESTRABEK-HART tripped getting up from her wheelchair and fell onto the floor of the  
8 laundry room. This laundry room is in a secluded corner of the facility enclosed by a  
9 heavy door and lacks emergency pull cords for residents to use in case of a fall.

10 Accordingly, Ms. JESTRABEK-HART had no way to summon help. Fortunately, another  
11 individual whom Ms. JESTRABEK-HART believes to have been a resident was nearby  
12 and found Ms. JESTRABEK-HART on the floor. Ms. JESTRABEK-HART informed  
13 BROOKDALE of the need for emergency pull cords in the laundry after her fall, but  
14 BROOKDALE has taken no action. Ms. JESTRABEK-HART continues to do her own  
15 laundry. BROOKDALE's failure to remedy the dangerous conditions in the laundry  
16 rooms at BROOKDALE Scotts Valley puts Ms. JESTRABEK-HART at continuing risk of  
17 serious injury.

18 173. Ms. JESTRABEK-HART enjoys getting out of the BROOKDALE Scotts  
19 Valley facility and participating in off-site activities. She had been able to take her electric  
20 wheelchair on a bus provided by her previous assisted-living residence. Prior to moving  
21 into BROOKDALE Scotts Valley, Ms. JESTRABECK-HART looked at BROOKDALE's  
22 website and saw that BROOKDALE offered free bus transportation to doctor's visits,  
23 social outings and other offsite activities. That service was among the major selling points  
24 for Ms. JESTRABEK-HART, and she relied on BROOKDALE's representations that she  
25 would be able to participate in outings on the bus. After moving in, she was surprised to  
26 learn that the transportation schedule was very limited and that BROOKDALE would not  
27 allow her to take her electric wheelchair on the bus. Her electric wheelchair is Ms.  
28 JESTRABEK-HART's primary means of personal transportation and is necessary for her

1 to participate on shopping trips and other outings that require mobility upon arrival.  
2 BROOKDALE has proposed that Ms. JESTRABEK-HART use a non-motorized  
3 wheelchair on these outings, but that would leave Ms. JESTRABEK-HART stranded upon  
4 arrival because she needs an electric wheelchair for mobility.

5 174. BROOKDALE's understaffing and failure to plan for emergencies has also  
6 negatively affected Ms. JESTRABEK-HART. On one occasion, a power outage caused  
7 the elevators to cease to function, stranding Ms. JESTRABEK-HART, whose room is on  
8 the facility's second floor, on a lower level. BROOKDALE staff helped some residents  
9 get up to their rooms, but were unable to help Ms. JESTRABEK-HART and other  
10 residents who are wheelchair users. She and other residents with mobility disabilities  
11 waited for three to four hours before firefighters arrived to assist those who could not walk  
12 up the stairs. Because of BROOKDALE's inadequate staffing and emergency planning,  
13 many residents were stranded away from their rooms late into the night.

14 175. While the power was out, Ms. JESTRABEK-HART was unable to use her  
15 continuous positive airway pressure ("CPAP") machine, which she requires to sleep due to  
16 sleep apnea. BROOKDALE Scotts Valley had only one electrical outlet that was  
17 generator-powered, which was located on the first floor near the nurse's office. As a  
18 result, the outlet was not accessible to Ms. JESTRABEK-HART. BROOKDALE staff did  
19 not attempt to connect Ms. JESTRABEK-HART's CPAP machine to a generator-powered  
20 outlet.

21 176. While Ms. JESTRABEK-HART does not require assistance to get to and  
22 from meals, she has witnessed those who do need assistance wait for long periods before a  
23 staff member is available to help. On one occasion, Ms. JESTRABEK-HART and others  
24 waited with a resident who was left in the lunchroom for over an hour and a half following  
25 the end of the meal before she received the assistance she needed to return to her room.

26 177. Ms. JESTRABEK-HART requires assistance with dressing and bathing and  
27 pays BROOKDALE \$834 per month for these services. When deciding whether to move  
28 in to BROOKDALE Scotts Valley, among the items most important to Ms. JESTRABEK-

1 HART was that she receive assistance showering at least four times per week, and she  
2 relied on BROOKDALE's representation that it would be able to meet this need.  
3 Ms. JESTRABEK-HART usually informs BROOKDALE staff after dinner that she is  
4 ready to shower. She frequently waits for two to three hours before a staff member can  
5 assist her. On multiple occasions, Ms. JESTRABEK-HART has waited so long that she  
6 has gone to sleep only to be awakened by a staff member who has finally come to provide  
7 the necessary assistance. Other times, BROOKDALE has canceled a previously scheduled  
8 shower altogether.

9 178. With respect to assistance dressing, Ms. JESTREBEK-HART has asked for  
10 BROOKDALE staff to come to help her around the time she wakes at 7:00 a.m. Often,  
11 however, she will wait until 8:30 a.m. or 9:00 a.m. before staff arrive to assist her.  
12 Similarly, she often waits for long periods for assistance undressing in the evenings. On  
13 several occasions when help has not come, Ms. JESTREBEK-HART has slept in her  
14 clothes and shoes, which can cause pain in her feet and make it otherwise difficult to get  
15 comfortable. BROOKDALE staff has told her, often in the evening around 8:30 p.m. and  
16 sometimes in the morning around 7:00 a.m., that these delays occur because only one staff  
17 member is on duty to meet the needs of 150 residents.

18 **Jeanette Algarme**

19 179. JEANETTE ALGARME has been a resident at BROOKDALE Brookhurst  
20 since approximately April 2018. Prior to moving in, Ms. ALGARME read, reviewed, and  
21 signed a Residency Agreement. The Residency Agreement stated that “[i]n order to  
22 provide you with care, supervision and assistance with instrumental activities of daily  
23 living in order to meet your needs, we will provide you with the following Basic Services,  
24 which are included in the Basic Service Rate.” These included, among other things,  
25 Ms. ALGARME's room, three meals daily, housekeeping, laundry and linen service,  
26 activities, transportation, “staffing 24 hours a day,” and personal services as determined  
27 appropriate based on a “personal service assessment” used to “develop your Personal  
28 Service Plan.” The Residency Agreement noted that “[t]he results of the assessment, our

1 method for evaluating your personal care needs, and the cost of providing the additional  
2 personal services (the ‘Personal Service Rate’) will be shared with you.”

3 180. Upon moving into the BROOKDALE Brookhurst facility, Ms. ALGARME  
4 required and agreed to pay for the following personal services: “hands on” assistance with  
5 dressing and grooming, and “hands on” assistance with showering. The Personal Service  
6 Plan listed the types of assistance Ms. ALGARME required, along with the monthly fee  
7 for each type of assistance. Ms. ALGARME read and reasonably understood  
8 BROOKDALE’s representations as statements that BROOKDALE would perform  
9 assessments to determine needed services and would staff the facility in a manner that  
10 would allow it to consistently provide the services that BROOKDALE promised and for  
11 which Ms. ALGARME was paying. Ms. ALGARME relied on these representations in  
12 making the decision to move into BROOKDALE Brookhurst and to pay BROOKDALE  
13 the monthly fees. BROOKDALE did not disclose to Ms. ALGARME at any time prior to  
14 her move-in nor has it disclosed since that time that its corporate policy and procedure of  
15 providing pre-determined staffing at its facilities precludes BROOKDALE from providing  
16 the care and services residents have been promised, and places all residents at a substantial  
17 risk that they will not receive the care and services they have paid for on any given day. If  
18 BROOKDALE had disclosed this material fact to Ms. ALGARME, she would have looked  
19 for another facility and would not have agreed to pay the rates charged by BROOKDALE.

20 181. BROOKDALE currently charges Ms. ALGARME a Basic Service Rate of  
21 \$3,964.00 per month, plus \$79.00 per month for basic TV service, plus a Personal Service  
22 Rate of \$874.00, which is supposed to cover physical assistance with transfers into the  
23 bathroom and shower, assistance with dressing, and assistance with showering.

24 182. Ms. ALGARME is an electric wheelchair user. She has Brown-Séquad  
25 Syndrome, a rare neurological condition characterized by a lesion in the spinal cord which  
26 results in weakness or paralysis (hemiparaplegia) on one side of the body and a loss of  
27 sensation (hemianesthesia) on the opposite side. She also has lumbar spinal stenosis. Due  
28 to these conditions, Ms. ALGARME requires “hands-on assistance” with dressing and

1 grooming. Ms. ALGARME has paid for those personal services throughout her time  
2 living at BROOKDALE Brookhurst, but has not been consistently provided that  
3 assistance.

4 183. Ms. Algarme has paid for hands-on assistance with showering twice per  
5 week since she moved into BROOKDALE Brookhurst. In the beginning of her time there,  
6 staff would assist her by wheeling her into the restroom and assisting her with transferring  
7 into the shower, before assisting her in the shower. Several months into her stay at  
8 BROOKDALE Brookhurst, a BROOKDALE staff member informed Ms. ALGARME that  
9 BROOKDALE would no longer be able to assist her with transferring into the bathroom  
10 and into her shower, because she did not pay a special rate for “transport” services. The  
11 staff member also informed Ms. ALGARME that BROOKDALE instructed staff to time  
12 Ms. ALGARME’s showers because they thought her showers took too long, and  
13 BROOKDALE wanted to charge her more money. Ms. ALGARME was then forced to  
14 use an aluminum walker to get herself into the restroom, and then step over the threshold  
15 of her shower to get in, before receiving assistance with showering. Given her disability,  
16 this was difficult for her, and she was unstable, making her concerned that she would fall.

17 184. Ms. ALGARME has also not consistently received the “hands on” assistance  
18 with dressing and grooming that she pays BROOKDALE to provide. Due to  
19 BROOKDALE’s severe understaffing, Ms. ALGARME frequently has to wait a very long  
20 time before she is able to receive assistance from a staff member to get dressed in the  
21 morning. On several occasions, Ms. ALGARME has had to wait as long as one and one-  
22 half hours after initially pressing her call button before receiving assistance getting  
23 dressed. Sometimes by the time staff do respond to help her get dressed,  
24 Ms. ALGARME’s table in the dining room is full and she is not able to eat breakfast with  
25 her social group. Ms. ALGARME has requested a printout of her pendant calls from  
26 BROOKDALE to verify the wait times, but BROOKDALE staff have ignored her  
27 requests. There are often no staff persons assigned to assist residents on Ms. ALGARME’s  
28 floor, even though Ms. ALGARME was originally informed that there would be one aide

1 assigned per floor. Usually, a staff person assigned to another floor comes to assist  
2 Ms. ALGARME. One staff member informed Ms. ALGARME that she could not assist  
3 her with dressing because she was on light duty, and there was no one else available that  
4 day to help Ms. ALGARME get dressed. She eventually did begrudgingly assist Ms.  
5 ALGARME to dress into her pajamas, given that no other staff were available.  
6 Frequently, the staff member who assists Ms. ALGARME with dressing in the evenings  
7 does not wait to ensure she is safely settled in her sleeping chair prior to leaving her room,  
8 because she has so many other people to assist. This causes Ms. ALGARME to fear that  
9 she will fall. Recently, BROOKDALE Brookhurst had to terminate several non-caregiving  
10 staff, so caregivers had to assume non-caregiving tasks such as laundry and housekeeping,  
11 making them less available to help residents.

12       185. Ms. ALGARME has fallen on more than one occasion since she moved into  
13 BROOKDALE Brookhurst. In approximately May or June 2018, Ms. ALGARME's legs  
14 gave out and she was not able to stand up, so she fell to the floor while she was in the  
15 restroom. She was in severe pain because her knee, which had previously been operated  
16 upon, was pressing against the wall. She repeatedly pushed her BROOKDALE call button  
17 pendant, but no BROOKDALE staff came for at least fifteen minutes. Eventually she used  
18 her private emergency medical alert pendant, from GreatCall. The GreatCall staff called  
19 BROOKDALE Brookhurst on her behalf, and a BROOKDALE staff person finally arrived  
20 to her room to assist her. After the fall, no BROOKDALE staff followed up with  
21 Ms. ALGARME to find out how she was doing. Ms. ALGARME does not wish to pay for  
22 the additional expense of the GreatCall medical alert system, given that BROOKDALE is  
23 supposed to provide prompt staff assistance when she presses her BROOKDALE call  
24 pendant, but she has decided to continue paying for GreatCall due to fears that  
25 BROOKDALE staff will not be responsive in an emergency.

26       186. Ms. ALGARME has spoken to the Executive Director of BROOKDALE  
27 Brookhurst regarding the non-responsiveness of staff when she presses her BROOKDALE  
28 pendant, but the Executive Director has told Ms. ALGARME that she is pressing the



1 pendant too much, and that it is “only for emergencies.” When Ms. ALGARME was  
2 signing the paperwork prior to moving into BROOKDALE Brookhurst, she was never  
3 informed in writing or orally that there was a limit on use of the call pendant, and in fact  
4 during the sales pitch, BROOKDALE informed her that she could “use it whenever you  
5 want.”

6 187. Ms. ALGARME also fell on three occasions in early December, 2018. On  
7 the first occasion, a caregiver was not present in the room with her while she was standing  
8 at her bathroom sink, and the brakes were not set on her wheelchair, so she fell as she  
9 attempted to sit down. The caregiver inaccurately stated to the Medical Technician that  
10 she was present in the room with Ms. ALGARME. On the second occasion, Ms.  
11 ALGARME fell on the way back from the bathroom early in the morning. BROOKDALE  
12 staff came to assist her in getting into her transport wheelchair, but then left her in the  
13 transport for half an hour, because no staff was available to transfer her back into her sleep  
14 chair until the change of shift. BROOKDALE offered to bring Ms. ALGARME her  
15 breakfast in her room that day, but said she would be charged \$13.00. On the third  
16 occasion, Ms. ALGARME fell while transferring to her electric wheelchair with a  
17 caregiver.

18 188. After this series of falls, Ms. ALGARME was very concerned that she would  
19 continue to fall while attempting to transfer herself in and out of the bathroom and in and  
20 out of the shower, so she agreed to pay an additional fee for “transport services” that was  
21 not included in her original Personal Service Rate. These services added an additional  
22 \$291 per month to the fees she pays BROOKDALE, and only include “transports” two  
23 times per day into her bathroom. They do not include any assistance getting to the dining  
24 room or other areas of the facility.

25 189. Several parts of Ms. ALGARME’s room at BROOKDALE Brookhurst are  
26 inaccessible to her as a wheelchair user. The shower in her room is not accessible, as it  
27 has a threshold or lip. As a result, Ms. ALGARME requires assistance to get into the  
28 shower. In early December 2018, BROOKDALE did agree to modify Ms. ALGARME’s

1 shower, but there is still a small threshold and it is not possible to wheel into the shower  
2 without tipping Ms. ALGARME's chair over the threshold. Ms. ALGARME's family had  
3 to purchase a shower chair, because while there was a shower bench in her shower, it was  
4 not installed evenly, and it was unsafe for her to use since she continually felt as though  
5 she would slip off of it. The sinks in Ms. ALGARME's bathroom and kitchen have  
6 cabinets underneath, so Ms. ALGARME cannot roll up to them in her chair.  
7 Ms. ALGARME pays BROOKDALE for a room that includes an outside balcony, but she  
8 is not able to use her balcony because there is a threshold or lip blocking access to the  
9 balcony with a wheelchair, and the balcony is too narrow to safely fit her electric  
10 wheelchair.

11         190. Shortly after she moved into BROOKDALE Brookhurst, Ms. Algarme  
12 attended a meeting with residents and the facility's Executive Director. The Executive  
13 Director instructed residents that if they use walkers, they must leave them in the hallway  
14 during meals, and residents who use wheelchairs must transfer to chairs at the dining  
15 tables. The Executive Director stated that this was BROOKDALE policy and that it  
16 "doesn't look good" to have many walkers and wheelchairs in the dining room.  
17 Ms. ALGARME informed the Executive Director that it would be very difficult for her to  
18 transfer to a chair from her wheelchair for meals. The Executive Director informed her  
19 that "maybe you do not belong in this facility." This was extremely distressing to  
20 Ms. ALGARME since she had just uprooted her life to move into BROOKDALE  
21 Brookhurst.

22         191. BROOKDALE Brookhurst's Executive Director also informed residents at a  
23 residents' meeting that electric wheelchair users cannot use the mechanical lift on the  
24 BROOKDALE van that is used to transport residents, because BROOKDALE's policy is  
25 that "scooters" are not allowed on the lift. Ms. ALGARME had to print out paperwork to  
26 prove to BROOKDALE staff that her electric wheelchair was not a scooter.

27         192. BROOKDALE staff has asked Ms. ALGARME for records of her physical  
28 therapy services, which she receives in her room through a private physical therapy

1 provider, and pays for with her Medicare coverage. Ms. ALGARME did not feel  
2 comfortable providing these records to BROOKDALE, as they were not necessary for  
3 BROOKDALE to provide the services Ms. ALGARME purportedly receives from  
4 BROOKDALE. Staff made the request for the records when Ms. ALGARME was eating  
5 in the dining hall, in front of other residents, which made Ms. ALGARME feel very  
6 uncomfortable. BROOKDALE management told Ms. ALGARME and her family  
7 members that BROOKDALE provides physical therapy services, which Ms. ALGARME  
8 perceives as BROOKDALE attempting to upsell her on additional services.

9 193. Ms. ALGARME has complained to management at BROOKDALE  
10 Brookhurst about these issues on several occasions, but generally, Ms. ALGARME has not  
11 seen significant improvement. In fact, after Ms. ALGARME protested to the Executive  
12 Director that she would not be able to safely transfer out of her wheelchair for meals, the  
13 Executive Director informed her that she had “heard” Ms. ALGARME was over-using her  
14 call pendant, and that she should only use it for emergencies. Because BROOKDALE had  
15 never informed her of any limits on the allowed use of the call pendant, Ms. ALGARME  
16 felt that this comment was in retaliation for Ms. ALGARME’s complaints regarding  
17 transfers out of her wheelchair at mealtime.

18 194. Ms. ALGARME has noticed a decline in the quality of food since she moved  
19 into BROOKDALE Brookhurst. The fruits are often canned instead of fresh, and the  
20 vegetables are so over-cooked that it is impossible to tell whether they were fresh or  
21 canned. Meats are often highly processed, and many hot meals are covered in sauces to  
22 hide the low quality of the meat and produce.

23 195. Since Ms. ALGARME has resided at BROOKDALE Brookhurst,  
24 BROOKDALE has never disclosed that its staffing policies and procedures preclude it  
25 from providing its residents all of the care and services they have been promised and  
26 places all residents at an inherent and substantial risk that they will not receive the care and  
27 services they have paid for on any given day. If BROOKDALE had disclosed this material  
28 fact to Ms. ALGARME, she would have looked for another assisted living facility.

1 **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

2 196. The named Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and all  
3 persons similarly situated and seek class certification pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil  
4 Procedure 23(b)(2) and/or (b)(3) as set forth below.

5 197. **Class Definitions.**

6 Plaintiffs STACIA STINER, HELEN CARLSON, LAWRENCE QUINLAN;  
7 EDWARD BORIS; RALPH SCHMIDT; PATRICIA LINDSTROM as successor-in-  
8 interest to the Estate of ARTHUR LINDSTROM; BERNIE JESTRABEK-HART; and  
9 JEANETTE ALGARME seek to represent the following three classes:

10 RESIDENTS WITH MOBILITY OR VISUAL DISABILITIES CLASS: All  
11 persons with disabilities who use wheelchairs, scooters, canes or other mobility aids  
12 or who have visual disabilities and who reside or have resided at a residential care  
13 facility for the elderly located in California and owned, operated and/or managed by  
14 BROOKDALE during the CLASS PERIOD, including their successors-in-interest  
15 if deceased.

16 RESIDENTS WITH DISABILITIES CLASS: All persons with disabilities who  
17 require assistance with activities of daily living and who reside or have resided at a  
18 residential care facility for the elderly located in California and owned, operated  
19 and/or managed by BROOKDALE during the CLASS PERIOD, including their  
20 successors-in-interest if deceased.

21 FALSE OR MISLEADING STATEMENTS CLASS: All persons who resided or  
22 reside at one of the residential care facilities for the elderly located in California and  
23 owned, operated, and/or managed by BROOKDALE during the CLASS PERIOD  
24 and who contracted with BROOKDALE or another assisted living facility for  
25 services for which BROOKDALE was paid money, including their successors-in-  
26 interest if deceased.

27 198. The CLASS PERIOD is defined as commencing three years prior to the  
28 filing of this action for the RESIDENTS WITH MOBILITY OR VISUAL DISABILITIES

1 CLASS and commencing on May 16, 2015 for the RESIDENTS WITH DISABILITIES  
2 CLASS and the FALSE OR MISLEADING STATEMENTS CLASS.

3 199. Excluded from the above-referenced class are the officers, directors, and  
4 employees of BROOKDALE, and any of Defendants' shareholders or other persons who  
5 hold a financial interest in BROOKDALE. Also excluded is any judge assigned to hear  
6 this case (or any spouse or family member of any assigned judge), or any juror selected to  
7 hear this case.

8 200. This action is brought as a class action and may properly be so maintained  
9 pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 and applicable case law. In addition to  
10 declaratory and injunctive relief, this action seeks class-wide damages pursuant to  
11 California Civil Code § 52(a) in the amount of \$4,000 per class member based on  
12 Defendants' wrongful policy and practice of failing to provide residents with disabilities  
13 with full and equal access to and enjoyment of the services, goods, facilities, privileges,  
14 and/or advantages of BROOKDALE's assisted living facilities as alleged herein. It also  
15 seeks class-wide statutory and punitive damages based on Defendants' misrepresentations,  
16 misleading statements, and material omissions, including \$5,000 per class member  
17 pursuant to California Civil Code § 1780(b). This action also seeks treble damages  
18 pursuant to both California Civil Code § 52(a) and California Civil Code § 3345(b)(2) and  
19 (3). This action does not seek recovery for personal injuries or emotional distress that may  
20 have been caused by Defendants' conduct alleged herein.

21 201. **Ascertainability.** Members of the proposed Class are identifiable and  
22 ascertainable. BROOKDALE retains admission contracts, resident service plans, and  
23 billing statements for all persons who currently reside or resided at BROOKDALE  
24 facilities during the CLASS PERIOD.

25 202. **Impracticability of Joinder (Numerosity of the Class).** The members of  
26 the proposed class are so numerous that joinder of all such persons is impracticable and the  
27 disposition of their claims in a class action is a benefit both to the parties and to this Court.  
28 On information and belief, the number of persons in this case exceeds 5,000 persons. The

1 number of persons in the class and their identities and addresses may be ascertained from  
2 Defendants' records.

3       203. **Questions of Fact and Law Common to the Class.** All members of the  
4 class have been and continue to be denied their civil rights to full and equal access to, and  
5 use and enjoyment of, the services and facilities operated by the BROOKDALE because of  
6 the violations of disability nondiscrimination laws, the CLRA, and Elder Abuse laws  
7 alleged herein. There are numerous questions of law and fact common to the class,  
8 including, but not limited to, the following:

- 9           a. Whether BROOKDALE's assisted living facilities are public  
10           accommodations within the meaning of Title III of the ADA;
- 11           b. Whether BROOKDALE and its assisted living facilities are business  
12           establishments within the meaning of the Unruh Civil Rights Act;
- 13           c. Whether BROOKDALE constructed or altered any of its assisted  
14           living facilities after January 26, 1993;
- 15           d. Whether BROOKDALE's facilities that were newly constructed or  
16           altered between January 26, 1993 and March 15, 2012 comply with  
17           the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility  
18           Guidelines;
- 19           e. Whether BROOKDALE constructed or altered any of its facilities  
20           after March 15, 2012;
- 21           f. Whether BROOKDALE's facilities that were constructed or altered  
22           after March 15, 2012 comply with the 2010 ADA Standards for  
23           Accessible Design;
- 24           g. Whether BROOKDALE has removed physical access barriers where  
25           doing so was readily achievable as required by Title III of the ADA;
- 26           h. Whether Plaintiffs are being denied full and equal access to and  
27           enjoyment of BROOKDALE's goods, services, facilities, privileges,  
28           advantages or accommodations;

- 1           i.       Whether Plaintiffs requested that BROOKDALE make reasonable  
2                    modifications in policies, practices and/or procedures by providing its  
3                    facilities with a sufficient number of adequately trained staff to ensure  
4                    that residents with disabilities receive full and equal access to and  
5                    enjoyment of the services specified in BROOKDALE's own resident  
6                    assessments;
- 7           j.       Whether Plaintiffs' requested modification in policies, practices or  
8                    procedures is reasonable;
- 9           k.       Whether Plaintiffs' requested modification in policies, practices or  
10                   procedures is necessary to ensure that residents with disabilities have  
11                   full and equal access to and enjoyment of BROOKDALE's goods,  
12                   services, facilities, privileges, advantages and accommodations as  
13                   required by Title III of the ADA;
- 14          l.       Whether BROOKDALE has provided Plaintiffs with full and equal  
15                   access to and enjoyment of its transportation services and activities as  
16                   required by Title III of the ADA;
- 17          m.       Whether BROOKDALE has provided Plaintiffs with full and equal  
18                   access to and enjoyment of its services and facilities with respect to  
19                   emergency planning and evacuation;
- 20          n.       Whether BROOKDALE, by its actions and omissions alleged herein,  
21                   has engaged in a pattern and practice of discriminating against  
22                   Plaintiffs and other residents with disabilities in violation of the ADA  
23                   and the Unruh Civil Rights Act;
- 24          o.       Whether BROOKDALE has violated and continues to violate the  
25                   Consumer Legal Remedies Act, California Civil Code §§ 1750 *et seq.*,  
26                   by promising residents that it will provide care and services including  
27                   those identified by resident assessments, when BROOKDALE knows  
28                   that its corporate policy and procedure of providing pre-determined

1 staffing at its facilities precludes BROOKDALE from providing the  
2 care and services residents have been promised and places all  
3 residents at a substantial risk that they will not receive the care and  
4 services they have paid for on any given day;

- 5 p. Whether BROOKDALE’s misrepresentations, misleading statements  
6 and omissions regarding the staffing of its facilities as alleged herein  
7 were and are material to the reasonable consumer;
- 8 q. Whether by making the misrepresentations, misleading statements and  
9 material omissions alleged in this Complaint, BROOKDALE violated  
10 and continues to violate California Business & Professions Code  
11 §§ 17200, *et. seq.* (“UCL”);
- 12 r. Whether BROOKDALE had exclusive knowledge of material facts  
13 not known or reasonably accessible to the Plaintiffs and the class;
- 14 s. Whether the Plaintiffs, the class, and the consuming public were  
15 likely to be deceived by the foregoing concealment and omission;
- 16 t. Whether the Plaintiffs, the class, and the consuming public have a  
17 reasonable expectation that BROOKDALE will provide staffing at its  
18 facilities to meet the aggregate care needs of the residents at its  
19 facilities;
- 20 u. Whether BROOKDALE’s misrepresentations, its misleading  
21 statements, its failures to disclose and its concealment of its true  
22 policies, procedures, and practices regarding how it staffs its facilities  
23 violated the CLRA and the UCL;
- 24 v. Whether BROOKDALE has engaged and continues to engage in a  
25 pattern and practice of unfair and deceptive conduct in connection  
26 with the management, administration, and operation of its California  
27 assisted living facilities;
- 28 w. Whether BROOKDALE has violated and continues to violate the



1 UCL by violating the CLRA, ADA, Unruh Civil Rights Act,  
2 California Welfare and Institutions Code § 15610.30, and Cal. Health  
3 & Safety Code §§ 1569.157 and 1569.158 during the CLASS  
4 PERIOD;

5 x. Whether BROOKDALE has committed financial elder abuse under  
6 California Welfare and Institutions Code § 15610.30 by taking,  
7 secreting, appropriating, obtaining, and/or retaining money from  
8 elders and dependent adults for a wrongful use and/or with the intent  
9 to defraud them;

10 y. Whether the Plaintiffs and the putative class members have been  
11 injured;

12 z. Whether the Plaintiffs and the members of the putative class are  
13 entitled to damages, and the nature of such damages; and,

14 aa. Whether the Plaintiffs and the members of the putative class are  
15 entitled to declaratory and/or injunctive relief, and the nature of such  
16 relief.

17 204. **Typicality.** The claims of the named Plaintiffs are typical of those of the  
18 proposed classes. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the proposed classes in the  
19 following ways: 1) Plaintiffs are members of the proposed classes; 2) Plaintiffs' claims  
20 arise from the same uniform corporate policies, procedures, practices and course of  
21 conduct on the part of BROOKDALE; 3) Plaintiffs' claims are based on the same legal  
22 and remedial theories as those of the proposed classes and involve similar factual  
23 circumstances; 4) the injuries suffered by the named Plaintiffs are similar to the injuries  
24 suffered by the proposed class members; and 5) the relief sought herein will benefit the  
25 named Plaintiffs and all class members alike.

26 205. **Adequacy.** The named Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent the  
27 interests of the classes. They have no interests adverse to the interests of other members of  
28 the class and have retained counsel who are competent and experienced in litigating

1 complex class actions, including large-scale disability rights and senior care class action  
2 cases.

3       206. **Predominance.** With respect to Plaintiffs' claims under the ADA, the  
4 Unruh Civil Rights Act, the CLRA, the UCL, and the Elder Abuse Act, class certification  
5 is appropriate under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(3) because questions of law or  
6 fact common to the class members predominate over any questions affecting individual  
7 members of the putative classes.

8       207. **Superiority.** A class action is superior to other methods for the fair and  
9 efficient adjudication of this controversy because, *inter alia*: 1) individual claims by the  
10 class members would be impracticable because the costs of pursuit of such claims would  
11 far exceed what any individual class member has at stake; 2) relatively little individual  
12 litigation has been commenced over the controversies alleged in this Complaint and  
13 individual class members are unlikely to have an interest in separately prosecuting and  
14 controlling individual actions; 3) the concentration of litigation of these claims in one  
15 forum will achieve efficiency and promote judicial economy; 4) the proposed classes are  
16 manageable, and no difficulties are likely to be encountered in the management of this  
17 class action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action; 5) the proposed class  
18 members are readily identifiable from Defendants' own records; and 6) prosecution of  
19 separate actions by individual members of the proposed class would create the risk of  
20 inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the proposed  
21 classes that would establish incompatible standards of conduct for BROOKDALE.

22       208. **The Class Meets the Requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure**  
23 **23(b)(2).** BROOKDALE has acted and refused to act on grounds generally applicable to  
24 the class, making the declaratory and injunctive relief sought on behalf of the class as a  
25 whole appropriate.

26  
27  
28

1 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
2 **(Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.)**  
3 **(On behalf of Plaintiffs, the RESIDENTS WITH MOBILITY OR VISION**  
4 **DISABILITIES CLASS and the RESIDENTS WITH DISABILITIES CLASS)**

4 209. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference as though fully set forth herein the  
5 preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

6 210. Congress enacted the ADA upon finding, among other things, that “society  
7 has tended to isolate and segregate individuals with disabilities” and that such forms of  
8 discrimination continue to be a “serious and pervasive social problem.” 42 U.S.C.  
9 § 12101(a) (2).

10 211. Congress explicitly stated that the purpose of the ADA is to provide “a clear  
11 and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against  
12 individuals with disabilities” and “clear, strong, consistent, enforceable standards  
13 addressing discrimination against individuals with disabilities.” 42 U.S.C. § 12101(b)(1)-  
14 (2).

15 212. Title III of the ADA provides in pertinent part: “[N]o individual shall be  
16 discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the  
17 goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of  
18 public accommodation by any person who owns, leases, or leases to, or operates a place of  
19 public accommodation.” 42 U.S.C. § 12182.

20 213. At all times relevant to this action, Plaintiffs STACIA STINER, HELEN  
21 CARLSON, LAWRENCE QUINLAN; EDWARD BORIS; RALPH SCHMIDT;  
22 ARTHUR LINDSTROM; BERNIE JESTRABEK-HART; and JEANETTE ALGARME  
23 were and remain qualified individuals with disabilities within the meaning of the ADA.

24 214. Defendants are each a “private entity,” as defined under 42 U.S.C.  
25 § 12181(6). They own, operate and/or manage approximately 89 assisted living facilities  
26 in California.

27 215. Brookdale’s assisted living facilities provide services to its residents,  
28 including but not limited to, assistance with managing and taking medication,

1 housekeeping, laundry, dressing, bathing, toileting, hygiene, food preparation, and  
2 transportation. BROOKDALE staff include caregivers, certified nursing assistants  
3 (CNAs), and a licensed nurse working in the facility or on-call 24 hours per day, seven  
4 days per week, to allow ongoing monitoring of residents' health status. These facilities are  
5 "public accommodations" pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12181(7). BROOKDALE is subject to  
6 Title III of the ADA and its corresponding regulations.

7 216. As alleged above in greater detail, BROOKDALE has violated Title III of  
8 the ADA in the following ways.

9 **Failure to Provide Reasonable Modifications in**  
10 **Staffing Policies, Practices and Procedures**

11 217. BROOKDALE has a policy and practice of staffing its assisted living  
12 facilities based on pre-set corporate labor budgets and profit margins without regard for  
13 residents' needs. BROOKDALE's policy and practice of understaffing its assisted living  
14 facilities in order to minimize its labor expenses and maximize its corporate profits has  
15 resulted in facilities that are chronically understaffed, and in which skeletal levels of  
16 staffing make it commonplace for residents with disabilities to go without the services,  
17 goods, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations for which they have paid. For  
18 example, staff are often unavailable or unable to assist residents with disabilities with  
19 activities of daily living including, *inter alia*, bathing, showering, toileting, transferring,  
20 taking medications, dressing, dining, and housekeeping. In addition, residents with  
21 disabilities are often denied full and equal access to and enjoyment of social and  
22 recreational activities, as well as transportation to off-site locations for appointments and  
23 other activities, because of the lack of a sufficient number of trained staff to assist residents  
24 with disabilities to participate in these activities.

25 218. Plaintiffs have requested that BROOKDALE make reasonable modifications  
26 in policies, practices, or procedures as required by Title III of the ADA. Plaintiffs have  
27 requested that BROOKDALE provides its facilities with a sufficient number of adequately  
28 trained staff to ensure that residents with disabilities are provided with full and equal

1 access to and enjoyment of the services specified in BROOKDALE's own resident  
2 assessments. Among other things, and without limitation, BROOKDALE should increase  
3 its level of trained staff in its assisted living facilities such that residents with disabilities  
4 are not required to wait for more than five minutes for a substantive response to their call  
5 pendants. A substantive response means actual action taken to address the resident's need,  
6 rather than a staff member passing by the resident's room to say that they will return later.

7       219. Such reasonable modifications in BROOKDALE's policies, practices and  
8 procedures are necessary to ensure that Plaintiffs and the members of the putative  
9 Residents with Disabilities Class receive full and equal access to and enjoyment of  
10 BROOKDALE's services, including assistance with, *inter alia*, bathing, showering,  
11 toileting, transferring, taking medications, dressing, dining, and housekeeping. In addition,  
12 such modifications are necessary to ensure that Plaintiffs and the members of the putative  
13 Residents with Disabilities Class have full and equal access to and enjoyment of  
14 BROOKDALE's social and recreational activities, and transportation to off-site locations  
15 for appointments and other activities. Unless and until BROOKDALE makes this  
16 requested reasonable modification in policies, practices, and procedures, Plaintiffs and the  
17 members of the putative Residents with Disabilities Class will continue to be denied full  
18 and equal access to and enjoyment of the services, goods, facilities, privileges, advantages  
19 and accommodations that BROOKDALE claims to provide to all of its residents, whether  
20 disabled or nondisabled.

21       220. Plaintiffs' requested modification in policies, practices or procedures is  
22 eminently reasonable in that BROOKDALE already charges residents with disabilities for,  
23 and residents with disabilities pay to receive, the services specified in BROOKDALE's  
24 own resident agreements and resident assessments, including *inter alia*, assistance with  
25 activities of daily living such as mobility, bathing, showering, toileting, transferring, taking  
26 medications, dressing, dining, and housekeeping, as well as participating in  
27 BROOKDALE's social and recreational activities whether on-site or off-site.

28       221. The requested modification in policies, practices or procedures will not make

1 any alteration (much less a fundamental alteration) in the nature of BROOKDALE's goods  
2 and services. Rather, Plaintiffs merely seek to ensure that BROOKDALE provides a  
3 sufficient number of adequately trained staff to provide its residents with disabilities with  
4 full and equal access to and enjoyment of the types of services and goods that  
5 BROOKDALE already promises to provide to its residents in its normal course of  
6 business. Thus, the requested reasonable modification in policy, practice or procedure  
7 would not change the nature or type of services and goods that BROOKDALE sells to the  
8 public.

9       222. The requested reasonable modification would impose only a minimal burden  
10 on BROOKDALE. Plaintiffs allege on information and belief that the staff who provide  
11 BROOKDALE's services are hourly employees who are paid just over California's  
12 minimum wage rate. Increasing BROOKDALE's skeletal night staffing and its minimal  
13 level of daytime staffing will only result in a moderate increase in BROOKDALE's labor  
14 budget. BROOKDALE will continue to be able to realize substantial gross profits each  
15 year in the multibillion dollar range.

16       223. Plaintiffs have repeatedly requested that BROOKDALE make reasonable  
17 modifications in policies, practices, or procedures by increasing the number of trained staff  
18 that it provides in its facilities. Notwithstanding the reasonableness and necessity of such  
19 modifications, and notwithstanding the fact that BROOKDALE could significantly  
20 increase its staffing without changing the nature of its services, goods, facilities, privileges,  
21 advantages or accommodations, and could make such modifications without undue  
22 financial or administrative burdens, BROOKDALE has failed and refused to make any  
23 such modifications.

24       224. Plaintiffs' claims under the ADA and the Unruh Act based on  
25 BROOKDALE's failure to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or  
26 procedures in staffing policies and practices are limited to circumstances and facts  
27 occurring on or after May 16, 2015.

28

### Physical Access Barriers

1  
2           225. Plaintiffs allege on information and belief that many of Defendants' facilities  
3 were designed and constructed after January 26, 1993, thus triggering access requirements  
4 under Title III of the ADA. The ADA prohibits designing and constructing facilities for  
5 first occupancy after January 26, 1993 that are not readily accessible to and usable by  
6 individuals with disabilities when it was structurally practicable to do so. 42 U.S.C.  
7 § 12183(a)(1). BROOKDALE has violated the ADA by designing and constructing their  
8 facilities in a manner that does not comply with federal disability access design standards  
9 including the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines ("ADAAG") and  
10 the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design ("2010 ADA Standards") even though it  
11 was structurally practicable to do so.

12           226. Plaintiffs allege on information and belief that Defendants' facilities were  
13 altered after January 26, 1993, thus triggering access requirements under Title III of the  
14 ADA. The ADA prohibits altering facilities after January 26, 1993 in a manner that is not  
15 readily accessible to, and usable by, individuals with disabilities when it was structurally  
16 practicable to do so. 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(2). Here, Defendants violated the ADA by  
17 altering its assisted living facilities after January 26, 1993 in a manner that did not comply  
18 with the ADAAG or the 2010 ADA Standards even though it was structurally practicable  
19 to do so. Specifically, Defendants have failed to ensure that the areas of alteration  
20 complied with the ADAAG or the 2010 ADA Standards, and that the path of travel to the  
21 areas of alteration complied with the ADAAG or the 2010 ADA Standards.

22           227. Additionally, Defendants have failed to remove physical access barriers in  
23 their facilities which existed prior to January 26, 1993 when removal of those barriers was  
24 "readily achievable," in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv).

25           228. The removal of each of the barriers complained of by Plaintiffs herein was at  
26 all times "readily achievable" under the standards of §§ 12181 and 12182 of the ADA.  
27 BROOKDALE could have removed each of the barriers alleged herein without much  
28 difficulty or expense within the meaning of Title III. Notwithstanding the foregoing,

1 BROOKDALE has failed and refused to do so.

### 2 **Transportation and Activities**

3 229. BROOKDALE has violated Title III of the ADA by failing and refusing to  
4 provide Plaintiffs with full and equal access to and enjoyment of its transportation services  
5 to off-site activities and appointments. BROOKDALE has a policy and practice of  
6 limiting the number of wheelchair users who may use transportation to off-site activities.  
7 This limitation is not imposed on residents who do not use wheelchairs. In addition,  
8 BROOKDALE has required residents with mobility disabilities to transfer from their  
9 wheelchairs into the seats in its shuttles, and has not permitted residents to remain in their  
10 wheelchairs. BROOKDALE has done so despite the fact that many residents with  
11 mobility disabilities have great difficulty in transferring from their wheelchairs into the  
12 passenger seats in shuttles, and doing so is time consuming, physically exhausting and  
13 sometimes dangerous. Further, on numerous occasions residents with mobility disabilities  
14 have been completely denied access to medical appointments, and other off-site  
15 appointments and activities, because BROOKDALE has failed to provide any accessible  
16 transportation to those appointments and activities.

### 17 **Evacuation Procedures**

18 230. BROOKDALE has failed to provide or communicate to its residents with  
19 disabilities any specific or definitive emergency evacuation plan in the event of  
20 earthquake, fire or other emergency. Defendants' failure to do so constitutes a denial of  
21 full and equal access to and enjoyment of the services and facilities provided by  
22 BROOKDALE in violation of Title III of the ADA. Many of BROOKDALE's residents  
23 with disabilities are unable to exit the building without assistance from staff. While some  
24 residents have been advised to remain in their rooms in the event of an emergency, in those  
25 instances in which an alarm has sounded, no one has come to their rooms to assist them or  
26 to inform them as to whether there is an emergency or just a drill.

27 231. The acts and omissions alleged herein constitute violations of Title III of the  
28 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12181 *et seq.*, and the regulations



1 promulgated thereunder. Defendants' discriminatory conduct alleged herein includes,  
2 *inter alia*:

- 3 a. Failing to provide residents with disabilities the opportunity to  
4 participate in or benefit from BROOKDALE's goods, services,  
5 facilities, privileges, advantages, and/or accommodations at its  
6 assisted living facilities in California, in violation of 42 U.S.C.  
7 § 12182(b)(1)(A)(i);
- 8 b. Failing to provide residents with disabilities the opportunity to  
9 participate in or benefit from the goods, services, facilities, privileges,  
10 advantages and/or accommodations that are equal to that afforded to  
11 individuals without disabilities, in violation of 42 U.S.C.  
12 § 12182(b)(1)(A)(ii);
- 13 c. Failing to provide the goods, services, facilities, privileges,  
14 advantages, and/or accommodations at its assisted living facilities in  
15 California to residents with disabilities in the most integrated setting  
16 possible, in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(1)(B);
- 17 d. Utilizing standards, criteria and methods of administration that have  
18 the effect of discriminating against residents on the basis of their  
19 disabilities, in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(1)(D);
- 20 e. Imposing eligibility criteria that screen out or tend to screen out  
21 residents with disabilities from fully and equally enjoying  
22 BROOKDALE's assisted living facilities' goods, services, facilities,  
23 privileges, advantages, and/or accommodations, in violation of 42  
24 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(i);
- 25 f. Failing to make reasonable modifications in its policies, practices, and  
26 procedures which are necessary for its residents with disabilities to  
27 enjoy and access BROOKDALE's assisted living facilities' goods,  
28 services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations, in

- 1 violation of 42 U.S.C. § 12182(b)(2)(A)(ii);
- 2 g. Failing to remove architectural barriers in those facilities constructed
- 3 prior to January 26, 1993 and not altered after that date where such
- 4 removal is readily achievable, in violation of 42 U.S.C.
- 5 § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv);
- 6 h. Failing to design and construct facilities first occupied after January
- 7 26, 1993 such that they are readily accessible to and usable by persons
- 8 with disabilities, in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(1);
- 9 i. Performing alterations after January 26, 1993 that affect the usability
- 10 of its facilities or a part of its facilities, while failing to ensure that the
- 11 altered portions and the path of travel to those altered portions are
- 12 readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities, in
- 13 violation of 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(2); and
- 14 j. Failing to operate BROOKDALE’s transportation services such that
- 15 they ensure a level of service to persons with disabilities that is
- 16 equivalent to that provided to persons without disabilities, in violation
- 17 of 42 U.S.C. § 12182)(b)(2)(C)(i).

18 232. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned acts, Plaintiffs have  
 19 suffered, and continue to suffer irreparable harm including humiliation, hardship and  
 20 anxiety due to Defendants’ failure to provide full and equal access to and enjoyment of  
 21 Defendants’ facilities, services, goods, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations.

22 WHEREFORE Plaintiffs pray for judgment as set forth below, including  
 23 declaratory and injunctive relief, as well as reasonable attorneys’ fees, costs and expenses  
 24 incurred in bringing this action.

25 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
 26 **(Unruh Civil Rights Act, California Civil Code §§ 51 *et seq.*)**  
 27 **(On behalf of Plaintiffs, the RESIDENTS WITH MOBILITY OR VISION**  
**DISABILITIES CLASS and the RESIDENTS WITH DISABILITIES CLASS)**

28 233. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference as though fully set forth herein the

1 preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

2 234. California Civil Code § 51(b) provides in pertinent part that “All persons  
3 within the jurisdiction of this state are free and equal, and no matter what their...disability  
4 or medical condition are entitled to the full and equal accommodations, advantages,  
5 facilities, privileges, or services in all business establishments of every kind whatsoever.”

6 235. Pursuant to California Civil Code § 51(f), a violation of the ADA also  
7 constitutes a violation of California Civil Code §§ 51 *et seq.*

8 236. Defendants own, operate and/or manage business establishments within the  
9 meaning of the Unruh Civil Rights Act. Defendants are each a public accommodation  
10 whose services and facilities are open to the general public.

11 237. Defendants provide services, privileges, advantages and accommodations to  
12 the general public. Defendants have failed and refused to provide Plaintiffs with full and  
13 equal access to and enjoyment of the benefits of their goods, services, facilities, benefits,  
14 advantages, and accommodations, and have done so by reason of Plaintiffs’ disabilities.

15 238. Defendants have discriminated against persons with disabilities in violation  
16 of California Civil Code §§ 51 *et seq.* by failing to operate their facilities and services in  
17 full compliance with the requirements of the ADA as set forth above.

18 239. Defendants, by their actions and inactions alleged in this Complaint, have  
19 directly discriminated against persons with disabilities.

20 240. Plaintiffs’ claims under the Unruh Act based on BROOKDALE’s failure to  
21 make reasonable modifications in policies, practices, or procedures in staffing policies and  
22 practices are limited to circumstances and facts occurring on or after May 16, 2015.

23 241. The actions of Defendants were and are in violation of the Unruh Civil  
24 Rights Act, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 51 *et seq.*, and therefore Plaintiffs are also entitled to  
25 statutory damages, injunctive relief and reasonable attorneys’ fees, costs and expenses.

26 WHEREFORE Plaintiffs pray for judgment as set forth below, including  
27 declaratory and injunctive relief, as well as reasonable attorneys’ fees, costs and expenses  
28 incurred in bringing this action.

1 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
2 **(Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750 et seq.)**  
3 **(On behalf of Plaintiffs and the FALSE OR MISLEADING STATEMENT CLASS)**

4 242. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference as though fully set forth herein the  
5 preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

6 243. Plaintiffs and the members of the putative False or Misleading Statements  
7 Class are “consumer[s]” within the meaning of California Civil Code § 1761(d). They are  
8 also “senior citizen[s]” and/or “[d]isabled person[s]” within the meaning of California  
9 Civil Code § 1761(f) and (g).

10 244. Defendants are each a “person” as defined under California Civil Code  
11 § 1761(c). The assisted living services that Defendants have promised to provide Plaintiffs  
12 are “[s]ervices” within the meaning of the California Civil Code § 1761(b). The  
13 agreement by Defendants to provide assisted living services in return for payment of  
14 monthly fees by each of the Plaintiffs constitutes a “transaction” under California Civil  
15 Code § 1761(e).

16 245. In Defendants’ uniform resident contracts presented to prospective residents  
17 and their family members, Defendants represented and continue to represent that  
18 BROOKDALE will assess each resident and provide the basic services, personal services,  
19 and select and therapeutic services it has determined are needed. That same representation  
20 is made in BROOKDALE’s re-evaluation of residents, rate increase letters, letters  
21 regarding the merger, letters regarding the conversion to a new personal assessment  
22 system, corporate website statements, invoices, and other standardized corporate  
23 promotional materials. These uniform corporate representations are false and misleading,  
24 and likely to deceive the reasonable consumer. As alleged herein, Plaintiffs and the  
25 putative class members reasonably expected based on these representations that  
26 BROOKDALE would provide sufficient levels of qualified and adequately trained staff at  
27 its facilities to ensure that all residents receive the services they have been promised and  
28 for which they are paying.

246. Contrary to its representations regarding the provision of basic services,

1 personal services, and select and therapeutic services, BROOKDALE knows that the  
2 policies and practices it uses to staff its facilities—most notably, its policy and practice of  
3 using predetermined labor budgets designed to meet corporate profit targets, goals, and  
4 margins without regard to residents’ needs—preclude it from providing its residents all of  
5 the care and services they have been promised and places all residents at a substantial risk  
6 that they will not receive the care and services they have paid for on any given day.  
7 BROOKDALE did not intend to provide and has no intention of providing sufficient levels  
8 of qualified and adequately trained staff at its facilities to ensure that all residents receive  
9 these services. BROOKDALE does not disclose and conceals this material fact from the  
10 residents, their family members, and the general public.

11       247. The named Plaintiffs, their family members and powers of attorney, the  
12 putative class members, and reasonable consumers considered material BROOKDALE’s  
13 misrepresentations and misleading statements that it will provide residents the basic  
14 services, personal services, and select and therapeutic services they need and for which  
15 they are paying. If the named Plaintiffs had known the true facts about BROOKDALE’s  
16 staffing policies and procedures, they would not have agreed to enter or stay in a  
17 BROOKDALE facility or to place their relatives in a BROOKDALE facility, or would  
18 have paid less money. If the putative class members had known the true facts, they would  
19 in all reasonable probability not have agreed to enter or remain in a BROOKDALE facility  
20 or to place their relatives in a BROOKDALE facility, or would have paid less money to  
21 BROOKDALE.

22       248. The facts that BROOKDALE misrepresents, fails to disclose and actively  
23 conceals are material and are likely to deceive the reasonable consumer. Reasonable  
24 consumers, including the residents and their family members herein, consider of great  
25 importance the staffing levels provided by the assisted living facility they select, and such  
26 consumers also attach great importance to BROOKDALE’s claims regarding its provision  
27 of basic services, personal services, and select and therapeutic services.

28       249. Residents and their family members would consider material

1 BROOKDALE's uniform corporate policy and procedure of basing its staffing on fixed  
2 budgets and profit margins resulting in staffing that is inadequate to meet residents' needs,  
3 as identified by BROOKDALE itself through periodic personal service assessments.  
4 Residents and their family members could not reasonably have been expected to learn or  
5 discover these non-disclosed facts, and in fact, BROOKDALE has affirmatively concealed  
6 them.

7 250. Since May 16, 2015, BROOKDALE has violated and continues to violate  
8 the CLRA, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750 *et seq.*, in at least the following respects:

- 9 a. In violation of § 1770(a)(5), BROOKDALE has misrepresented,  
10 failed to disclose and concealed the true characteristics and/or  
11 quantities of services provided at its facilities in California;
- 12 b. In violation of § 1770(a)(7), BROOKDALE has misrepresented,  
13 failed to disclose and concealed the true standard, quality and/or grade  
14 of services provided at its facilities in California;
- 15 c. In violation of § 1770(a)(9), in BROOKDALE's standard resident  
16 admission contracts and elsewhere, BROOKDALE has falsely  
17 advertised that it will provide basic services and the assistance  
18 specified by each resident's personal service assessment and which  
19 corresponds to that resident's Personal Service Plan, knowing that  
20 BROOKDALE does not intend to provide the services as advertised;  
21 and
- 22 d. In violation of § 1770(a)(14), BROOKDALE has represented that the  
23 agreement signed by residents and/or their responsible parties, and  
24 under which they pay their monthly rate, confers on residents the right  
25 to reside in a facility that provides the basic services, personal  
26 services, and select and therapeutic services that residents have been  
27 promised and are paying for, when in fact, BROOKDALE knows that  
28 the policies and practices it uses to staff its facilities preclude it from

1 providing its residents all of the care and services they have been  
2 promised and places all residents in an inherent and substantial risk  
3 that they will not receive the care and services they have paid for on  
4 any given day.

5 251. These misrepresentations, misleading statements, acts, practices, and  
6 omissions by BROOKDALE are and were intended to induce and lure elderly and  
7 dependent adult residents and their family members into agreeing to be admitted to  
8 BROOKDALE's facilities and to pay community and monthly fees.

9 252. BROOKDALE made the misrepresentations and misleading statements  
10 alleged herein through various uniform means of communication, including without  
11 limitation, the admission agreement; subsequent agreements based on updated Personal  
12 Service Plans; letters to residents regarding the merger between BROOKDALE and  
13 Emeritus, the implementation of BROOKDALE's new personal service system, and rate  
14 increases; standardized corporate marketing and promotional materials; Defendants'  
15 website; invoices; and other written corporate materials disseminated to the public in  
16 connection with Defendants' services. These representations and misleading statements  
17 were made directly to the named Plaintiffs, putative class members and their family  
18 members and/or responsible parties by BROOKDALE in the uniform means of  
19 communication listed above.

20 253. BROOKDALE failed to disclose and concealed from Plaintiffs, the putative  
21 class members, and their family members, that BROOKDALE staffs its facility using  
22 predetermined labor budgets designed to meet corporate profit targets, goals, and margins  
23 without regard to residents' needs; that these policies and practices preclude it from  
24 providing its residents all of the care and services they have been promised and places all  
25 residents at an inherent and substantial risk that they will not receive the care and services  
26 they have paid for on any given day; and that BROOKDALE did not intend to provide and  
27 has no intention of providing sufficient qualified and adequately trained staff at its  
28 facilities to ensure that all residents receive these services.

1           254. BROOKDALE had exclusive and superior knowledge of material facts not  
2 known to the named Plaintiffs, class members or the general public at the time of the  
3 subject transactions and actively concealed those material facts.

4           255. BROOKDALE had exclusive and superior knowledge that its corporate  
5 policy and procedure of providing pre-determined staffing at its facilities preclude  
6 BROOKDALE from providing the care and services for which it charges its residents and  
7 places all residents at a substantial risk that on any given day they will not receive the care  
8 and services for which they have paid. BROOKDALE had exclusive and superior  
9 knowledge that its policies and procedures for staffing its facilities pose a heightened  
10 health and safety risk to the named Plaintiffs and class members. Defendants intentionally  
11 concealed, suppressed and/or failed to disclose the true facts with the intent to defraud the  
12 named Plaintiffs and putative class members. The named Plaintiffs and putative class  
13 members did not know these material undisclosed facts and could not reasonably have  
14 been expected to discover them.

15           256. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiffs, the class  
16 members, and members of the general public (including without limitation persons  
17 admitted to and/or residing in the facilities, and their family members and/or responsible  
18 parties) have been harmed and continue to be harmed. Among other things, they paid  
19 money to Defendants to enter the facilities and/or for services that were not provided or  
20 that were substandard to those promised by Defendants.

21           257. Plaintiffs sent BROOKDALE a notice to cure under California Civil Code  
22 § 1782(a), which was received by BROOKDALE on June 6, 2017. More than 30 days  
23 have passed since BROOKDALE's receipt, and BROOKDALE has not corrected or  
24 remedied the violations alleged in the notice and herein.

25           258. Accordingly, Plaintiffs and the False or Misleading Statements Class  
26 members are entitled to no less than \$1,000 in statutory damages pursuant to California  
27 Civil Code § 1780(a). Moreover, as senior citizens and/or disabled persons, Plaintiffs and  
28 the False or Misleading Statements Class members are also entitled to statutory damages



1 of \$5,000 per class member pursuant to California Civil Code § 1780(b), as well as actual  
2 damages and restitution in an amount to be proven at trial.

3       259. Plaintiffs and each of the putative False or Misleading Statements Class  
4 members are seniors and/or disabled persons as defined by California Civil Code § 1761(f)  
5 and (g). Plaintiffs and the putative False or Misleading Statements Class members have  
6 each suffered substantial economic harm. Defendants knew that their conduct negatively  
7 impacted seniors and disabled persons. Defendants' conduct caused the named Plaintiffs  
8 and the putative False or Misleading Statements Class members to lose property set aside  
9 for personal care and maintenance and assets essential to their health and welfare. Further,  
10 Plaintiffs and the putative False or Misleading Statements Class members are substantially  
11 more vulnerable than other members of the public to Defendants' conduct because of their  
12 age, poor health, impaired understanding, restricted mobility and/or disabilities.

13       260. Plaintiffs additionally seek treble damages under California Civil Code  
14 § 3345, punitive damages, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, and all other relief the  
15 Court deems just and proper. Excluded from Plaintiffs' request are damages related to any  
16 personal injuries, emotional distress or wrongful death suffered by any member of the  
17 class.

18       261. Defendants' conduct presents a continuing threat of substantial harm to the  
19 public in that, among other things, Defendants continue to make misleading statements  
20 about and conceal material facts about whether and how they provide basic, personal care,  
21 and select and therapeutic services at BROOKDALE facilities in California, as well as the  
22 fact that their staffing policies and procedures preclude them from providing residents the  
23 services they have been promised. Despite these misrepresentations, BROOKDALE  
24 continues to induce elderly and vulnerable citizens to enter and remain in its facilities,  
25 which conduct irreparably harms Plaintiffs and the putative False or Misleading  
26 Statements Class. Accordingly, Plaintiffs seek an injunction that requires that  
27 BROOKDALE immediately cease the CLRA violations alleged herein regarding  
28 BROOKDALE's misrepresentations, misleading statements, and material omissions, and

1 to enjoin it from continuing to engage in any such acts or practices in the future.  
2 Specifically, Plaintiffs seek an injunction requiring BROOKDALE to disclose to Plaintiffs,  
3 the putative False or Misleading Statements Class members and the consuming public that  
4 BROOKDALE’s staffing policies and procedures preclude it from providing its residents  
5 the care and services they have been promised and places all residents at an inherent and  
6 substantial risk that they will not receive the care and services they have paid for on any  
7 given day. Plaintiffs also seek an injunction prohibiting BROOKDALE from charging  
8 residents or their responsible parties monthly fees based on their Personal Service Plans  
9 until BROOKDALE implements staffing policies and procedures that enable it to deliver  
10 those services on a consistent basis.

11 262. Plaintiffs claims for violations of the CLRA are limited to  
12 misrepresentations, misleading statements, and failures to disclose that occurred on or after  
13 May 16, 2015.

14 WHEREFORE Plaintiffs pray for judgment as set forth below, including  
15 declaratory and injunctive relief as well as reasonable attorneys’ fees, costs and expenses  
16 incurred in bringing this action.

17 **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
18 **(Elder Financial Abuse, Cal. Welf. & Inst. Code § 15610.30)**  
19 **(On behalf of PLAINTIFFS and the**  
20 **FALSE OR MISLEADING STATEMENTS CLASS)**

21 263. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference as though fully set forth herein the  
22 preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

23 264. Plaintiffs and the putative False or Misleading Statements Class members are  
24 and at all times were “elders” as defined under California Welfare & Institutions Code  
25 § 15610.27 or “dependent adults” as defined under California Welfare & Institutions Code  
26 § 15610.23.

27 265. BROOKDALE represented to the named Plaintiffs, and/or their responsible  
28 parties, and the putative False or Misleading Statements Class members, and/or their  
responsible parties, in standard agreements, service updates, monthly invoices,

1 standardized corporate letters to residents and/or their responsible parties, and/or annual  
2 notification of rate increases, that BROOKDALE would provide care and assistance with  
3 activities of daily living, including but not limited to staffing 24 hours a day, dining  
4 services, housekeeping, laundry, transportation, and other basic services in exchange for  
5 community fees and monthly payments that it received from the named Plaintiffs and the  
6 putative False or Misleading Statements Class members. However, BROOKDALE did not  
7 and has no intention of providing sufficient levels of qualified and adequately trained staff  
8 at its facilities to ensure that all residents receive these services. As a result, residents do  
9 not consistently receive all of the basic services BROOKDALE has promised them and for  
10 which they are paying BROOKDALE.

11       266. BROOKDALE further represented through these same corporate materials  
12 that BROOKDALE would provide personal services, including but not limited to  
13 assistance with bathing, toileting, grooming, dressing, transferring, and mobility, for  
14 additional monthly fees. BROOKDALE represented that it would perform an assessment  
15 of each resident to identify needed personal services and an individualized service plan to  
16 deliver those services. Yet BROOKDALE did not intend to and does not provide adequate  
17 staffing for personal services at its facilities. Rather, it has a policy and practice of  
18 providing pre-determined facility staffing that does not change with increases in residents'  
19 personal service needs. This policy and practice precludes BROOKDALE from providing  
20 facility residents with all of the personal services BROOKDALE has promised them and  
21 for which they are paying BROOKDALE.

22       267. BROOKDALE further represented through these same corporate materials  
23 that BROOKDALE would provide select and therapeutic services to residents, including  
24 but not limited to emergency call pendants and associated services. However,  
25 BROOKDALE did not and has no intention of providing sufficient levels of qualified and  
26 adequately trained staff at its facilities to ensure that all residents receive these services.  
27 As a result, facility residents do not consistently receive all of the select and therapeutic  
28 services BROOKDALE has promised them and for which they are paying BROOKDALE.



1 acts and practices constitute unfair business practices in violation of California Business  
2 and Professions Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*

3 276. In particular, Defendants have engaged in unlawful business acts and  
4 practices by violating numerous laws, statutes and regulations including but not limited to:

5 a. Systematically and uniformly representing to the residents of its  
6 assisted living facilities in California, family members, and the public  
7 that Defendants will assess residents to determine their needs, and will  
8 provide residents specified basic services, personal services, and  
9 select and therapeutic services based on those needs, when in fact,  
10 Defendants use staffing policies and procedures that preclude them  
11 from providing their residents all of the care and services they have  
12 been promised and that place all residents in an inherent and  
13 substantial risk that they will not receive the care and services they  
14 have paid for on any given day, in violation of California Civil Code  
15 §§ 1750 *et seq.*;

16 b. Failing to provide residents with disabilities full and equal enjoyment  
17 of BROOKDALE's goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages,  
18 and/or accommodations at its assisted living facilities in California;  
19 failing to remove architectural barriers in those facilities constructed  
20 prior to January 26, 1993 and not altered after that date where such  
21 removal is readily achievable; failing to design and construct facilities  
22 first occupied after January 26, 1993 such that they are readily  
23 accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities; and performing  
24 alterations after January 26, 1993 that affect the usability of its  
25 facilities or a part of its facilities, while failing to ensure that the  
26 altered portions and the path of travel to those altered portions are  
27 readily accessible to and usable by persons with disabilities, all in  
28 violation of 42 U.S.C. § 12182 and Cal. Civ. Code § 51 *et seq.*;

- 1 c. Taking, secreting, appropriating, obtaining, and retaining the funds of
- 2 elders and dependent adults for a wrongful use and/or with the intent
- 3 to defraud in violation of California Welfare and Institutions Code
- 4 § 15610.30; and
- 5 d. Willfully interfering with the maintenance and promotion of a resident
- 6 council in violation of Cal. H&S Code § 1569.157.

7 277. By virtue of the conduct alleged herein, Defendants have also engaged in  
8 fraudulent business practices. Members of the general public (including without limitation  
9 persons admitted to and/or residing in BROOKDALE's California assisted living facilities  
10 during the CLASS PERIOD, and their family members and/or responsible parties) have  
11 been and are likely to be deceived by Defendants' misrepresentations and failures to  
12 disclose as alleged herein.

13 278. The acts and practices of Defendants also constitute unfair business acts and  
14 practices within the meaning of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*,  
15 in that the conduct alleged herein is immoral, unscrupulous, and contrary to public policy,  
16 and the detriment and gravity of that conduct outweighs any benefits attributable to such  
17 conduct.

18 279. Defendants' misrepresentations, misleading statements, acts, practices, and  
19 omissions were intended to induce and lure elderly and dependent adult residents and their  
20 family members into agreeing to be admitted to and remain at Defendants' facilities and to  
21 pay a community fee and monthly rates to live in an assisted living facility that features  
22 sufficient levels of qualified and adequately trained staff to ensure that all residents receive  
23 the basic services, personal services, and select and therapeutic services for which they are  
24 paying.

25 280. Defendants made these misrepresentations and misleading statements  
26 through various uniform means of written corporate communications, including without  
27 limitation, the standardized Residency Agreement; subsequent agreements based on re-  
28 assessments of the resident; letters to residents regarding the merger between

1 BROOKDALE and Emeritus, Defendants' conversion to a new personal service system,  
2 and rate increases; invoices, marketing and promotional materials, Defendants' corporate  
3 website and other materials disseminated to the public from its corporate headquarters in  
4 connection with Defendants' services. These representations were made directly to the  
5 named Plaintiffs, class members, and their family members and/or responsible parties by  
6 Defendants in the uniform means of communication listed above.

7         281. BROOKDALE concealed from Plaintiffs, the putative class members, and  
8 their family members that BROOKDALE's staffing policies and procedures preclude it  
9 from providing its residents all of the care and services they have been promised and  
10 places all residents at an inherent and substantial risk that they will not receive the care and  
11 services they have paid for on any given day.

12         282. BROOKDALE had exclusive and superior knowledge of material facts not  
13 known to named Plaintiffs, putative class members or the general public at the time of the  
14 subject transactions and actively concealed these material facts.

15         283. BROOKDALE had exclusive and superior knowledge of its corporate policy  
16 and procedure. Further, Plaintiffs allege on information and belief that Defendants'  
17 officers, directors, and managers knew that Defendants' failure to provide adequate  
18 staffing posed a substantial health and safety risk to the named Plaintiffs and class  
19 members. BROOKDALE intentionally concealed, suppressed and/or failed to disclose the  
20 true facts with the intent to defraud the named Plaintiffs and putative class members. The  
21 named Plaintiffs and the putative class members did not know these material undisclosed  
22 facts and could not reasonably have been expected to discover them.

23         284. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiffs, the class  
24 members, and members of the general public (including without limitation persons  
25 admitted to and/or residing in the facilities, and their family members and/or responsible  
26 parties) have been harmed and continue to be harmed. Among other things, they paid  
27 money to Defendants to enter the facilities and for services that were not provided or that  
28 were substandard to those promised by Defendants.

1           285. Plaintiffs seek an injunction that requires that Defendants immediately cease  
2 acts of unlawful, unfair and fraudulent business acts or practices as alleged herein, and to  
3 enjoin Defendants from continuing to engage in any such acts or practices in the future.

4           286. Plaintiffs' claims under Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 are limited to  
5 circumstances and facts occurring on or after May 16, 2015 to the extent they are based on  
6 Defendants' failure to provide staff with adequate training and in sufficient numbers to  
7 provide their assisted living facility residents all of the care and services they have been  
8 promised.

9           287. WHEREFORE Plaintiffs pray for judgment as set forth below, including  
10 declaratory and injunctive relief as well as reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and expenses  
11 incurred in bringing this action.

12           **ALLEGATIONS SUPPORTING DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

13           288. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference as though fully set forth herein the  
14 preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

15           289. Plaintiffs STACIA STINER, BERNIE JESTRABEK-HART, and  
16 JEANETTE ALGARME continue to live at a BROOKDALE assisted living facility.  
17 Unless and until BROOKDALE brings its facilities into compliance with the requirements  
18 of the ADA and applicable federal disability access design standards, the above-named  
19 Plaintiffs will continue to be denied full and equal access to and enjoyment of  
20 BROOKDALE's facilities as a result of physical access barriers in violation of the ADA.  
21 Moreover, unless and until Defendant BROOKDALE makes the requested reasonable  
22 modification in policies, practices and procedures set forth above with respect to the  
23 staffing of its facilities, Plaintiffs will continue to be denied full and equal access to and  
24 enjoyment of the services, goods, facilities, privileges, advantages and accommodations  
25 provided to its residents by BROOKDALE. In this regard, unless and until Defendants  
26 provide a sufficient number of adequately trained staff at their facilities, residents with  
27 disabilities will continue to suffer the denial and deprivation of basic services that are  
28 necessary to daily living, including assistance with bathing, showering, toileting, taking



1 medications, transferring, dressing, dining, cleaning and laundry services. Further,  
2 residents with disabilities will continue to be denied full and equal access to on-site and  
3 off-site social and recreational activities, and will be segregated and isolated in violation of  
4 the ADA's integration mandate.

5         290. In addition, unless and until Defendants comply with the ADA, Plaintiffs  
6 STACIA STINER, BERNIE JESTRABEK-HART, and JEANETTE ALGARME will  
7 continue to suffer falls, and to be at risk of falls and/or serious physical injuries, as a result  
8 of Defendants' failure and refusal to provide full and equal access to its facilities and  
9 services. In this regard, Defendants must be enjoined to provide facilities that comply with  
10 applicable federal disability access standards, a sufficient number of staff who are  
11 adequately trained to assist residents with disabilities to prevent falls and to assist them if a  
12 fall takes place, and a functioning and effective pendant system so that residents can obtain  
13 prompt and effective assistance when they have fallen and/or are at risk of other physical  
14 injuries. Further, unless and until Defendants provide adequate emergency planning and  
15 evacuation procedures for residents with disabilities, Defendants will continue to place  
16 them at significant risk of serious injury and death.

17         291. Further, unless and until Defendants provide residents with disabilities with  
18 full and equal access to enjoyment of its transportation services, residents with disabilities  
19 will continue to be excluded from and denied access to off-site appointments and activities  
20 in violation of the ADA.

21         292. Additionally, unless and until BROOKDALE ceases its false and/or  
22 misleading statements regarding its services and discloses that its corporate staffing  
23 policies and practices preclude it from providing its residents the care and services they  
24 have been promised and places all residents at an inherent and substantial risk that they  
25 will not receive the care and services they have paid for on any given day, residents, their  
26 family members, their responsible parties and the general public will continue to be misled  
27 and will continue to expend very substantial sums of money for services, goods and  
28 facilities that are not as represented, and Defendants will continue to receive the benefits of



1 ADA, § 42 U.S.C. 12101 *et seq.*, and the regulations promulgated thereunder, and also  
2 violates their civil rights under California Civil Code §§ 51 *et seq.*;

3       2. With respect to the Residents with Mobility or Visual Disabilities Class and  
4 the Residents with Disabilities Class issue preliminary and permanent injunctions requiring  
5 Defendants to come into full compliance with the requirements of the ADA and its  
6 implementing regulations;

7       3. With respect to the Residents with Mobility or Visual Disabilities Class and  
8 the Residents with Disabilities Class issue preliminary and permanent injunctions  
9 enjoining Defendants from violating the Unruh Civil Rights Act in the operation of  
10 Defendants' business establishments and/or public accommodations with respect to its  
11 goods, services, facilities, advantages, benefits and accommodations at its assisted living  
12 facilities in California;

13       4. Issue preliminary and permanent injunctions requiring that Defendants  
14 immediately cease acts that constitute false advertising and violations of the Consumer  
15 Legal Remedies Act and the Elder Financial Abuse statute as alleged herein with respect to  
16 Defendants' misrepresentations, misleading statements, and material omissions, and to  
17 enjoin Defendants from continuing to engage in any such acts or practices in the future;

18       5. Issue preliminary and permanent injunctions requiring that BROOKDALE  
19 disclose to Plaintiffs, the putative class members and the consuming public that its  
20 corporate staffing policies and procedures preclude it from providing its residents the care  
21 and services they have been promised and places all residents at an inherent and substantial  
22 risk that they will not receive the care and services they have paid for on any given day,  
23 and prohibiting BROOKDALE from charging fees based on the residents' Personal  
24 Service Plans when BROOKDALE does not, in fact, provide adequate staffing levels to  
25 perform the personal services identified in those plans;

26       6. Issue preliminary and permanent injunctions ordering BROOKDALE to  
27 refrain from interference with the formation, maintenance and promotion of family or  
28 resident councils at its facilities.

- 1           7.       For statutory damages pursuant to California Civil Code § 52(a) for the
- 2 Residents with Mobility or Visual Disabilities and the Residents with Disabilities classes;
- 3           8.       For statutory damages pursuant to California Civil Code § 1780(a) and (b)
- 4 for the False or Misleading Statements class;
- 5           9.       For actual damages according to proof, excepting any damages for personal
- 6 injury, emotional distress and/or wrongful death suffered by the named Plaintiffs or any
- 7 class member;
- 8           10.      For restitution and any other monetary relief permitted by law;
- 9           11.      For punitive damages;
- 10          12.      For treble damages pursuant to California Civil Code §§ 52(a) and 3345;
- 11          13.      For pre-judgment and post-judgment interest according to law;
- 12          14.      Award to Plaintiffs all costs of this proceeding, including reasonable
- 13 attorneys' fees costs and litigation expenses, as provided by law;
- 14          15.      Issue any other preliminary and permanent injunctions the Court deems
- 15 sufficient to rectify the acts and omissions alleged herein; and,

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**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiffs demand a jury trial on all issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

DATED: February 15, 2019

SCHNEIDER WALLACE  
COTTRELL KONECKY  
WOTKYNS LLP

By: /s/ Guy B. Wallace  
Guy B. Wallace

DATED: February 15, 2019

ROSEN BIEN  
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By: /s/ Gay Crosthwait Grunfeld  
Gay Crosthwait Grunfeld

DATED: February 15, 2019

STEBNER AND ASSOCIATES

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