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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

DAN DEFOREST, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,) Case No.
)
) **CLASS ACTION**
Plaintiff,)
) **COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS**
vs.) **OF:**
)
ROYAL SEAS CRUISES, INC., and) 1. NEGLIGENT VIOLATIONS OF
DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, and each) THE TELEPHONE
of them,) CONSUMER PROTECTION
Defendant.) ACT [47 U.S.C. §227(b)];
) 2. WILLFUL VIOLATIONS OF
) THE TELEPHONE
) CONSUMER PROTECTION
) ACT [47 U.S.C. §227(b)]; and
) 3. CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE §
) 632.7
) **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**
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)

Plaintiff DAN DEFOREST (“Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, alleges the following upon information and belief based upon personal knowledge:

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3 **NATURE OF THE CASE**

4 1. Plaintiff brings this action individually and on behalf of all others
5 similarly situated seeking damages and any other available legal or equitable
6 remedies resulting from the illegal actions of ROYAL SEAS CRUISES, INC.
7 (“Defendant”), in negligently, knowingly, and/or willfully contacting Plaintiff on
8 Plaintiff’s cellular telephone in violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection
9 Act, 47. U.S.C. § 227 *et seq.* (“TCPA”) and related regulations, specifically the
10 National Do-Not-Call provisions, thereby invading Plaintiff’s privacy.

11 2. Plaintiff also brings this action, individually and on behalf of all others
12 similarly situated, in connection with Defendant’s practice of recording calls to
13 consumers without having first notified said consumers or obtaining their consent
14 to have the call recorded, in violation of the California Invasion of Privacy Act
15 (“CIPA”), Cal. Penal Code § 632.7.

16 3. The CIPA, Cal. Penal Code § 632.7 prohibits one party to a telephone
17 call from intentionally recording the conversation without the knowledge or
18 consent of the other while the person being recorded is on a cellular telephone.
19 Penal Code § 632.7 is violated the moment the recording is made without the
20 consent of all parties thereto, regardless of whether it is subsequently disclosed.
21 The only intent required by Penal Code § 632 is that the act of recording itself be
22 done intentionally. There is no requirement under California Penal Code § 632.7
23 that the communication be confidential. Plaintiff alleges that Defendants continue
24 to violate Penal Code § 632.7 by impermissibly recording its telephone
25 conversations with California residents while said residents are on cellular
26 telephones.

27 **JURISDICTION & VENUE**

28 4. Jurisdiction is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2) because Plaintiff,
a resident of California, seeks relief on behalf of a Class, which will result in at

1 least one class member belonging to a different state than that of Defendant, a
2 Florida corporation. Plaintiff also seeks up to \$1,500.00 in damages for each call
3 in violation of the TCPA, as well as \$5,000 in damages for each recorded
4 conversation in violation of the CIPA, which, when aggregated among a proposed
5 class in the thousands, exceeds the \$5,000,000.00 threshold for federal court
6 jurisdiction. Therefore, both diversity jurisdiction and the damages threshold under
7 the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 (“CAFA”) are present, and this Court has
8 jurisdiction.

9 5. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the Eastern
10 District of California pursuant to *28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2)* because Defendant does
11 business within the State of California and Plaintiff resides within the County of
12 Orange.

13 **PARTIES**

14 6. Plaintiff, DAN DEFOREST (“Plaintiff”), is a natural person residing
15 in Costa Mesa, California and is a “person” as defined by *47 U.S.C. § 153 (39)*.

16 7. Defendant, ROYAL SEAS CRUISES, INC. (“Defendant”) is seller
17 and marketer of vacation cruises, and is a “person” as defined by *47 U.S.C. § 153*
18 *(39)*.

19 8. The above named Defendant, and its subsidiaries and agents, are
20 collectively referred to as “Defendants.” The true names and capacities of the
21 Defendants sued herein as DOE DEFENDANTS 1 through 10, inclusive, are
22 currently unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sues such Defendants by fictitious
23 names. Each of the Defendants designated herein as a DOE is legally responsible
24 for the unlawful acts alleged herein. Plaintiff will seek leave of Court to amend the
25 Complaint to reflect the true names and capacities of the DOE Defendants when
26 such identities become known.

27 9. Plaintiff is informed and believes that at all relevant times, each and
28 every Defendant was acting as an agent and/or employee of each of the other

1 Defendants and was acting within the course and scope of said agency and/or
2 employment with the full knowledge and consent of each of the other Defendants.
3 Plaintiff is informed and believes that each of the acts and/or omissions complained
4 of herein was made known to, and ratified by, each of the other Defendants.

5 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

6 10. Beginning in or around May of 2017, Defendant contacted Plaintiff
7 on Plaintiff's cellular telephone number ending in -7192, in an attempt to solicit
8 Plaintiff to purchase Defendant's services.

9 11. On information and belief, Defendant hired HELPING HANDS to
10 generate leads and place calls on Defendant's behalf. That is, Defendant hired
11 HELPING HANDS to place calls to telephone numbers of potential leads with
12 whom HELPING HANDS and Defendant might solicit services. Under this
13 arrangement, HELPING HANDS placed calls utilizing pre-recorded voice
14 messages to Plaintiff and others similarly situated by using an "automatic telephone
15 dialing system" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227(a)(1). HELPING HANDS would
16 call Plaintiff and others similarly situated and then, when someone such as Plaintiff
17 answers, transfer the call to Defendant.

18 12. Defendant used an "automatic telephone dialing system" as defined
19 by 47 U.S.C. § 227(a)(1) to place its call to Plaintiff seeking to solicit its services.

20 13. Defendant contacted or attempted to contact Plaintiff from telephone
21 numbers confirmed to belong to Defendant, including without limitation (844) 313-
22 4816 and (714) 905-5832.

23 14. Defendant's calls constituted calls that were not for emergency
24 purposes as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A).

25 15. Defendant's calls were placed to telephone number assigned to a
26 cellular telephone service for which Plaintiff incurs a charge for incoming calls
27 pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1).

28 16. During all relevant times, Defendant did not possess Plaintiff's "prior

1 express consent” to receive calls using an automatic telephone dialing system or an
2 artificial or prerecorded voice on his cellular telephone pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §
3 227(b)(1)(A).

4 17. On information and belief, Defendants utilize web scraping tools to
5 pull lists of phone numbers from public sources, and compile said numbers into a
6 list, from which Defendant’s ATDS randomly or sequentially dials numbers,
7 utilizing automated means, and with a pre-recorded voice. On information and
8 belief, Defendants do not employ scrubbing technology to scrub/screen either for
9 phone numbers that appear on the National Do Not Call List, or for cellular phone
10 numbers, prior to dialing these “scraped” numbers *en-masse*.

11 18. Defendant placed multiple calls soliciting its business to Plaintiff on
12 his cellular telephone ending in -7192 beginning in or around May of 2017.

13 19. Such calls constitute solicitation calls pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §
14 64.1200(c)(2) as they were attempts to promote or sell Defendant’s services.

15 20. Plaintiff received numerous solicitation calls from Defendant within a
16 12-month period.

17 21. During each conversation between Plaintiff and Defendant, Plaintiff
18 maintained a reasonable expectation of privacy. That is, Plaintiff had a reasonable
19 expectation during his phone conversations with Defendant that the conversations
20 would neither be recorded nor overheard.

21 22. Defendant intentionally recorded their calls with Plaintiff through the
22 use of an electronic device without having first obtaining Plaintiff’s consent to be
23 recorded or otherwise notifying Plaintiff that the call was being recorded, thereby
24 violating the CIPA, Cal. Penal Code § 632.7.

25 23. Upon information and belief, and based on Plaintiff’s experiences of
26 being called by Defendant despite having no prior relation to Plaintiff whatsoever,
27 and at all relevant times, Defendant failed to establish and implement reasonable
28 practices and procedures to effectively prevent telephone solicitations in violation

1 of the regulations prescribed under 47 U.S.C. § 227(c)(5).

2 **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

3 24. Plaintiff brings this action individually and on behalf of all others
4 similarly situated, as a member of two proposed classes

5 25. The class concerning the ATDS claim for no prior express consent
6 (hereafter “The ATDS Class”) is defined as follows:

7 All persons within the United States who received any
8 solicitation/telemarketing telephone calls from
9 Defendant to said person’s cellular telephone made
10 through the use of any automatic telephone dialing
11 system or an artificial or prerecorded voice and such
12 person had not previously consented to receiving such
13 calls within the four years prior to the filing of this
14 Complaint

15 26. Plaintiff represents, and is a member of, The ATDS Class, consisting
16 of all persons within the United States who received any solicitation/telemarketing
17 telephone calls from Defendant to said person’s cellular telephone made through
18 the use of any automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or prerecorded
19 voice and such person had not previously not provided their cellular telephone
20 number to Defendant within the four years prior to the filing of this Complaint.

21 27. The class concerning Defendant’s recordings of phone calls in
22 violation of Cal. Penal Code § 632.7 (“The CIPA Class”) is defined as follows:

23 All persons in California whose inbound and outbound
24 telephone conversations were recorded without their
25 consent and without notification that the calls were being
26 recorded by Defendant or its agent(s) within the one year
27 prior to the filing of this action.

28 28. The ATDS Class and The CIPA Class may be referred to collectively
hereinafter as “The Classes”.

1 29. Defendant, its employees and agents are excluded from The Classes.
2 Plaintiff does not know the number of members in The Classes, but believes the
3 Classes' members number in the thousands, if not more. Thus, this matter should
4 be certified as a Class Action to assist in the expeditious litigation of the matter.

5 30. The Classes are so numerous that the individual joinder of all of its
6 members is impractical. While the exact number and identities of The Class
7 members are unknown to Plaintiff at this time and can only be ascertained through
8 appropriate discovery, Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that
9 The Classes include thousands of members. Plaintiff alleges that The Class
10 members may be ascertained by the records maintained by Defendant.

11 31. Plaintiff and members of The ATDS Class were harmed by the acts of
12 Defendant in at least the following ways: Defendant illegally contacted Plaintiff
13 and The ATDS Class members via their cellular telephones thereby causing
14 Plaintiff and The ATDS Class members to incur certain charges or reduced
15 telephone time for which Plaintiff and The ATDS Class members had previously
16 paid by having to retrieve or administer messages left by Defendant during those
17 illegal calls, and invading the privacy of said Plaintiff and The ATDS Class
18 members.

19 32. Common questions of fact and law exist as to all members of The
20 ATDS Class which predominate over any questions affecting only individual
21 members of The ATDS Class. These common legal and factual questions, which
22 do not vary between ATDS Class members, and which may be determined without
23 reference to the individual circumstances of any Class members, include, but are
24 not limited to, the following:

- 25 a. Whether, within the four years prior to the filing of this
26 Complaint, Defendant made any telemarketing/solicitation call
27 (other than a call made for emergency purposes or made with
28 the prior express consent of the called party) to a Class member

1 using any automatic telephone dialing system or any artificial
2 or prerecorded voice to any telephone number assigned to a
3 cellular telephone service;

- 4 b. Whether Plaintiff and The Class members were damaged
5 thereby, and the extent of damages for such violation; and
6 c. Whether Defendant should be enjoined from engaging in such
7 conduct in the future.

8 33. As a person that received numerous telemarketing/solicitation calls
9 from Defendant using an automatic telephone dialing system or an artificial or
10 prerecorded voice, without Plaintiff's prior express consent, Plaintiff is asserting
11 claims that are typical of The ATDS Class.

12 34. Plaintiff and members of The CIPA Class were harmed by the acts of
13 Defendant in at least the following ways: Defendant, either directly or through its
14 agents, illegally recorded inbound and outbound cellular telephone conversations
15 without their consent and without giving them prior notice of the recording within
16 the one year prior to the filing of this action, thereby running afoul of CIPA Class
17 members' reasonable expectations of privacy and causing them damage.

18 35. Common questions of fact and law exist as to all members of The
19 CIPA Class which predominate over any questions affecting only individual
20 members of The CIPA Class. These common legal and factual questions, which
21 do not vary between CIPA Class members, and which may be determined without
22 reference to the individual circumstances of any Class members, include, but are
23 not limited to, the following:

- 24 a. Whether Defendant has a policy of recording incoming or
25 outgoing calls;
26 b. Whether Defendant has a policy of recording incoming or
27 outgoing calls initiated to or from a cellular telephone;
28 c. Whether Defendant discloses to callers or obtains their consent

1 that their incoming or outgoing telephone conversations were
2 being recorded;

3 d. Whether Defendant's policy of recording incoming or outgoing
4 calls to cellular telephones constitutes a violation of the CIPA,
5 Cal. Penal Code § 632.7;

6 e. Whether Plaintiff and The CIPA Class were damaged thereby,
7 and the extent of damages for such violations; and

8 f. Whether Defendant should be enjoined from engaging in such
9 conduct in the future.

10 36. As a California resident whose telephone communications from
11 Defendant were recorded without consent or notice, Plaintiff is asserting claims
12 that are typical of The CIPA Class because every other member of The CIPA Class,
13 like Plaintiff, was a person in California who was exposed to practically identical
14 conduct, and they are entitled to the greater of either \$5,000 in statutory damages
15 or three times the amount of actual damages for each violation.

16 37. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members
17 of The Classes. Plaintiff has retained attorneys experienced in the prosecution of
18 class actions.

19 38. A class action is superior to other available methods of fair and
20 efficient adjudication of this controversy, since individual litigation of the claims
21 of all Class members is impracticable. Even if every Class's member could afford
22 individual litigation, the court system could not. It would be unduly burdensome
23 to the courts in which individual litigation of numerous issues would proceed.
24 Individualized litigation would also present the potential for varying, inconsistent,
25 or contradictory judgments and would magnify the delay and expense to all parties
26 and to the court system resulting from multiple trials of the same complex factual
27 issues. By contrast, the conduct of this action as a class action presents fewer
28 management difficulties, conserves the resources of the parties and of the court

1 system, and protects the rights of each Class member.

2 39. The prosecution of separate actions by individual Class members
3 would create a risk of adjudications with respect to them that would, as a practical
4 matter, be dispositive of the interests of the other Class members not parties to such
5 adjudications or that would substantially impair or impede the ability of such non-
6 party Class members to protect their interests.

7 40. Defendant has acted or refused to act in respects generally applicable
8 to The Classes, thereby making appropriate final and injunctive relief with regard
9 to the members of the Classes as a whole.

10 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 **Negligent Violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act**

12 **47 U.S.C. §227(b).**

13 **On Behalf of The ATDS Class**

14 41. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference into this cause of action
15 the allegations set forth above at Paragraphs 1-40.

16 42. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant constitute numerous
17 and multiple negligent violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each
18 and every one of the above cited provisions of *47 U.S.C. § 227(b)*, and in particular
19 *47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(1)(A)*.

20 43. As a result of Defendant’s negligent violations of *47 U.S.C. § 227(b)*,
21 Plaintiff and the Class Members are entitled an award of \$500.00 in statutory
22 damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to *47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B)*.

23 44. Plaintiff and The Class members are also entitled to and seek
24 injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

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SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Knowing and/or Willful Violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act

47 U.S.C. §227(b)

On Behalf of The ATDS Class

45. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference into this cause of action the allegations set forth above at Paragraphs 1-40.

46. The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant constitute numerous and multiple knowing and/or willful violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of the above cited provisions of *47 U.S.C. § 227(b)*, and in particular *47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(1)(A)*.

47. As a result of Defendant’s knowing and/or willful violations of *47 U.S.C. § 227(b)*, Plaintiff and The Class members are entitled an award of \$1,500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to *47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B)* and *47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C)*.

48. Plaintiff and the Class members are also entitled to and seek injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the California Invasion of Privacy Act

Cal. Penal Code § 632.7

On Behalf of The CIPA Class

49. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference into this cause of action the allegations set forth above at Paragraphs 1-48.

50. Californians have a constitutional right to privacy. Moreover, the California Supreme Court has definitively linked the constitutionally protected right to privacy within the purpose, intent and specific protections of the Privacy Act, including specifically, Penal Code § 632. “In addition, California’s explicit

1 constitutional privacy provision (Cal. Const., 1 § 1) was enacted in part specifically
2 to protect California from overly intrusive business practices that were seen to pose
3 a significant and increasing threat to personal privacy. (Citations omitted). Thus,
4 Plaintiff believes that California must be viewed as having a strong and continuing
5 interest in the full and vigorous application of the provisions of section 632
6 prohibiting the recording of telephone conversations without the knowledge or
7 consent of all parties to the conversation.

8 51. California Penal Code § 632.7 prohibits in pertinent part “[e]very
9 person who, without the consent of all parties to a communication...intentionally
10 records, or assists in the...intentional recordation of, a communication transmitted
11 between...a cellular radio telephone and a landline telephone.” Thus, on its face,
12 California Penal Code § 632.7 precludes the recording of all communications
13 involving a cellular telephone.

14 52. Though similar, California Penal Code § 632 and 632.7 are not
15 duplicative and protect separate rights. California Penal Code § 632.7 grants a
16 wider range of protection to conversations where one participant uses a cellular
17 phone or cordless phone. For example, the “confidential communication”
18 requirement of California Penal Code § 632 is absent from California Penal Code
19 § 632.7.

20 53. Defendants caused to be employed certain recording equipment on the
21 telephone lines of all employees, officers, directors, and managers of Defendants.

22 54. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that all these
23 devices were maintained and utilized to record each and every outgoing telephone
24 conversation over said telephone lines.

25 55. Said recording equipment was used to record the telephone
26 conversations of Plaintiff and the members of the Class utilizing cellular
27 telephones, all in violation of California Penal Code § 632.7.

28 56. Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff and the members of the Class are

1 entitled to, and below herein do pray for, their statutory remedies and damages,
2 including but not limited to, those set forth in California Penal Code § 632.7; and
3 California Penal Code § 637.2.

4 57. Because this case is brought for the purposes of enforcing important
5 rights affecting the public interest, Plaintiffs and the Class seek recovery of their
6 attorney's fees pursuant to the private attorney general doctrine codified in Code
7 of Civil Procedure § 1021.5, or any other statutory basis.

8 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

9 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests judgment against Defendant for the following:

10 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 **Negligent Violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act**

12 **47 U.S.C. §227(b)**

- 13 • As a result of Defendant's negligent violations of *47 U.S.C.*
14 *§227(b)(1)*, Plaintiff and The Class members are entitled to and
15 request \$500 in statutory damages, for each and every violation,
16 pursuant to *47 U.S.C. 227(b)(3)(B)*.
17 • Any and all other relief that the Court deems just and proper.

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19 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

20 **Knowing and/or Willful Violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection**

21 **Act**

22 **47 U.S.C. §227(b)**

- 23 • As a result of Defendant's willful and/or knowing violations of *47*
24 *U.S.C. §227(b)(1)*, Plaintiff and The Class members are entitled to
25 and request treble damages, as provided by statute, up to \$1,500, for
26 each and every violation, pursuant to *47 U.S.C. §227(b)(3)(B)* and *47*
27 *U.S.C. §227(b)(3)(C)*.
28 • Any and all other relief that the Court deems just and proper.

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THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the California Invasion of Privacy Act

Cal. Penal Code § 632.7

- For statutory damages of \$5,000 per violation of Cal. Penal Code § 632.7 for Plaintiff and each member of The CIPA Class pursuant to Cal. Penal Code § 637.2(a).
- Injunctive relief in the form of an order prohibiting Defendant from unilaterally recording telephone conversations, without first informing and receiving consent from the other party to the conversation.
- That the Court preliminarily and permanently enjoin Defendant from overhearing, recording, and listening to each and every oncoming and outgoing telephone conversation with California resident, including Plaintiff and The CIPA Class, without their prior consent, as required by Cal. Penal Code § 630, et seq., and to maintain the confidentiality of the information of Plaintiff and The CIPA Class.
- For general damages according to proof.
- For costs of suit.
- For prejudgment interest at the legal rate.
- For attorney’s fees and costs pursuant to Cal. Code of Civ. Pro. § 1021.5.
- For such further relief as this Court deems necessary, just, and proper.

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2 **JURY DEMAND**

3 58. Pursuant to the Seventh Amendment to the Constitution of the United
4 States of America, Plaintiff is entitled to, and demands, a trial by jury.

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7 Respectfully Submitted this 7th Day of June, 2017.

8 LAW OFFICES OF TODD M. FRIEDMAN, P.C.

9 By: /s/ Todd M. Friedman
10 Todd M. Friedman
11 Law Offices of Todd M. Friedman
12 Attorney for Plaintiff
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