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12 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
13 **IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

15 **EMMA MARTIN,**
16 **ELIZABETH GAGLIANO** and
17 **KATHRYN SESSINGHAUS**, individually
and as heirs of **VINCENT PAUL MARTIN**,
18 deceased,

19 Plaintiffs,

20 v.

21 **Serrano Post Acute LLC d/b/a**
22 **HOLLYWOOD PREMIER**
23 **HEALTHCARE CENTER,**
a/k/a Serrano Healthcare,
a/k/a Serrano North Convalescent Hospital;
24 **BENJAMIN LANDA**, an individual;
25 **MARCEL ADRIAN SOLERO FILART**,
and individual; and,

26 **DOES 1-50.**

27 Defendants.
28

Case No. 20STCV19545

COMPLAINT:

1. **VIOLATIONS OF THE ELDER AND
DEPENDENT ADULT CIVIL
PROTECTION ACT (Welfare &
Institutions Code §15600 et seq.)**
2. **NEGLIGENCE**
3. **WRONGFUL DEATH**
4. **FRAUDULENT CONCEALMENT**
5. **FRAUDULENT
MISREPRESENTATION**

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

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1 Plaintiffs **Emma Martin, Elizabeth Gagliano and Kathryn Sessinghaus**, individually
2 and as heirs, and successors in interest of **Vincent Paul Martin**, deceased, bring this action for
3 damages against defendants **Serrano Post Acute LLC d/b/a Hollywood Premier Healthcare**
4 **Center a/k/a Serrano Healthcare, a/k/a Serrano North Convalescent Hospital** (“Defendant”)
5 or (“HPHC”); **Benjamin Landa**; and **Dr. Marcel Filart**.

6 **I. INTRODUCTION**

7 1. This case is one of the worst outbreaks of COVID-19 in any nursing home in the
8 United States, the incredible number of sixteen (16) elderly residents are now **dead** and seventy-
9 two (72) residents have been infected, along with thirty-seven (37) staff (109 infections), **hidden**
10 from the public are others. This case involves just one of the individuals that has died—eighty-
11 four-year-old Vincent Paul Martin (“Mr. Martin” or “Vince”). Mr. Martin’s wife and daughters
12 intend to uncover how COVID-19 was allowed to rage uncontrolled through Hollywood Premier
13 Healthcare Center (“HPHC”).



27 (Source: Family picture of Mr. Martin celebrating his birthday at HPHC in August 2015)

1 2. Several of the individuals involved with the nursing home have had past brushes
2 with the law – Defendant Landa was found liable for human trafficking of Filipino nursing staff
3 – Defendant Filart was named as having received kickbacks in an illegal Medicare-Medi-Cal
4 scam that resulted in a \$42 million dollar settlement with the U.S. Government.

5 3. Mr. Martin did not lose his life because of an unavoidable act-of-God, rather he
6 lost his life because HPHC’s owners and managers had a long-standing practice of keeping the
7 nursing home understaffed and skirting safety and infection controls as set forth below.

8 4. Mr. Martin died in the early hours of Saturday April 4, 2020. HPHC knew that Mr.
9 Martin was COVID-19-suspected but delayed testing him. HPHC only tested Mr. Martin after
10 his family plead for the test. Even then, staff told the family that they could not order the COVID-
11 19 test right away because a doctor had to approve it. When HPHC finally tested Mr. Martin, it
12 was too late. Mr. Martin’s positive test result came back the day **after** he died.

13 5. HPHC, individually and through its staff and employees, **admitted** to the family
14 that the 99-bed nursing home had only two nurses working, just days before Mr. Martin’s death.
15 Shortly after Mr. Martin’s death, HPHS made national news due to the severity of the COVID-
16 19 outbreak at the facility. The fraudulent concealment of the conditions was overwhelming.

17 6. This situation at the HPHC nursing home became so serious and deadly that HPHS
18 was one of a handful of facilities in LA County where the National Guard was deployed. This
19 help came too late for Mr. Martin and many of the other residents to prevent their deaths.

20 7. The National Guard was deployed to HPHC in late April, however, Defendants
21 knew that there was a serious outbreak at the facility by mid-March 2020 when HPHC’s
22 Administrator Juhn Cayabyab, NHA, contracted COVID-19, yet HPHC did not test its residents
23 and staff for COVID-19.

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National Guard Sgt. Joseph Schlitz enters the Hollywood Premier Healthcare Center, which has seen 25 coronavirus cases among staff and 29 among residents. (Brian van der Brug/Los Angeles Times)



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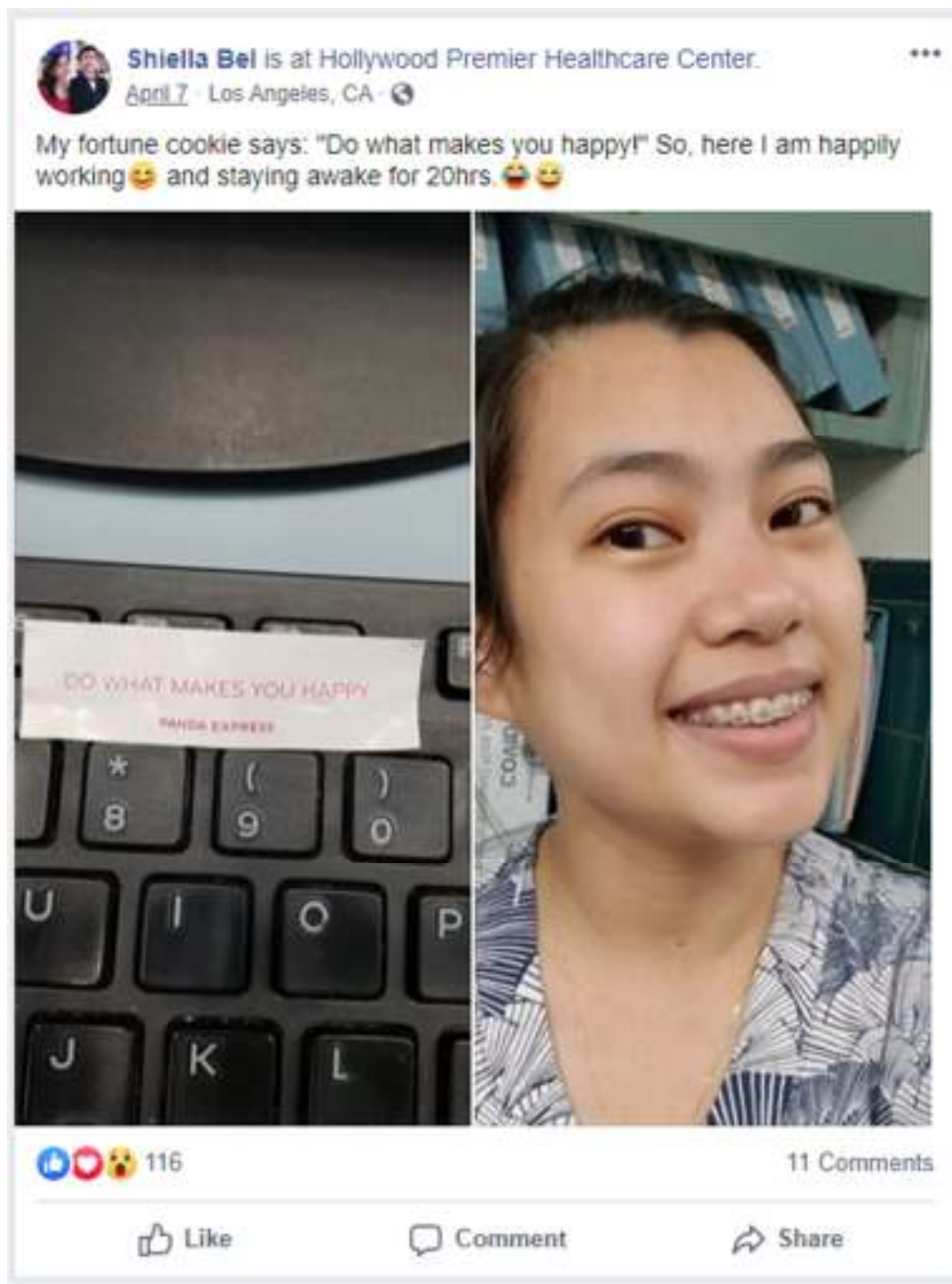
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12 8. There have been at least eighty-one (81) COVID-19 infections at HPHC as of May
13 14, 2020. (See, **Exhibit 1** (May 14 and 19, 2020 letters posted on HPHC website). There have
14 been at least sixteen (16) deaths. Prior to May 14, 2020, HPHC purposely underreported COVID-
15 19 infection rates to the State of California and to residents and their families. As reflected in
16 **Exhibit 1** HPHC is now only accepting COVID-19 positive residents.

17 9. In Mr. Martin’s case the nursing home’s doctor, Dr. Marcel Filart, failed to put
18 COVID-19 on Mr. Martin’s death certificate, despite Mr. Martin’s positive COVID-19 test
19 result. (**Exhibit 2**). In addition, HPHC intentionally did not inform the funeral home that Mr.
20 Martin was COVID-19 positive or COVID-19 suspected, which put the funeral home staff in
21 grave danger. Undisputedly, HPHC knew that it was experiencing an outbreak at this point –
22 even its own Administrator was out sick with COVID-19 since March.

23 10. Mr. Martin’s wife, Plaintiff Emma Martin is a pediatric nurse practitioner and was
24 deeply troubled when she last visited the facility in March to drop off items for her husband and
25 observed the lack of personal protective equipment (“PPE”) being used at HPHC despite the
26 emerging pandemic. What she did not know at the time was that HPHC had been cited by the
27 State of California in June 2019 for deficient PPE practices, as discussed in greater detail in
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1 **Exhibit 3**, pages 4-5. Again, this is not a situation where a well-run nursing home was caught
2 off guard by the pandemic—HPHC’s deficient and dangerous practices predate the pandemic.

3 11. Just three days after Mr. Martin’s death, one of the HPHC nursing staff posted the
4 following picture on Facebook – which is notable both for the claim that this staff member had
5 been working 20 hour shifts – and because she was at a nursing station with no PPE:



1 12. Mr. Martin’s family has been requesting HPHC’s nursing records pertaining to Mr.
2 Martin’s care since April 10, 2020. As of the date of this Complaint, **HPHC has refused** to
3 provide them, saying that medical records requests must go through “corporate offices” per
4 facility policies. The records department staff told Lisa that “corporate” needs to approve the
5 disclosure of records before they are provided to family members. HPHC’s delay is illegal under
6 state and federal law. *See*, 42 CFR § 483.10; Cal. Health and Safety Code § 123110.

7 13. There are many heroes among our Country’s nurses, however, the owners and
8 operators of HPHC are not heroes. They have profited on the backs of senior citizens, their
9 families, as well as Medicare and Medi-Cal – and on the backs of their overworked staff.
10 According to court records, one of the owners of HPHC, Benjamin Landa, was found liable for
11 human trafficking of Filipino nursing staff last year. (See, **Exhibit 4**)¹

12 14. Mr. Martin’s death was preventable, as was much of his pain and suffering. His
13 last days were spent in horrific circumstances, in a room with at least two other residents and
14 without his wife and daughters by his side.

15 15. It was entirely foreseeable that COVID-19 would rage like a wildfire through the
16 rooms of Hollywood Premier Healthcare Center, given that there were not enough staff to isolate
17 and care for positive residents. When staff are forced to travel between COVID-19 positive and
18 COVID-19 negative seniors, they spread highly infectious disease in their wake. Also
19 contributing to the fire-storm was HPHC’s practice of cramming small resident rooms with
20 multiple elderly residents. Mr. Martin was housed in a small room with two other residents.

21 16. As a nursing home, HPHC was charged with providing much needed care and
22 rehabilitation services to dependent and elderly adults in Los Angeles County. Like other skilled
23 nursing facilities (“SNFs”), HPHC was entrusted with highly vulnerable individuals who often
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26 ¹ *See*, **Exhibit 4**, which includes the cover sheets of the relevant court rulings: *Paguirigan v.*
27 *Prompt Nursing Emp't Agency LLC*, No. 17-cv-1302 (NG) (JO), 2019 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 165587
28 (E.D.N.Y. Sep. 23, 2019), *Paguirigan v. Prompt Nursing Emp't Agency LLC*, No. 17-cv-1302
(NG) (JO), 2020 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 4837 (E.D.N.Y. Jan. 9, 2020). Only discovery will tell
whether such human rights abuses extended to HPHC’s nursing staff.

1 had multiple physical and cognitive impairments that required extensive assistance in the basic
2 activities of daily living such as dressing, feeding, and bathing.

3 17. Like the other residents housed at HPHC, Mr. Martin was entirely dependent on
4 HPHC. HPHC's most important duty was to protect its residents from health and safety hazards.
5 HPHC failed to provide adequate care and Mr. Martin contracted COVID-19, succumbed to the
6 disease, and died without family by his side. HPHC must be held accountable.

7 18. The California Legislature has recognized the important role of civil litigation in
8 remedying abuse and neglect of elders and dependent adults. As stated in the "Elder Abuse and
9 Dependent Adult Civil Protection Act" ("EADCPA"):

10 The Legislature ... finds and declares that infirm elderly persons and dependent adults are
11 a disadvantaged class, that cases of abuse of these persons are seldom prosecuted as
12 criminal matters, and few civil cases are brought in connection with this abuse due to
13 problems of proof, court delays, and the lack of incentives to prosecute these suits.

14 19. California Welfare & Institutions Code Section 15600. Plaintiffs want to ensure
15 that Mr. Martin's death is not just another sad statistic.

16 **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

17 20. Venue is proper in this County because Defendant is located and/or performs
18 business in this County, and a substantial part of the events, acts, omissions and transactions
19 complained of herein occurred in this County. Defendant operates the SNF at issue in this case
20 at 5401 Fountain Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90029.

21 21. Each Defendant has sufficient minimum contacts with California, and has
22 purposely availed itself of benefits and protections of California, and does business in California
23 so as to render the exercise of jurisdiction over it by the California courts consistent with
24 traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

25 22. The amount in controversy exceeds the jurisdictional minimum of this Court.

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1 **III. PARTIES**

2 **A. Plaintiffs**

3 23. Plaintiff Emma Martin (“Emma”) is, and at all times herein mentioned was, the
4 wife and successor in interest and heir of the decedent, Vince Martin. Emma Martin was actively
5 involved in her husband’s care and visited Mr. Martin frequently. Emma Martin is 82-years old
6 and is a retired pediatric nurse practitioner. Plaintiff Emma Martin is lawfully entitled to pursue
7 all claims and causes of actions for damages pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure sections 377.32,
8 377.60, 377.61, Welfare and Institution Code section 15657.3(d), and Probate Code section 48.

9 24. Plaintiff Elizabeth Gagliano (“Lisa”) is, and at all times herein mentioned was, the
10 daughter and successor in interest and heir of the decedent, Vince Martin. Elizabeth Gagliano
11 was involved in her father’s care and visited Mr. Martin when in town. Plaintiff Elizabeth
12 Gagliano is lawfully entitled to pursue all claims and causes of actions for damages pursuant to
13 Code of Civil Procedure sections 377.32, 377.60, 377.61, Welfare and Institution Code section
14 15657.3(d), and Probate Code section 48.

15 25. Plaintiff Kathryn Sessinghaus (“Kathy”) is, and at all times herein mentioned was,
16 the daughter and successor in interest and heir of the decedent, Vince Martin. Kathy was actively
17 involved in her father’s care and visited Mr. Martin frequently. Plaintiff Kathy Sessinghaus is
18 lawfully entitled to pursue all claims and causes of actions for damages pursuant to Code of Civil
19 Procedure sections 377.32, 377.60, 377.61, Welfare and Institution Code section 15657.3(d), and
20 Probate Code section 48.

21 26. Plaintiffs Elizabeth Gagliano and Kathy Sessinghaus are the only surviving
22 children of Vince Martin.

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1 **B. Defendant HPHC**



12 27. Serrano Post Acute LLC d/b/a Hollywood Premier Healthcare Center was, at all
13 times relevant herein, a skilled nursing facility which provides services at 5401 Fountain Avenue
14 Los Angeles, CA 90029, which is also its principal place of business.

15 **C. Defendant Benjamin Landa**

16 28. Mr. Landa owns and/or controls HPHC. Mr. Landa is a resident of Brooklyn,
17 New York.

18 **D. Defendant Marcel Adrian Solero Filart**

19 29. Defendant Marcel Adrian Solero Filart ("Filart") is, and at all times relevant hereto
20 was, a resident of Los Angeles County, California; a physician licensed to practice medicine in
21 the State of California; and affiliated with HPHC. As reflected in **Exhibit 5**, Filart was named in
22 a 2016 False Claims Act case as having received kickbacks—the case was later settled by the
23 Department of Justice for \$42 million dollars.

24 **E. DOE Defendants**

25 30. Plaintiffs are ignorant of the names of those Defendants sued as DOES 1 through
26 50 and for that reason has sued DOE Defendants by fictitious names. Plaintiffs further allege
27 that each of said fictitious DOE Defendants is in some manner responsible for the acts and
28

1 occurrences hereinafter set forth. Plaintiffs will seek leave of the court to amend this
2 Complaint to show their true names and capacities when the DOE Defendants are ascertained,
3 as well as the manner in which each fictitious Defendant is responsible for the damages
4 sustained by Plaintiffs.

5 **IV. AGENCY/JOINT VENTURE/AIDING AND ABETTING/CONSPIRACY**

6 31. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and upon such basis allege, that at all times
7 herein mentioned, each of the Defendants, including those named as DOE defendants, herein
8 was an agent, servant, employee and/or joint venturer of each of the remaining Defendants, and
9 was at all times acting within the course and scope of said agency, service, employment, and/or
10 joint venture.

11 32. Defendants, and each of them, aided and abetted, encouraged and rendered
12 substantial assistance in accomplishing the wrongful conduct and their wrongful goals and other
13 wrongdoing complained of herein. In taking action, as particularized herein, to aid and abet and
14 substantially assist the commission of these wrongful acts and other wrongdoings complained
15 of, each of the Defendants acted with an awareness of his/her primary wrongdoing and realized
16 that his/her conduct would substantially assist the accomplishment of the wrongful conduct,
17 wrongful goals, and wrongdoing.

18 33. Defendants, and each of them, conspired with each other and with others, to
19 perpetrate the unlawful scheme on Plaintiffs, as alleged in this Complaint. In so doing, each of
20 the Defendants have performed acts and/or made statements in furtherance of the said conspiracy,
21 while at all times acting within the scope of and in furtherance of the conspiracy alleged in this
22 Complaint, and with full knowledge of the goals of that conspiracy.

23 **V. STANDING TO BRING THIS SURVIVAL ACTION**

24 34. Pursuant to the provisions of Code of Civil Procedure section 377.32 and Welfare
25 Institutions Code section 15657.3(d), Plaintiffs Emma Martin, Lisa Gagliano and Kathy
26 Sessinghaus (“Plaintiffs”), as successors-in-interest to decedent Vince Martin, are lawfully
27 entitled to pursue all survival claims and causes of action for damages on behalf of decedent
28 Vince Martin.

1 35. Additionally, pursuant to the provisions of Welfare and Institutions Code section
2 15657.3(d) and section 48 of the Probate Code, Plaintiffs are interested persons, as defined by
3 section 48 of the Probate Code, and are thus each lawfully entitled to pursue all claims and causes
4 of action in a survival action on behalf of decedent Vince Martin.

5 **VI. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

6 36. 84-year old, Vince Paul Martin died of COVID-19 on Saturday April 4, 2020. He
7 was a resident of HPHC, which is located in Hollywood (5401 Fountain Avenue Los Angeles,
8 CA 90029). Vince born in Brooklyn, New York. He served in both the U.S. Army and the
9 Army Reserve, having served in the 1950s and 1960s. After getting out of the Army he
10 attended the Pratt Institute in New York to become a graphic designer. He then worked in
11 advertising in the entertainment industry, including time on the Jack Parr Show, and worked at
12 advertising agencies in New York and Los Angeles. In the 1960s he moved to Los Angeles
13 where he worked as a graphic artist for the City of Los Angeles, both with the Los Angeles
14 Public Libraries and the Department of Water and Power. He retired in the mid-90s.

15 37. Vince was married to Emma from 1964 until his death at HPHC. He and Emma
16 had two daughters (Plaintiffs Lisa and Kathy) and five grandchildren.

17 **A. The Background of Elder Abuse and Neglect In California and at HPHC**

18 38. While SNFs are expected to keep their residents safe from harm, the truth is that
19 abuse and neglect in such facilities has become a problem throughout the nation and the State
20 of California. HPHC has a history of providing sub-standard care. In 2019 alone, the United
21 States Department of Health and Social Services cited HPHC for the following deficiencies:

- 22 • Nursing staff failed to don a gown and mask when caring for an infected resident who
23 was in isolation, instead the staff member touched the resident and then did not wash their
24 hands;
- 25 • Failed to ensure proper infection controls due to failure to remove and clean equipment
26 with the “potential to spread infection and transmission of communicable disease”;
- 27 • Failed to label oxygen tubing with a resident’s name, a “deficient practice” that “had the
28 potential to result in infection to the resident”;

- 1 • Putting four residents in a 420 square foot room (HPHC actually had a fifth unoccupied
- 2 bed in this small space);
- 3 • Not reporting an injury of unknown source to the State;
- 4 • Failed to protect from fall hazards;
- 5 • Illegally implementing advance care directives (end of life plans) without needed consent,
- 6 with the potential of denying residents necessary treatments;
- 7 • Keeping call lights out of reach of residents;
- 8 • Improper use of physical restraints;
- 9 • Failing to put care plans in place for residents;
- 10 • Failing to provide needed eyewear, and instead allowing a resident to use glasses that
- 11 were taped together with packaging tape and duct tape;
- 12 • Failing to properly angle a resident’s bed to prevent the development of pneumonia;
- 13 • Failing to post daily staffing information for review by residents and visitors.

14 Again, HPHC was cited for all the above deficiencies in 2019 (plus additional deficiencies that
 15 are not listed). The situation was equally bleak in 2018. Under the circumstances that prevailed
 16 at HPHC pre-COVID-19, it was inevitable that the nursing home would be ravaged by COVID-
 17 19. This is supported by a GAO study dated May 20, 2020, which described the prevalence of
 18 infection prevention and control deficiencies in nursing homes prior to the COVID-19 pandemic
 19 and drew a correlation between facilities with deficiencies in 2018-2019 and current COVID-19
 20 outbreaks. *Infection Control Deficiencies Were Widespread and Persistent in Nursing Homes*
 21 *Prior to COVID-19 Pandemic*, GAO-20-576R: Published: May 20, 2020 (accessible at
 22 <https://www.gao.gov/assets/710/707069.pdf>).

23 **B. Understaffing at HPHC**

24 39. HPHC has been chronically understaffed for years. This set up the perfect storm
 25 when the COVID-19 pandemic hit.

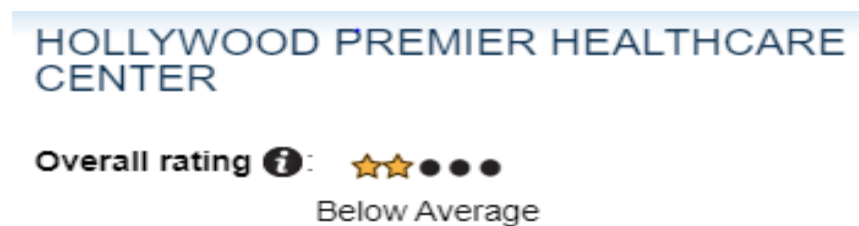
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1 40. According to a 2016 UCSF study, HPHC (f/k/a Serrano North Convalescent
 2 Hospital), had 95.80% turnover—among the worst in the State of California.² That same report
 3 noted that the facility had below average staffing of supervisors, Registered Nurses (“RNs”),
 4 Licensed Vocational Nurses (“LVNs”) and Licensed Practical Nurse (“LPN”), instead relying
 5 on Nursing Assistants with minimal qualifications. HPHC chose to staff the nursing home with
 6 underqualified staff in order to save money and increase profits for the owners.

7 41. In keeping with the earlier UCSF study, Medicare.gov currently rates HPHC as
 8 “below average”:



13 Also, per Medicare.gov, HPHC has overall below average staffing levels:

Staffing			
<small>The information in this section includes registered nurses (RN), licensed practical/vocational nurses (LPN/LVN), nurse aides, and physical therapists (PT). Physical therapists aren't included in the "all staffing" star rating. The "staffing" star rating takes into account that some nursing homes have sicker residents and may therefore need more staff than other nursing homes whose residents aren't as sick.</small>			
	HOLLYWOOD PREMIER HEALTHCARE CENTER	CALIFORNIA AVERAGE	NATIONAL AVERAGE
Staffing rating	★★☆☆☆ Below Average		
Average number of residents per day	97.4	86.6	85.9
Total number of licensed nurse staff hours per resident per day	1 hour and 19 minutes	1 hour and 46 minutes	1 hour and 34 minutes
RN hours per resident per day	22 minutes	38 minutes	41 minutes
LPN/LVN hours per resident per day	57 minutes	1 hour and 8 minutes	52 minutes
Nurse aide hours per resident per day ⓘ	2 hours and 25 minutes	2 hours and 35 minutes	2 hours and 18 minutes
Physical therapist staff hours per resident per day ⓘ	4 minutes	6 minutes	5 minutes
Registered Nurse (RN) staffing only			
<small>Registered nurses (RNs) are licensed healthcare professionals who are responsible for the coordination, management and overall delivery of care to the residents. Some nursing home residents who are sicker than others may require a greater level of care, and nursing homes that have more RN staff may be better able to meet the needs of those residents.</small>			
Registered Nurse (RN) staffing rating	★★☆☆☆ Below Average		
Average number of residents per day	97.4	86.6	85.9
RN hours per resident per day	22 minutes	38 minutes	41 minutes

25 42. As noted by a leading UCSF study, “[m]any California studies have demonstrated
 26 that serious quality of care problems have been associated inadequate staffing levels, and most

27 _____
 28 ² “California Nursing Home Chains by Ownership Type Facility and Resident Characteristics, Staffing, and Quality Outcomes in 2015” UCSF, Dr. Charlene Harrington and Dr. Leslie Ross.

1 importantly, low RN staffing (Kim, *et al.*, 2009a 2009b; Schnelle, *et al.*, 2004).” “California
2 Nursing Home Chains by Ownership Type Facility and Resident Characteristics, Staffing, and
3 Quality Outcomes in 2015” UCSF, Dr. Charlene Harrington and Dr. Leslie Ross.

4 **C. Mr. Martin Entered HPHC for Post-Surgery Care**

5 43. Vince Martin went to HPHC in January 2014 due to spinal stenosis after
6 undergoing surgery. At the time, Mr. Martin’s family were presented with few options for where
7 Mr. Martin could go. The monthly fees quickly drained Emma and Vince Martin’s retirement
8 funds. Plaintiffs wished they could afford different care, but like many families needing nursing
9 home care for a loved one, their options are limited by their insurer, spots available, and family
10 finances.

11 44. Prior to the outbreak, Plaintiffs visited Mr. Martin frequently. However, as the
12 pandemic hit California in February Plaintiffs noted that it seemed like there were no protocols
13 in place at HPHC to deal with the outbreak.

14 **D. The Family’s Final Visits to Mr. Martin in February 2020**

15 45. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the last time the family was able to visit in
16 person with Vince was in February. More specifically, Emma visited her husband either February
17 27 or 28. Emma did not observe PPE on the staff.

18 46. On February 29, 2020, Kathy visited her father – she also noticed the lack of PPE
19 on the staff.

20 47. Subsequently in March 2020, Emma went to drop off items for Vince and was met
21 by a staff member at the door. Emma was distressed when she observed that the staff member
22 did not have PPE on—that HPHC was not taking basic precautions—especially given that the
23 facility was in lock-down.

24 **E. COVID-19 Takes Hold at HPHC and HPHC Goes Into Lockdown**

25 48. By the first week of March the family was told that visitors were no longer allowed.
26 Family could still bring supplies and presents to the door of the facility. During the week of
27 March 2, Kathy brought a book and snacks to HPHC – she was met by a staff member at the
28 door who took the items – this staff member was not wearing a mask.

1 49. During March, Emma would call to check in and sometimes the staff picked up
2 and sometimes they did not. It was a frustrating and scary time for the Martin family since they
3 had no way of really knowing how Mr. Martin was doing day to day.

4 50. On March 19, 2020, Lisa called HPHC and asked if she could mail Vince a care
5 package of historical magazines (Mr. Martin took immense pleasure in reading) but was told that
6 it was best not to mail anything.

7 51. On April 1, 2020 Kathy asked nurse “Elizabeth” if there were any active COVID-
8 19 cases at HPHC – Elizabeth reluctantly told her that there was at least one case. Later in the
9 conversation Elizabeth (nursing staff) admitted to Kathy that there were actually *four* active cases
10 in the facility. The family was very concerned in part because it is not a large facility – there is
11 not a lot of space and the residents were packed into tight quarters. The staff member told Kathy
12 that the facility was managing the situation by keeping all the COVID-19 cases on the other side
13 of the facility from Vince. Unbeknownst to Mr. Martin’s family, the Administrator of HPHC was
14 out battling COVID-19 since March 2020. Even after its own Administrator became infected
15 with COVID-19, HPHC failed to take steps to protect residents and staff and failed to test its
16 residents and staff for COVID-19.

17 **F. Staff Admits to Mr. Martin’s Family That There Is a Staffing Crisis: Two**
18 **Nurses Were Caring for Eighty-Three Residents**

19 52. During one call on April 1, 2020 “Elizabeth” (nursing staff) admitted to Lisa that
20 the situation was dire and that there were only two nurses for eighty-three residents. Lisa was
21 alarmed, she knew that there was no way that two nurses could care for eighty-three patients
22 without transmitting COVID-19 between the residents.

23 53. Lisa could hear that “Elizabeth” was exhausted when she told Lisa that “more staff
24 are coming.”

25 **G. Timeline of Vince Martin’s Last Days**

26 54. On or about Wednesday April 1, 2020, HPHC’s staff called Emma Martin and said
27 that Vince had a fever, was not eating or drinking and was confused. This was the first time that
28 Vince’s family was informed that he was sick. Emma Martin called her daughters.

1 55. In the early evening of April 1, daughter Kathy called HPHC to see how her father
2 was doing. Nurse Elizabeth said Vince had a fever, was confused, had trouble breathing and was
3 not eating or drinking. Kathy asked if tests had been ordered and Elizabeth said they had not
4 been ordered yet. Kathy insisted that the facility conduct a urine test and a COVID-19 test.
5 “Elizabeth” (nursing staff) said that they needed a doctor’s approval for the COVID-19 test,
6 which they would request the next day. Elizabeth admitted to Kathy that there were four COVID-
7 19 positive residents at HPHC. Kathy asked where the COVID-19 positive residents were in the
8 building. Elizabeth responded that they were in the other side of the facility. Elizabeth also
9 mentioned how she was exhausted and cried in the shower before coming to work due to the
10 situation at HPHC with staff not coming to work.

11 56. Later that same evening, just after 10 p.m. Lisa called and spoke to nurse Elizabeth
12 to see how her father was doing. Elizabeth said that Vince seemed to be doing better than earlier
13 and that he was responsive when spoken to. Lisa confirmed with Elizabeth that a COVID-19 and
14 urinalysis were going to be done per the phone conversation Elizabeth had with Kathy earlier
15 that evening. Lisa asked if other typical blood drawn labs could be done, especially ones that
16 would check white blood cell count and red blood cell count and to see how Vince’s kidneys and
17 liver were doing. Elizabeth confirmed she would ask to get approval for these tests too. Lisa
18 asked about the COVID-19 positive residents and if they were separated from patients that did
19 not have COVID-19. Elizabeth said they were separated. Lisa asked if her father was awake and
20 Elizabeth said probably not. Lisa mentioned that if he was awake, she wanted to be put on speaker
21 phone to talk to him. Elizabeth mentioned another day would be best because there were just two
22 nurses there for 83 patients.

23 57. Only recently did the family learn that HPHS had done a chest x-ray on Wednesday
24 April 1, 2020. HPHS did not notify the family that this was being done. This fact strongly
25 suggests that the facility understood that Mr. Martin was likely COVID-19 positive. Recently
26 Mr. Martin’s family learned that HPHC did not tell the mobile imaging company that there was
27 an active COVID-19 infection in the building.

1 58. Kathy called the facility on Thursday April 2, 2020 to find out if her father’s test
2 results were available. During an early evening call, a staff member told her father’s test results
3 were not in/reported. Kathy asked if the COVID-19 test was done and if the urinalysis were taken
4 too and the staff member said “yes, but no results yet.” Emma had also corresponded with HPHC
5 on Vince’s status at some point during the day. According to lab reports that were texted to Lisa
6 on April 3, 2020, those lab results were received earlier on April 2, 2020 for Vince’s blood work
7 (except COVID-19 and Troponin I), but this information was not disclosed to the family.

8 59. On Friday April 3, 2020 Lisa called in the late afternoon to see how her father was
9 doing and to find out about his test results. A member of the nursing staff “Joanne” mentioned
10 that Vince was doing worse than when she saw him the previous day. Joanne mentioned Vince
11 was given hydration/saline earlier in the day and reported that Vince was still not eating and
12 drinking, was confused, had trouble talking and was congested. Lisa asked if blood test results,
13 results from the COVID-19 test and the urinalysis were in/reported. Joanne said a urinalysis was
14 never done and the COVID-19 result was not in yet. Lisa asked why the urinalysis was not done.
15 Joanne did not have an answer. Lisa asked Joanne to take a picture of Vince’s labs and text them
16 to her. After the call, “Joanne” texted Lisa pictures of her father’s lab results. The lab results
17 show that the labs were done on Thursday, April 2, 2020 at 11:30 a.m., and were reported only
18 a half an hour later at 12:01 p.m. and then faxed to HPHC at 1:20 p.m. the same day. It appears
19 that one lab test lagged with results on April 3, 2020 at 10:03 a.m. (As of the date of this
20 Complaint, the family still has not received the Troponin I test results.)

21 60. Later that evening Lisa called HPHC to check and see if the antibiotics were given,
22 see if urinalysis was done and to see if she could talk to Vince on the speaker phone. Joanne had
23 left for the day. Elizabeth said that a urinalysis still had to be done. Elizabeth put Lisa on speaker
24 phone with her father. Lisa heard her father try to speak, but it was hard to understand him, and
25 he was unable to carry on a conversation. This was the last time that anyone in the family spoke
26 to Vince.

27 61. After Vince’s death, his family learned that the COVID-19 testing kit was received
28 by the lab in the early afternoon of April 3, 2020.

1 62. Vince died in the early hours of Saturday April 4, 2020. Vince was one of three
2 residents housed in a single room.

3 63. The funeral home picked up Vince’s body two hours after Vince died. The funeral
4 home was not told by the facility that Vince was COVID-19-positive or COVID-19-suspected,
5 thus their staff did not know to don PPE. Upon information and belief, HPHC had a practice of
6 bringing in outside vendors and not informing them that there was a COVID-19 outbreak.

7 64. On Sunday April 5, 2020, after Vince had died, the COVID-19 positive test result
8 came back, although HPHC did not tell the family until Emma specifically called to ask on April
9 7, 2020.

10 65. The death certificate, issued on April 9, 2020, and certified by Dr. Marcel Filart,
11 lists cardiac arrest, hypertension and coronary artery disease as the cause of death. (**Exhibit 2**).
12 Mr. Martin’s COVID-19 test result was reported on April 5 before Dr. Filart signed off on the
13 causes of death on April 9. Further, it was Dr. Filart who authorized the COVID-19 test (after
14 Mr. Martin’s family insisted on the test), so there is no doubt that he was aware that Mr. Martin
15 had been tested and that the results would be available when he fraudulently prepared the death
16 certificate. It was only at the insistence of Mr. Martin’s family that Dr. Filart sought to amend
17 Mr. Martin’s death certificate. (**Exhibit 6**). More specifically, Dr. Filart had no intention of
18 correcting Mr. Martin’s death certificate until Lisa Gagliano insisted that it was fraudulent to
19 leave COVID-19 off Mr. Martin’s death certificate. Defendants intended to hide COVID-19
20 results in order to keep vital information from residents, families, staff and the government.

21 **H. HPHC Refuses Requests by Mr. Martin’s Family for Information**

22 66. Plaintiff Lisa Gagliano has been trying to get her father’s records from HPHS
23 since April 10, 2020 (by phone and e-mail). She has been told that “corporate needs to review
24 the records request before records are released.” “Elizabeth” (in records) was originally the
25 person Lisa was interacting with in HPHC’s records department, however, over the past couple
26 of weeks, Lisa has been told that “Elizabeth” in records has “not been in.” It has sense been
27 confirmed that she is out due to COVID-19.

1 67. To this day, Mr. Martin’s urinalysis results still have been withheld. This calls
2 into question whether the urinalysis was ever done in the first place.

3 68. On April 10, 2020, Lisa spoke to Elizabeth (nursing staff), and in response to
4 Lisa asking if she was going to get tested, Elizabeth said “I don’t want a test, no test for me.”

5 69. Any applicable statute of limitations have been tolled by virtue of HPHC’s failure
6 to provide records to Plaintiffs.

7 **VII. CAUSES OF ACTION**

8 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

9 **ELDER ABUSE AND NEGLECT UNDER THE ELDER ABUSE AND**
10 **DEPENDENT ADULT CIVIL PROTECTION ACT**

11 (Against All Defendants)

12 70. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege all of the allegations contained in
13 the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

14 71. At all relevant times, Vincent Paul Martin was an elder as defined by Welfare &
15 Institutions Code section 15610.27. He was 84 years old at the time of Defendants’ conduct.

16 72. The actions described above constitute abuse of an elder as defined by the Welfare
17 and Institutions Code section 15610.07. Defendants HPHC and Dr. Marcel Filart neglected Mr.
18 Martin, abandoned their obligations to Mr. Martin and engaged in other mistreatment that
19 resulted in physical harm, pain and mental suffering. Defendants HPHC and Dr. Filart, as Mr.
20 Martin’s care custodians, deprived Mr. Martin of services that were necessary to avoid physical
21 harm and mental suffering. Defendants HPHC and Benjamin Landa failed to provide adequate
22 funding and staffing to ensure that HPHC provided necessary care to Mr. Martin.

23 73. The actions described above constitute neglect as defined by the Welfare and
24 Institutions Code section 15610.57 in that the Defendants negligently failed to exercise a degree
25 of care that a reasonable person in a like position would exercise. Among other things,
26 Defendants failed to: (1) exercise the degree of care that a reasonable person in a like position
27 would exercise; (2) protect Mr. Martin from health and safety hazards; (3) provide necessary care
28 and protection; (4) provide medical care for physical and mental health needs; (5) prevent

1 malnutrition and dehydration; (6) create and update an adequate plan of care to protect Mr.
2 Martin given the COVID-19 outbreak at HPHC; (7) provide adequate staffing levels to provide
3 Mr. Martin with the assistance that he needed; and (8) adequately train staff to assess and respond
4 to infectious outbreaks. As described in this Complaint, Defendants' conduct constitutes neglect
5 of an elder under Welfare and Institutions Code section 15610.57 (a)(1) and (b)(1)-(4).

6 74. Mr. Martin has been harmed by Defendants' conduct as described herein. The
7 pattern of substandard care and neglect to Mr. Martin put him at extremely high risk for infections
8 and resulting complications, including injury and death. Defendants' conduct was a substantial
9 factor in causing Mr. Martin to suffer physical, emotional, and economic harm, as well as other
10 damages in an amount to be determined according to proof.

11 75. Defendants acted with recklessness, malice, oppression, and/or fraud. Among
12 other things, Defendants neglected to take the necessary precautions to prevent Mr. Martin's
13 injuries. Plaintiffs, individually and as successors-in interest to Mr. Martin are entitled to
14 compensatory damages, as well as punitive damages in an amount to be determined according to
15 proof, as well as attorney's fees and costs pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section
16 15657.

17 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief as set forth below.

18 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

19 **NEGLIGENCE**

20 (Against All Defendants)

21 76. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege all of the allegations contained in
22 the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

23 77. By virtue of their roles as caretakers and by virtue of the fact that Mr. Martin was
24 a dependent adult residing at the HPHC, Defendants had a duty to exercise a degree of care that
25 a reasonable person in a like position would exercise. Defendants failed to do so. Among other
26 things Defendants had a duty to:

- 27 a. Adequately staff HPHC;
- 28

- b. Ensure that each worker received adequate training before working with Mr. Martin;
- c. Provide services that meet professional standards of quality;
- d. Ensure that an adequate patient care plan was developed, reviewed, revised and carried out, including specifically, because Mr. Martin was exposed to COVID-19 at HPHC;
- e. Take all reasonable and necessary precautions to ensure that Mr. Martin did not contract COVID-19;
- f. Provide Mr. Martin with necessary tests promptly and report those results promptly;
- g. Protect Mr. Martin from health and safety hazards;
- h. Treat Mr. Martin with respect, dignity, and without abuse.

78. During the period of his residency at HPHC, Defendants breached their duty to Mr. Martin. Among other things, and without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Defendants failed to:

- a. Adequately staff HPHC;
- b. Ensure that each worker received adequate training before working with Mr. Martin;
- c. Provide services that meet professional standards of quality;
- d. Ensure that an adequate patient care plan was developed, reviewed, revised and carried out, including specifically, because Mr. Martin was exposed to COVID-19 at HPHC;
- e. Take all reasonable and necessary precautions to ensure that Mr. Martin did not contract COVID-19;
- f. Protect Mr. Martin from health and safety hazards;
- g. Provide Mr. Martin with necessary tests promptly and report those results to his promptly;
- h. Treat Mr. Martin with respect, dignity, and without abuse.

1 79. Defendants' negligence, carelessness, recklessness, and unlawfulness was a
2 substantial factor in causing Mr. Martin to suffer tremendous physical, emotional, economic, and
3 fatal harm as well as other damages to be proven at the time of the trial.

4 80. As a direct and legal result of the wrongful acts and omissions of Defendant and
5 DOES 1-50, Mr. Martin was harmed.

6 81. By reason of the wrongful death of Mr. Martin that resulted from the wrongful acts
7 and omissions of Defendants, Plaintiffs suffered and continue to suffer loss of love,
8 companionship, comfort, affection, solace, and moral support of Mr. Martin in the amount to be
9 determined at trial.

10 82. By reason of the wrongful death of Mr. Martin, resulting from the wrongful acts
11 and/or omissions of Defendants and DOES 1-50, and each of them, Plaintiffs hereby seek
12 recovery of other such relief as may be just, including as provided for under the Civil Code
13 section 377.61.

14 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief as set forth below.

15 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

16 **WRONGFUL DEATH**

17 (Against All Defendants)

18 83. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege all of the allegations contained in
19 the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

20 84. Defendants and DOES 1-50, and each of them, negligently, carelessly, recklessly,
21 and/or unlawfully operated HPHC so as to cause the death of Vince Martin.

22 85. Defendants HPHC, Dr. Marcel Filart, Benjamin Landa and DOES 1-50 were
23 agents, servants, employees, successors in interest, and/or joint venturers of one another, and
24 were, as such, acting within the course, scope, and authority of said agency, employment and/or
25 venture when they negligently, carelessly, recklessly, and/or unlawfully withheld necessary care
26 from Vince Martin so as to cause the death of Vince Martin.

27 86. As a direct and legal result of the wrongful acts and omissions of Defendants,
28 Vince Martin died.

1 87. By reason of the wrongful death of Vince Martin resulting from the wrongful acts
2 and omissions of Defendants, and DOES 1 through 50, Plaintiffs have incurred funeral and burial
3 expenses, and related medical expenses, in an amount to be determined at trial.

4 88. By reason of the wrongful death of Vince Martin, resulting from the wrongful acts
5 and omissions of Defendants, and DOES 1 through 50, and each of them, Plaintiffs suffered, and
6 continue to suffer, loss of love, companionship, comfort, affection, solace and the moral and
7 economic support of their husband and father.

8 89. As a direct and legal result of the aforementioned acts of Defendants HPHC, Dr.
9 Filart, Mr. Landa and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, Plaintiffs, by reason of the wrongful death
10 of Vince Martin, resulting from the wrongful acts and/or omissions of Defendants, hereby seek
11 recovery of other such relief as may be just and provided for under Code of Civ. Proc. § 377.61.

12 90. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that in the days leading up
13 to Vince Martin's death, and continuing through his death, Defendants HPHC, Dr. Filart, Mr.
14 Landa and DOES 1 through 50, and each of them, at all times mentioned, were under a statutory
15 duty to comply with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations governing nursing
16 homes in California, including but not limited to the following:

- 17 • 42 CFR §483.10(a) & (e) (respect, dignity, & without abuse);
- 18 • 42 CFR §483.21 (care plan);
- 19 • 42 CFR §483.25 (quality care must be provided; protecting for health and safety hazards);
- 20 • 42 CFR §483.30 (adequate physician oversight);
- 21 • Cal Health & Safety Code § 1279.6 (safety plan);
- 22 • Cal Health & Safety Code § 1337.1 (adequate training);
- 23 • Cal Health & Safety Code §1599.1(a) (adequate and qualified staff);
- 24 • Title 22 CCR §72311 (care plan and prompt reporting);
- 25 • Title 22 CCR §72315 (required services);
- 26 • Title 22 CCR §§72329(a) & 72501(e) (adequate staffing);
- 27 • Title 22 CCR § 72517 (adequate training);
- 28 • Title 22 CCR §72523(adequate policies and procedures);

- 1 • Title 22 CCR § 72527(a)(11) (respect, dignity, & without abuse);
- 2 • Title 22 CCR § 72537 (reporting of communicable diseases);
- 3 • Title 22 CCR § 72539 (reporting of outbreaks);
- 4 • Title 22 CCR § 72541 (reporting of unusual occurrences);
- 5 • 42 USC §1396r(b)(2) (adequate plan of care);

6 Defendants' violations of these laws and regulations were a contributing factor to the death of
7 Vince Martin.

8 91. Vince Martin was one of the class of persons whose protection the aforementioned
9 laws and regulations, as well as Welfare and Institutions Code §§ 15600 *et seq.* was afforded.

10 92. As a direct and legal result of the wrongful acts and omissions of Defendants,
11 including DOES 1 through 50, and each of them, Vince Martin died.

12 93. By reason of the wrongful death of Vince Martin resulting from the wrongful acts
13 and omissions of Defendants, and DOES 1 through 50, Plaintiffs have incurred funeral and burial
14 expenses, and related medical expenses, in an amount to be determined at trial.

15 94. By reason of the wrongful death of Vince Martin, resulting from the wrongful acts
16 and omissions of Defendants, and DOES 1 through 50, and each of them, Plaintiffs suffered, and
17 continue to suffer, loss of love, companionship, comfort, affection, solace and the moral and
18 economic support of their husband and father.

19 95. As a direct and legal result of the aforementioned acts of Defendants HPHC. Dr.
20 Marcel Filbart, Benjamin Landa, and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, Plaintiffs, by reason of the
21 wrongful death of Vince Martin, resulting from the wrongful acts and/or omissions of
22 Defendants, hereby seek recovery of other such relief as may be just and provided for under Code
23 of Civ. Proc. § 377.61.

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1 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief as set forth below.

2 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

3 **FRAUDULENT CONCEALMENT**

4 (Against Defendants HPHC and Marcel Filart)

5 96. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege all of the allegations contained in
6 the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

7 97. Mr. Martin was an elderly resident of the nursing home run by HPHC. Mr.
8 Martin relied upon Defendants HPHC and Dr. Filart for his care needs.

9 98. Prior to Vince Martin's death, HPHC and Dr. Filart became aware that they could
10 not provide adequate care to Mr. Martin and knew of their duty to disclose these matters. In
11 fact, Plaintiffs were repeatedly told that Mr. Martin was "doing ok" or words to that effect prior
12 to April 1, 2020. Further, Plaintiffs were told that Mr. Martin would be cared for. This was
13 untrue. By March 2020, Defendants HPHC and Dr. Filart knew that there was an outbreak of
14 COVID-19 at HPHC, yet they kept the fact of the outbreak and the severity of the outbreak
15 concealed.

16 99. When a member of HPHC's staff eventually told Plaintiffs that there were one or
17 more COVID-19 cases at HPHC, they intentionally failed to disclose the full extent of the
18 outbreak, making the disclosure deceptive.

19 100. Defendants intentionally failed to disclose, first the fact that there was COVID-19
20 in the facility, then that there was a serious outbreak of COVID-19, and then that Mr. Martin
21 had been exposed to COVID-19, then that Mr. Martin was likely COVID-19 positive. These
22 facts were known only to Defendants and are not facts that Plaintiffs could have discovered.
23 Plaintiffs did not learn that Mr. Martin was COVID-19 positive until after his death. Even after
24 the COVID-19 positive test, Defendants HPHC and Dr. Filart concealed that Mr. Martin's
25 death was caused by COVID-19—instead, COVID-19 was left off of Mr. Martin's death
26 certificate.

1 101. Defendants HPHC and Dr. Filart breached their duties to disclose these facts to
2 Plaintiffs and engaged in the above-listed concealments and misrepresentations with the
3 intention of deceiving and misleading Plaintiffs.

4 102. Had the omitted information been disclosed, Plaintiffs would have behaved
5 differently, including that they would have insisted that Mr. Martin receive a COVID-19 test
6 earlier and that he be treated for COVID-19.

7 103. Mr. Martin was injured and died as a result of Defendants HPHC's and Dr.
8 Filart's acts of misrepresentation and concealment. Plaintiffs also sustained damages and
9 injuries, including emotional distress.

10 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief as set forth below.

11 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

12 **FRAUDULENT MISREPRESENTATION**

13 (Against Defendants HPHC and Marcel Filart)

14 104. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference and re-allege all of the allegations contained in
15 the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

16 105. Mr. Martin was an elderly resident of the nursing home run by HPHC. Mr.
17 Martin relied upon Defendant HPHC and its staff for his care needs.

18 106. HPHC and its staff repeatedly represented to Plaintiffs that Mr. Martin was
19 "doing ok" or words to that effect during the lockdown prior to April 1, 2020. Further, HPHC
20 and its staff represented to Plaintiffs that Mr. Martin would be cared for. This was untrue.

21 107. HPHC and its staff told Plaintiffs that there were less COVID-19 case in the
22 facility than there really were. HPHC and its staff further assured Plaintiffs that all COVID-19
23 positive residents were placed in a separate part of the nursing home from Mr. Martin, which
24 was not correct.

25 108. Dr. Marcel Filart misrepresented the cause of Mr. Martin's death on Mr. Martin's
26 death certificate dated April 9, 2020, as cardiorespiratory arrest, essential hypertension and
27 coronary artery disease, hiding Mr. Martin's COVID-19 positive result and the real cause of
28 death.

1 109. HPHC and its staff falsely claimed that labs were completed when they were not
2 in fact done.

3 110. HPHC and its staff falsely claimed that Mr. Martin could not be transferred to a
4 hospital for care in the days leading up to his death, he was unlikely be accepted, and would be
5 harmed.

6 111. Defendants HPHC and Dr. Filart breached their duties to disclose true facts to
7 Plaintiffs and engaged in the above-listed misrepresentations with the intention of deceiving
8 and defrauding Plaintiffs. Defendants HPHC and Dr. Filart knew that these representations
9 were false when they made them, or made the representations recklessly and without regard for
10 its truth. Defendants intended that Plaintiffs rely on these representations to hide what harm
11 Mr. Martin was suffering. Plaintiffs reasonably relied on Defendants' representations, and Mr.
12 Martin was thus injured and harmed. Plaintiffs' reliance on HPHC and Dr. Filart's
13 representations was a substantial factor in causing Mr. Martin's death.

14 112. Had the omitted information been disclosed, Plaintiffs would have behaved
15 differently, including that they would have insisted that Mr. Martin receive a COVID-19 test
16 earlier and that he be treated for COVID-19.

17 113. Mr. Martin was harmed and died as a result of Defendants HPHC's and Dr.
18 Filart's acts of misrepresentation. Plaintiffs also sustained damages and injuries, including
19 emotional distress.

20 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for relief as set forth below.

21 **VIII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

22 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs Emma Martin, Elizabeth Gagliano and Kathy Sessinghaus pray
23 for relief as follows:

- 24 1. General and special compensatory damages according to proof;
- 25 2. Punitive damages according to proof, including treble punitive damages per Civil
26 Code section 3345;
- 27 3. For prejudgment and post-judgment interest upon such judgment at the maximum
28 rate provided by law;

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- 4. Reasonable costs of suit;
- 5. Attorney's fees and costs per Welfare and Institutions Code section 15657; and
- 6. Such other further relief as the Court may deem proper.

Dated: May 21, 2020

COTCHETT, PITRE & McCARTHY, LLP

By: 

ANNE MARIE MURPHY
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs demand trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: May 21, 2020

COTCHETT, PITRE & McCARTHY, LLP

By: 

ANNE MARIE MURPHY
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

Exhibit 1



**Hollywood Premier
Healthcare Center**
5401 Fountain Ave,
Los Angeles, CA 90029
323.465.2106

May 19, 2020

To Our Residents and Family Members:

We want to inform you that at **Hollywood Premier Healthcare Center**, we have 87 confirmed cases of COVID-19. (Please note that Hollywood Premier has been designated as a Dedicated Covid-19 Facility by the Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Health and is currently only accepting confirmed Covid-19 patients).

The safety and wellbeing of our residents is our top priority. We are doing what we can to limit the spread of COVID-19 within **Hollywood Premier Healthcare Center**, including staying in very close communication with local and state health officials to ensure we are taking all the appropriate steps under current circumstances.

We are taking steps based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19, such as:

- Enhanced infection control precautions
- Screening residents, staff, and essential visitors for an expanded list of symptoms
- Restricting visitation and entry of people to the building
- Testing staff and residents for COVID-19 based on current protocols and availability of tests
- Postponing communal activities

Due to government privacy requirements, we cannot divulge specific information about the individuals who have confirmed or suspected COVID-19, unless they are your family member and you have the necessary permissions to receive such information.

We know you are concerned about your loved one, but it is crucial that we restrict visitation to reduce the spread of this virus to others. We will contact you directly if your loved one is suspected or diagnosed with COVID-19.

We also understand that connecting with family members is incredibly important to our residents. Family members are encouraged to connect with their loved ones through video chat, calling, texting, or on social media. Hollywood Premier has implemented a Zoom Video Conferencing System that is available for our residents and their loved ones.

We need your help in battling COVID-19. Please visit the CDC website (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) to learn how you can help prevent the spread in our community, since continued spread in the larger community increases the chance the virus will work its way into our building.

This is a difficult time for everyone. We will continue to provide you with updates. Please know that we are adhering to guidelines from the local and state health departments, which continue to evolve as we learn more about this virus.

We know that you may have questions and we encourage you to contact our center. Please call us at **323-465-2106**, email us at socialservices@serranopostacute.com, or visit our website for updates on the status of your loved one.

Sincerely, **Hollywood Premier Healthcare Center**



**Hollywood Premier
Healthcare Center**
5401 Fountain Ave,
Los Angeles, CA 90029
323.465.2106

May 14, 2020

To Our Residents and Family Members:

We want to inform you that at **Hollywood Premier Healthcare Center**, we have 81 confirmed cases of COVID-19. (Please note that Hollywood Premier has been designated as a Dedicated Covid-19 Facility by the Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Health and is currently only accepting confirmed Covid-19 patients).

The safety and wellbeing of our residents is our top priority. We are doing what we can to limit the spread of COVID-19 within **Hollywood Premier Healthcare Center**, including staying in very close communication with local and state health officials to ensure we are taking all the appropriate steps under current circumstances.

We are taking steps based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to reduce the spread and impact of COVID-19, such as:

- Enhanced infection control precautions
- Screening residents, staff, and essential visitors for an expanded list of symptoms
- Restricting visitation and entry of people to the building
- Testing staff and residents for COVID-19 based on current protocols and availability of tests
- Postponing communal activities

Due to government privacy requirements, we cannot divulge specific information about the individuals who have confirmed or suspected COVID-19, unless they are your family member and you have the necessary permissions to receive such information.

We know you are concerned about your loved one, but it is crucial that we restrict visitation to reduce the spread of this virus to others. We will contact you directly if your loved one is suspected or diagnosed with COVID-19.

We also understand that connecting with family members is incredibly important to our residents. Family members are encouraged to connect with their loved ones through video chat, calling, texting, or on social media. Hollywood Premier has implemented a Zoom Video Conferencing System that is available for our residents and their loved ones.

We need your help in battling COVID-19. Please visit the CDC website (www.cdc.gov/coronavirus) to learn how you can help prevent the spread in our community, since continued spread in the larger community increases the chance the virus will work its way into our building.

This is a difficult time for everyone. We will continue to provide you with updates. Please know that we are adhering to guidelines from the local and state health departments, which continue to evolve as we learn more about this virus.

We know that you may have questions and we encourage you to contact our center. Please call us at **323-465-2106**, email us at socialservices@serranopostacute.com, or visit our website for updates on the status of your loved one.

Sincerely, **Hollywood Premier Healthcare Center**

Exhibit 2

Registered Envelope Service



Death Certificate amendment

GA

Glen Arnold <garnold@vitalhealthmed.com>

05/06/2020 08:06:43 PM GMT

To: coviddeath@ph.lacounte.gov

CC: garnold@vitalhealthmed.com

Dear Madam. It was brought to our attention the need for a medical amendment to the death certificate of Mr. Vincent Martin (DOB 08/31/1935). After receiving and reviewing laboratory results reported on 04/05/2020 it is pertinent to amend and add COVID-19 as a cause of death. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time if you need any further assistance. Thank you.
Regards;

Glen Arnold
Administrator
Marcel Filart MD
Vital Health Medical Group
1711 W. Tempe St.
Los Angeles CA. 90026
Mobile (323)794-4383
eFax (323)488-9294

Exhibit 3

STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES AND PLAN OF CORRECTION	(X1) PROVIDER / SUPPLIER / CLIA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 056489	(X2) MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION A. BUILDING _____ B. WING _____	(X3) DATE SURVEY COMPLETED 02/25/2019
NAME OF PROVIDER OF SUPPLIER HOLLYWOOD PREMIER HEALTHCARE CENTER		STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP 5401 FOUNTAIN AVE. LOS ANGELES, CA 90029	
For information on the nursing home's plan to correct this deficiency, please contact the nursing home or the state survey agency.			
(X4) ID PREFIX TAG	SUMMARY STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES (EACH DEFICIENCY MUST BE PRECEDED BY FULL REGULATORY OR LSC IDENTIFYING INFORMATION)		
<p>F 0558</p> <p>Level of harm - Minimal harm or potential for actual harm</p> <p>Residents Affected - Few</p>	<p>Reasonably accommodate the needs and preferences of each resident. **NOTE- TERMS IN BRACKETS HAVE BEEN EDITED TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIALITY** Based on observation, interview, and record review, the facility failed to accommodate the needs of two of 18 sampled residents (Resident 24 and 19). a. For Resident 24, the facility failed to ensure the resident's wheelchair was able to fit through the activities room doors for the resident to attend the group activities in the activities room. This deficient practice resulted in the resident feeling bored not being able to participate in the activities and socialize with other residents. b. For Resident 19, the facility failed to place the resident's call light within the resident's reach. As a result, the resident was not able to reach the call light when the resident required assistance from the staff. Findings: a. A review of Resident 24's Admission Record indicated the resident was admitted to the facility on [DATE] and was readmitted on [DATE]. Resident 24's [DIAGNOSES REDACTED]. A review of the Minimum Data Set (MDS- a standardized assessment and care planning tool) dated 12/12/18, indicated that Resident 24 had no cognitive impairment (the mental action or process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and the senses) and required extensive assistance with one-person assist from staff for bed mobility, toilet use, personal hygiene and dressing. On 2/19/19, at 3:31 p.m., during an observation and a concurrent interview, Resident 24 was in a wheelchair, outside the activities room. Resident 24 was looking into the activities room through the open door. Resident 24 stated, she would like to participate in the activities with the other residents. She would like to play bingo, participate in bible study, and socialize with the other residents in the activity room. Resident 24 stated, unfortunately, her wheel chair was too wide and does not fit through the activities room door. Resident 24 stated, the only activities she does was in her room. She attends bible study by sitting in her wheel chair out in the hallway. Resident 24 complained of being bored and usually spends her time in the wheelchair in the hallway. On 2/25/19, at 9:30 a.m., during an interview, the Activities Director (AD) stated, Resident 24 used to attend the activities in the activities room every day. However, the resident was provided with a new wheelchair more appropriate to the resident and now the wheelchair is too wide to fit through the door of the activity room. The AD stated, if the resident likes the activities going on in the activities room, she would sit outside by the door. The AD stated, it would be better for the resident to be inside the activities room and be able to actively participate in the activities. The AD stated, Resident 24 liked to socialize with the other residents in the activity room but was unable to now because her wheelchair will not fit through the doors. A review of the facility policy and procedures titled, Quality of Life- Accommodation of Needs, revised 8/2009, indicated in order to accommodate individual needs and preferences, adaptations may be made to the physical environment, including the resident's bedroom and bathroom, as well as the common areas in the facility. b. A review of Resident 19's Admission Records indicated the resident was admitted to the facility on [DATE] and was readmitted on [DATE]. Resident 19's [DIAGNOSES REDACTED]. A review of the MDS dated [DATE], indicated the Resident 19 had mild memory and cognitive impairment and required extensive assistance with one-person assistance for bed mobility, dressing, and eating. The MDS indicated Resident 19 was total dependent on the staff with one-person assistance with transfers, locomotion on the unit- how the resident moves to and returns from off unit locations, toilet use, and personal hygiene. A review of Resident 19's Care Plan, dated 10/23/18, indicated the resident was at high risk for falls. Proposed interventions included to be sure the resident's call light was within reach and to encourage the resident to use it for assistance as needed. On 2/19/19, at 3:20 p.m., during an observation and concurrent interview, Resident 19 was heard yelling help, help me, from his room. There was no staff present in the area at the time. Upon entering the resident's room, Resident 19 was observed lying in bed with bilateral side rails up. Resident 19's call light cord was observed wrap around the right side rail. Resident 19 was unable to reach the call light. Resident 19 stated, he was unable to reach the call light control. On 2/19/19, at 3:25 p.m., during an observation and concurrent interview, Registered Nurse 3 (RN 3) stated, the call light was too far away from the resident and the resident could not reach it. RN 3 stated, the call light should be within the resident's reach. It was important that the resident could reach it in case of an emergency or when the resident needed help. A review of the facility policy and procedures titled, Answering the Call Light, revised 10/2010, indicated that when a resident is in bed or confined to a chair, to be sure the call light was within easy reach of the resident.</p>		
<p>F 0604</p> <p>Level of harm - Minimal harm or potential for actual harm</p> <p>Residents Affected - Few</p>	<p>Ensure that each resident is free from the use of physical restraints, unless needed for medical treatment. **NOTE- TERMS IN BRACKETS HAVE BEEN EDITED TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIALITY** Based on observation, interview, and record review, for one of three sampled residents (Resident 61) with physical restraint (any manual method, physical or mechanical device, equipment, or material that is attached or adjacent to the resident's body, cannot be removed easily by the resident and restricts the resident's freedom of movement or normal access to his/her body) in a total resident sample of 18, the facility failed to ensure the resident attained and maintained his highest practicable well-being in an environment that prohibits the use of physical restraints to unnecessarily inhibit a resident's freedom of movement or activity. This deficient practice has the potential for the resident declining in physical functioning, injury from attempts to free himself from the restraint and accidents such as falls, strangulation or entrapment. Findings: A review of Resident 61's Admission Record indicated Resident 61 was admitted on [DATE]. Resident 61's [DIAGNOSES REDACTED]. to perform everyday activities) without behavioral disturbance. A review of Resident 61's Minimum Data Set (a standardized, primary screening and assessment tool of health status which forms the foundation of the comprehensive assessment for all residents of long term care facilities) dated 1/31/19, indicated Resident 61 was moderately cognitively impaired (the mental action or process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and the senses) and used a trunk restraint daily. A review of Resident 61's physician's orders [REDACTED]. A review of Resident 61's care plan dated did not include any care plan regarding the alternative methods used before put</p>		

LABORATORY DIRECTOR'S OR PROVIDER/SUPPLIER REPRESENTATIVE'S SIGNATURE	TITLE	(X6) DATE

Any deficiency statement ending with an asterisk (*) denotes a deficiency which the institution may be excused from correcting providing it is determined that other safeguards provide sufficient protection to the patients. (See instructions.) Except for nursing homes, the findings stated above are disclosable 90 days following the date of survey whether or not a plan of correction is provided. For nursing homes, the above findings and plans of correction are disclosable 14 days following the date these documents are made available to the facility. If deficiencies are cited, an approved plan of correction is requisite to continued program participation.

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F 0604 Level of harm - Minimal harm or potential for actual harm Residents Affected - Few	<p>(continued... from page 1) the resident on physical restraint. On 2/25/19, at 1:02 p.m., during an observation and concurrent interview, Resident 61 was sitting in a wheelchair with a family member (FAM 1) next to him. FAM 1 stated, Resident 61 used the Posey belt restraint whenever up in a chair, when FAM 1 was not present. FAM 1 stated, the resident sometimes slipped to ground even with the Posey belt was on him. A review of Resident 61's progress notes dated from 7/13/18 to 8/17/18, no documentation was found that indicated the facility tried to use less restrictive methods before using the Posey belt restraint. During an interview on 2/25/18, at 1:02 p.m., Registered Nurse 1 (RN 1) stated, the Posey belt restraint was applied to Resident 61 when he was up in the chair or out of bed. RN 1 confirmed, there was no documentation in progress notes that less restrictive alternative methods were attempted before the Posey belt restraint was ordered.</p>		
F 0641 Level of harm - Potential for minimal harm Residents Affected - Some	<p>Ensure each resident receives an accurate assessment. **NOTE- TERMS IN BRACKETS HAVE BEEN EDITED TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIALITY** Based on observation, interview, and record review, the facility failed to ensure the accuracy of the Minimum Data Set (MDS), a comprehensive health status assessment tool, for one of 18 sampled residents (Resident 73). This deficient practice had the potential to result in inappropriate billing and quality of care deficiencies. Findings: A review of Resident 73's Admission Record indicated the resident was admitted on [DATE], with [DIAGNOSES REDACTED]. A review of Resident 73's physician's orders [REDACTED]. On 2/21/19, at 9:46 a.m., during an observation and concurrent interview, Resident 73 was in bed and had an open hole at the front of the neck covered with a loose gauze. Resident 73 stated, it was a [MEDICAL CONDITION]. A review of Resident 73's MDS dated [DATE], did not indicate that the resident had a [MEDICAL CONDITION]. During an interview, on 2/25/19, at 1:38 p.m., Registered Nurse 2/MDS Nurse stated, she did not accurately code Resident 73's [MEDICAL CONDITION] status on the MDS.</p>		
F 0656 Level of harm - Minimal harm or potential for actual harm Residents Affected - Few	<p>Develop and implement a complete care plan that meets all the resident's needs, with timetables and actions that can be measured. **NOTE- TERMS IN BRACKETS HAVE BEEN EDITED TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIALITY** Based on observation, interview, and record review, the facility failed to ensure a specific care plan was developed and implemented for two (Resident 34 and 67) of 18 sampled residents. a. For Resident 34, facility failed to develop a care plan specific for the risk of entrapment related to the use of bed side rails. This deficient practice had the potential risk for the resident to get caught between the mattress and side rails or in the side rail itself. b. For Resident 67, facility failed to develop a care plan for the resident's behavior of constantly worrying about his personal items being taken away from him and getting lost. This deficient practice had the potential risk for resident's health and well being to decline. Findings: a. A review of Resident 34's Admission Record indicated the resident was originally admitted to the facility on [DATE] and readmitted on [DATE], with [DIAGNOSES REDACTED], enough blood) affecting the right dominant side. A review of Resident 34's Minimum Data Set (MDS, a standardized assessment and care screening tool), dated 1/1/18, indicated Resident 34 had the ability to make self understood and understand others. The MDS further indicated, Resident 34 was totally dependent on staff for transfer to and from bed, eating, toilet use, personal hygiene, and bathing, and required extensive assistance from staff for dressing and bed mobility. A review of the summary of Resident 34's physician's orders indicated an order, dated 2/24/18, to apply on the right side full side rail and the left side 1/2 side rail on resident's bed for mobility and poor safety awareness. During an observation, on 2/25/19, at 11:35 a.m., Resident 34 was observed laying in bed with 1/2 side rail up on the left side of his bed. A review of a care plan for Resident 34, dated 6/30/17, for complications related to the use of the side rails, indicated goal was for resident to remain free of injury, falls, or accidents, and for resident to remain free of complications related to the use of the side rails. The list of interventions, however, did not include assessment of the resident for the risk of entrapment related to the use of the side rails. A review of another care plan for the use of side rails for Resident 34, dated 2/24/18, indicated goal was to prevent decrease functioning and immobility, and reduce risk for development of skin alteration. The interventions listed, however, did not include assessment of the resident for the risk of entrapment. During an interview and concurrent record review, on 2/25/19, at 2:09 p.m., the Director of Nurses (DON) confirmed, the side rail assessment does not include assessment for the risk of entrapment and that the care plans does not address the risk for entrapment. The DON stated, the facility does not have an assessment specifically for the risk of entrapment for the use of the side rail. A review of the facility policy and procedure, revised 10/2010, titled, Proper Use of Side Rails, indicated: The purpose of the guideline was to ensure the safe use of side rails. The policy indicated that an assessment will be made to determine the resident's symptoms and reason for using the side rails. The policy, however, did not indicate that the risk for entrapment will be include in the assessment and a care plan will be developed as a result of this assessment. b. A review of the Admission Record indicated Resident 67 was admitted to the facility on [DATE], with [DIAGNOSES REDACTED]. A review of Resident 67's MDS dated [DATE], indicated resident had the ability to make self understood and understand others. The MDS further indicated that Resident 67 required limited assistance from staff for most of his activities for daily living (bed mobility; transfer to and from bed; locomotion on and off the unit; and personal hygiene), and extensive staff assistance for dressing, toilet use, and bathing. During an interview, on 2/21/19, at 1:24 p.m., Resident 67 stated, he felt the staff are taking his stuff, his paperwork, and sometimes clothing. He stated, sometimes he does not want to leave the room and keeps telling the staff that he is missing items. But no one pays attention to him. He further stated, he does not like it because his things are important to him. During an interview, on 2/21/19, at 2:11 p.m., the Social Services Designee (SSD) stated, Resident 67 was afraid about someone taking his belongings. She stated Resident 67 does not want to leave his room and sometimes refuses to be washed due to his fear. She stated he claimed he was missing items but nothing specific, he just said that someone took his things. The SSD further stated, the issue with missing items was not care planned. The SSD stated, it should have been care planned that he was fabricating that he was missing clothes. The SSD stated, it was important so staff will know what to do, just in case something like this happens again. During an interview, on 2/21/19, at 2:55 p.m., the Registered Nursing Supervisor (RN 1) stated, Resident 67 was paranoid of them touching his clothes. RN 1 stated, the resident does not want them to touch anything because he was paranoid of his belongings being lost. RN 1 stated, Resident 67 gets upset and thinks everyone was taking his items/things from him. RN 1 further stated, the paranoid behavior should have been addressed and care planned in order for the staff to address the issue with possible interventions and monitor him and other interventions to address his issues, like no-one will touch his belongings. A review of the documented care plans for Resident 67, no care plan had been developed for the resident's behavior of constantly worrying about his personal items being taken away from him and getting lost.</p>		
F 0675 Level of harm - Minimal harm or potential for actual harm Residents Affected - Few	<p>Honor each resident's preferences, choices, values and beliefs. **NOTE- TERMS IN BRACKETS HAVE BEEN EDITED TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIALITY** Based on observation, interview, and record review, the facility failed to provide the necessary care and services for one of 18 sampled resident (Resident 67). Resident 67 was wearing a pair of eyeglasses that was broken and not in good repair. This had the potential for resident's physical and psychosocial well being to decline. Findings:</p>		

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F 0675 Level of harm - Minimal harm or potential for actual harm Residents Affected - Few	<p>(continued... from page 2)</p> <p>A review of the Admission Record indicated Resident 67 was admitted to the facility on [DATE], with [DIAGNOSES REDACTED]. A review of Resident 67's Minimum Data Set (MDS, a standardized assessment and care screening tool), dated 1/24/19, indicated resident had the ability to make self understood and understand others. The MDS further indicated that Resident 67 required limited assistance from staff for most of his activities for daily living (bed mobility; transfer to and from bed; locomotion on and off the unit; and personal hygiene), and extensive staff assistance for dressing, toilet use, and bathing.</p> <p>During an observation and concurrent interview, on 2/21/19, at 1:24 p.m., Resident 67 was observed wearing eyeglasses that were broken. The frame of the eyeglasses had a transparent tape on the right side and a duct tape (gray industrial tape) on the left side. The eyeglass lenses were angled towards the resident's eyes. Resident 67 stated, My eyeglasses had been like this for a while. They gave me some eyeglasses, but they are not mine. I have to walk around with tape on my broken eyeglasses. I don't like it and makes me feel shy, you know.</p> <p>During an interview, on 2/21/19, at 2:11 p.m., the Social Services Designee (SSD) stated, the resident has an appointment with an optometrist but did not document it.</p> <p>A review of the facility policy and procedure, revised 8/2009, titled, Quality of Life-Accommodation of Needs, indicated, the staff shall help to keep hearing aids, glasses and other adaptive devices clean and in working order for the resident.</p>		
F 0692 Level of harm - Minimal harm or potential for actual harm Residents Affected - Few	<p>Provide enough food/fluids to maintain a resident's health.</p> <p>**NOTE- TERMS IN BRACKETS HAVE BEEN EDITED TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIALITY**</p> <p>Based on observation, interview, and record review, the facility failed to follow the resident's food preference and did not follow the facility policy to place a diet card on each tray for one of 18 sampled residents (Resident 71). This deficient practice had the potential for the resident not to maintain sufficient intake for proper hydration.</p> <p>Findings:</p> <p>A review of Resident 71's Admission Record indicated the resident was admitted on [DATE], with [DIAGNOSES REDACTED]. A review of Resident 71's Minimum Data Set (MDS, a standardized assessment and care screening tool), dated 12/14/18, indicated the resident had clear speech, can make herself understood and understood others, and was cognitively intact (the mental action or process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and the senses).</p> <p>During an observation and concurrent interview, on 2/20/19, at 10:03 a.m., a breakfast tray was observed in Resident 71's room. The tray had no diet card and the tray had scrambled eggs, two pieces of bread, a glass of juice and a glass of milk. The food on the tray was untouched. Resident 71 stated, she does not like the breakfast food, especially eggs. She had asked for a fruit plate for breakfast but never received it. Resident 71 stated, she had talked to the nurse a few times but nobody took care of it. Licensed Vocational Nurse 2 (LVN) 2 stated, normally the certified nurse assistants (CNAs) passes the trays and collects the trays after meals. LVN 2 confirmed, that there was no diet card on Resident 71's breakfast tray. LVN 2 stated, there should be a diet card on every tray.</p> <p>During an observation and a concurrent interview on 2/20/19, at 12:45 p.m., Resident 71's lunch tray included a chicken sandwich with cheese, cottage cheese, and a green salad. Resident 71 stated, she does not like cheese. Resident 71's diet card on the tray indicated, no pork, beef, rice, potatoes and cheese. LVN 1 confirmed Resident 71's lunch tray had cottage cheese and slices of cheese inside the sandwich.</p> <p>During an interview, on 2/25/19, at 12:16 p.m., the Dietary Supervisor (DS) stated, the facility uses a diet communicate form. When the resident requested a diet preference change, then we prepared the meal according to the request form and reflect the preference on the diet card. The DS stated, every tray should have a diet card.</p> <p>A review of the facility policy and procedure titled, Tray Identification, dated 1/10/19, indicated, use the diet card to assist in setting up and serving correct food trays/diets to residents, the food service manager or supervisor will check trays for correct diets before the food carts are transported to their designated area and nursing staff shall check each tray for the correct diet before serving the residents.</p>		
F 0693 Level of harm - Minimal harm or potential for actual harm Residents Affected - Few	<p>Ensure that feeding tubes are not used unless there is a medical reason and the resident agrees; and provide appropriate care for a resident with a feeding tube.</p> <p>**NOTE- TERMS IN BRACKETS HAVE BEEN EDITED TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIALITY**</p> <p>Based on observation, interview, and record review, the facility failed to ensure one of two sampled residents (Resident 50) with a gastrostomy tube (G tube-tube surgically inserted into the stomach for administration of nutrients and medications) in a total resident sample of 18, received appropriate treatment and services to ensure adequate intake and aspiration pneumonia (a condition in which food, liquids, saliva, or vomit is breathed into the airway causing an infection in the lungs). Resident 50 head of the bed was not properly elevated to prevent the development of aspiration pneumonia. The staff was unable to determine how long the tube feeding had been running the amount of tube feeding the resident had. These deficient practices had the potential for the Resident 50 not receiving the ordered amount of nutrients and the potential for developing aspiration pneumonia.</p> <p>Findings:</p> <p>A review of Resident 50's Admission Record indicated that the resident was readmitted on [DATE], with [DIAGNOSES REDACTED].</p> <p>A review of Resident 50's physician order dated 5/16/18, indicated:</p> <p>a. Enteral (refers to any method of feeding that uses the gastrointestinal (GI) tract to deliver part or all of a person's caloric requirements) feed order: Fibersource HN (type of feeding formula) at 65 milliliters (ml)/hour (hr) for 20 hrs to provide 1300 ml/1560 kilocalories via feeding pump.</p> <p>b. Enteral feed order: Every shift elevate head of the bed (HOB) 30-45 degrees at all times.</p> <p>A review of Resident 50's care plan dated 5/16/18, indicated: elevate head of bed 30-45 degrees.</p> <p>During an observation and a concurrent interview on 2/22/19, at 9:02 a.m., Resident 50 was observed lying flat in bed. The enteral feeding pump was running at 65 ml/hr with Fibersource HN, which was dated 2/22/19, at 5 a.m. Licensed Vocational Nurse 3 (LVN 3) stated, the pump showed total volume administered was 519 ml. LVN 3 stated, she did not know what that number meant and did not know when the feeding started. LVN 3 stated, whoever set up the pump will set the total amount of feeding according to physician order and when the pump hits the set up limit, it will stop. LVN 3 stated there was no documentation of the start time for the 519 ml began to infuse or how much was administered during each shift. LVN 3 elevated the head of bed for Resident 50. LVN 3 stated, the head of bed should be elevated all the time when tube feeding was on for aspiration precaution. RN 1 stated that the person changing feeding bag should be the one document the amount of enteral feeding given to the resident.</p> <p>During an interview on 2/22/19, at 2:07 p.m., Registered Nurse 1 (RN 1) confirmed nothing was documented in Resident 50's progress notes or Medication Administration Record [REDACTED]. RN 1 stated, the person changing feeding bag should document the amount of enteral feeding given to the resident.</p> <p>RN 1 stated, the head of bed should always be elevated when the resident feeding is on.</p> <p>A review of the facility policy and procedure titled, Enteral Tube Feeding via Continuous Pump, dated 1/10/19, indicated: Position the head of the bed at 30-45 degrees for feeding and the person performing the tube feeding should record information in the resident's medical record amount and types of enteral feeding.</p>		
F 0700 Level of harm - Minimal harm or potential for actual harm Residents Affected - Few	<p>Try different approaches before using a bed rail. If a bed rail is needed, the facility must (1) assess a resident for safety risk; (2) review these risks and benefits with the resident/representative; (3) get informed consent; and (4) Correctly install and maintain the bed rail.</p> <p>**NOTE- TERMS IN BRACKETS HAVE BEEN EDITED TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIALITY**</p> <p>Based on observation, interview, and record review, the facility failed to ensure one of two sampled residents (Resident 34)</p>		

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<p>F 0700</p> <p>Level of harm - Minimal harm or potential for actual harm</p> <p>Residents Affected - Few</p>	<p>(continued... from page 3)</p> <p>reviewed for the use of bed rails (side rails) in a total resident sample of 18, were assessed for the risk of entrapment. Resident 34 was not assessed for the risk of entrapment before using the side rails. This deficient practice had the potential risk for these residents to get caught between the mattress and side rails or in the side rail itself.</p> <p>Findings:</p> <p>A review of Resident 34's Admission Record indicated the resident was originally admitted to the facility on [DATE] and readmitted on [DATE], with [DIAGNOSES REDACTED], enough blood affecting the right dominant side.</p> <p>A review of Resident 34's Minimum Data Set (MDS, a standardized assessment and care screening tool), dated 1/1/18, indicated resident had the ability to make self understood and understand others. The MDS further indicated that Resident 34 was totally dependent on staff for transfer to and from bed, eating, toilet use, personal hygiene, and bathing, and required extensive assistance from staff for dressing and bed mobility.</p> <p>A review of the summary of Resident 34's physician's orders indicated an order, dated 2/24/18, to apply on the right side full side rail and the left side 1/2 side rail on resident's bed for mobility and poor safety awareness.</p> <p>During an observation, on 2/25/19, at 11:35 a.m., Resident 34 was observed laying in bed with 1/2 side rail up on the left side of his bed.</p> <p>A review of a care plan for Resident 34, dated 6/30/17, for complications related to the use of the side rails, indicated goal was for resident to remain free of injury, falls, or accidents, and for resident to remain free of complications related to the use of the side rails. The list of interventions, however, did not include assessment of the resident for the risk of entrapment related to the use of the side rails.</p> <p>A review of another care plan for the use of side rails for Resident 34, dated 2/24/18, indicated goal was to prevent decrease functioning and immobility, and reduce risk for development of skin alteration. The interventions listed, however, did not include assessment of the resident for the risk of entrapment.</p> <p>A review of Resident 34's initial assessment for the use of the side rails, dated 2/24/18, does not indicate that the resident was assessed for the risk of entrapment.</p> <p>During an interview and concurrent record review, on 2/25/19, at 2:09 p.m., the Director of Nurses (DON) confirmed, the side rail assessment does not include assessment for the risk of entrapment and that the care plans does not address the risk for entrapment. The DON stated, that they don't have an assessment specifically for the risk of entrapment for the use of the side rail.</p> <p>A review of the facility policy and procedure, revised on 10/2010, for the use of side rails indicated that the purpose of the guideline was to ensure the safe use of side rails. The policy indicated that an assessment will be made to determine the resident's symptoms and reason for using the side rails. The policy, however, did not indicate that the risk for entrapment will be included in the assessment.</p>		
<p>F 0732</p> <p>Level of harm - Potential for minimal harm</p> <p>Residents Affected - Some</p>	<p>Post nurse staffing information every day.</p> <p>Based on observation, interview, and record review, the facility failed to ensure the Daily Staffing was posted and readily available to residents and visitors at any given time.</p> <p>This deficient practice failed to make the Daily Staffing readily available to residents and visitors.</p> <p>Findings:</p> <p>On 2/25/19, at 10:02 a.m., during an observation and concurrent interview, the Daily Staffing Posting could not be located in a prominent place, such as the main entrance to the facility or the hallways by Nurses Station 1 and 2. Registered Nurse 1 (RN 1) stated, the Daily Staffing Posting was located in a three ring binder among other folders on the counter of Nursing Station 1. According to RN 1, the Daily Staffing binder used to be posted by the wall on the hallway by Nursing Station 1 but the place/stand where it was located broke and now it is kept by the counter on Nurses Station 1.</p> <p>On 2/25/18, at 11 a.m., during an interview, the Director of Nursing (DON) stated, the Daily Staffing should be posted on the wall of the main hallway to be seen by everyone, residents and visitors.</p>		
<p>F 0865</p> <p>Level of harm - Minimal harm or potential for actual harm</p> <p>Residents Affected - Few</p>	<p>Have a plan that describes the process for conducting QAPI and QAA activities.</p> <p>Based on interview and record review, the facility failed to evaluate the effectiveness of its quality assurance and performance improvement (QAPI) program per the facility policy and procedures.</p> <p>This deficient practice prevents quality care improvement based on QAPI Program performance evaluation.</p> <p>Findings:</p> <p>On 2/25/19, at 3:04 p.m., during a review of the facility QAPI plan and concurrent interview, the Administrator (ADM) stated, the performance of the QAPI plan was not evaluated yet. According to ADM, it was important to do it because it will aid in quality care improvements based on QAPI performance. According to the ADM if evaluated, the quality of care at the facility will improve.</p> <p>A review of the facility policy and procedures titled, Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI) Plan, revised 4/2014, indicated that the facility shall evaluate the effectiveness of its QAPI Program at least annually and shall present their conclusions to the owner/governing board for review.</p>		
<p>F 0880</p> <p>Level of harm - Minimal harm or potential for actual harm</p> <p>Residents Affected - Few</p>	<p>Provide and implement an infection prevention and control program.</p> <p>**NOTE- TERMS IN BRACKETS HAVE BEEN EDITED TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIALITY**</p> <p>Based on observation, interview, and record review, the facility failed to ensure the infection control protocol was followed for two of 18 sampled residents (Residents 79 and 55).</p> <p>a. For Resident 79, the facility failed to ensure used resident equipment was removed and cleaned. This deficient practice had the potential to spread infection and transmission of communicable diseases.</p> <p>b. For Resident 55, the facility failed to label the oxygen tubing (a plastic flexible tubing that delivers oxygen) with the resident's name and date. This deficient practice had the potential to result in an infection to the resident.</p> <p>Findings:</p> <p>a. A review of Resident 79's Admission Record indicated the resident was re-admitted on [DATE], with [DIAGNOSES REDACTED].</p> <p>A review of Resident 79's physician's orders dated 2/17/19, indicated contact isolation (used for infections, diseases, or germs that are spread by touching the resident or items in the room, wear a gown and gloves while in the resident's room) for seven days to positive result of extended spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL a type of enzyme or chemical produced by some bacteria, which cause some antibiotics not to work) in urine.</p> <p>During an observation, on 2/22/19, at 3:09 p.m., Resident 79 was on contact isolation and shared the room with other three non isolation residents, and shared the privacy curtain with one resident.</p> <p>During an interview, on 2/25/19, at 10:35 a.m., the Maintenance Supervisor (MS) stated, if a resident was on isolation, the curtain will be washed every day. The MS stated, the facility did not have written documentation that the isolation curtain was washed daily.</p> <p>A review of the facility log for cleaning of the privacy curtains for 2/2019 did not indicate Resident 79's privacy curtain was removed and washed every day or right after isolation status discontinued on 2/23/19.</p> <p>A review of the facility maintenance log did not indicate Resident 79's privacy curtain was removed and washed during the time period that the resident was on isolation.</p> <p>A review of the facility policy and procedure titled, Laundry, revised 1/10/19, indicated resident privacy curtains are laundered every six months or more frequently as necessary.</p> <p>A review of the facility policy and procedure titled, Isolation-Categories of Transmission-Based Precautions, revised 1/10/19, indicated: if the use of common items was unavoidable, then adequately clean and disinfect them before use for another resident.</p> <p>b. A review of Resident 55's Admission Record indicated the resident was admitted to the facility on [DATE] and was readmitted on [DATE]. Resident 55's [DIAGNOSES REDACTED].</p> <p>A review of Resident 55's Minimum Data Set (MDS-a standardized assessment and care planning tool) dated 2/14/19, indicated that Resident 55 was cognitively intact (the mental action or process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience, and the senses) and required extensive staff assistance with one-person assist from staff for bed</p>		

STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES AND PLAN OF CORRECTION	(X1) PROVIDER / SUPPLIER / CLIA IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 056489	(X2) MULTIPLE CONSTRUCTION A. BUILDING _____ B. WING _____	(X3) DATE SURVEY COMPLETED 02/25/2019
NAME OF PROVIDER OF SUPPLIER HOLLYWOOD PREMIER HEALTHCARE CENTER		STREET ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP 5401 FOUNTAIN AVE. LOS ANGELES, CA 90029	
For information on the nursing home's plan to correct this deficiency, please contact the nursing home or the state survey agency.			
(X4) ID PREFIX TAG	SUMMARY STATEMENT OF DEFICIENCIES (EACH DEFICIENCY MUST BE PRECEDED BY FULL REGULATORY OR LSC IDENTIFYING INFORMATION)		
<p>F 0880</p> <p>Level of harm - Minimal harm or potential for actual harm</p> <p>Residents Affected - Few</p>	<p>(continued... from page 4) mobility, toilet use, personal hygiene and dressing. A review of Resident 55's Care Plan, dated 10/12/18, indicated the resident had [MEDICAL CONDITION]. Proposed interventions included to administer oxygen via a nasal cannula (NC-tubing which delivers oxygen into the nostrils) at three liters per minute as needed for shortness of breath. On 2/19/19, at 3:35 p.m., during an observation and concurrent interview, Resident 55 was in resting in bed. Resident 55 stated, she wanted to use her oxygen. Licensed Vocational Nurse 3 (LVN 3) assisted the resident. Resident 55's oxygen tubing was observed with no label indicated who the tubing belonged to or when it was applied. LVN 3 verified that the oxygen tubing/NC were not labeled with the resident's name or date. According to LVN 3, the N/C tubing should be labeled with the date it was first used to ensure infection prevention. On 2/25/19, at 9:30 a.m., during an interview, the Director of Nursing (DON) stated, the oxygen administration tubing, mask or nasal cannula, and plastic bag was changed every week, every seven days on Sunday. When they get changed, the staff should labeled the oxygen tubing, NC, and the bag containing the tubing, with the resident's name, room number and date.</p>		
<p>F 0911</p> <p>Level of harm - Potential for minimal harm</p> <p>Residents Affected - Some</p>	<p>Ensure resident rooms hold no more than 4 residents; for new construction after November 28, 2016, rooms hold no more than 2 residents. **NOTE- TERMS IN BRACKETS HAVE BEEN EDITED TO PROTECT CONFIDENTIALITY** Based on observation, interview, and facility record review, the facility failed to ensure that one of 35 resident rooms did not accommodate more than four residents. Findings: During a tour of the facility on 2/19/19, at 2:40 p.m., it was observed that room [ROOM NUMBER] had five residents bed. A review of the facility client accommodation analysis form (a form that contains information about the residents' rooms in the facility) indicated that room [ROOM NUMBER] had five beds with one unoccupied bed, three beds occupied by three non-ambulatory residents, and one bed occupied by an ambulatory resident. The form also indicated that room [ROOM NUMBER] measures 420 square feet (sq ft) equivalent to a space of 84 sq ft for each bed. On 2/21/19, at 11:30 a.m., during an interview and concurrent record review, the Administrator stated, he was submitting a room waiver request for resident room [ROOM NUMBER], which had five resident beds. The room waiver request indicated that the residents needs are accommodated and that there was no adverse effect to the health and safety and welfare of the residents occupying these rooms. During the course of the survey from 2/19/19 to 2/25/19, it was observed that the residents in the facility had no difficulty getting in and out of their rooms. The nursing staff had full access to provide treatment, administer medications, and assist residents to perform their individual routine activities of daily living. The Department was recommend the granting of the room waiver.</p>		

Exhibit 4

LONG ISLAND / SUFFOLK

Court: LI nursing home firm violated anti-human trafficking laws

Bent Philipson, a co-owner of SentosaCare, on March 23, 2007. Credit: Photo by Howard Schnapp

By Yancey Roy

yancey.roy@newsday.com [@yanceyroy](#)

Updated October 2, 2019 7:55 PM

A federal judge has ruled that the owners of a Long Island-based nursing home company violated human trafficking laws by using financial threats to coerce more than 200 overworked and underpaid Filipino nurses to stay on the job.

The nurses said they all were recruited to the United States to take jobs with or through SentosaCare, a nursing home company based in Woodmere, but weren't paid what they were promised and were threatened with substantial financial penalties if they quit.

Such conditions amounted to a "threat of serious financial harm" designed to keep anyone from quitting and, therefore, violated anti-trafficking laws, Judge Nina Gershon of the federal Eastern District of New York ruled on Sept. 24. She determined the owners of Sentosa, Benjamin Landa and Bent Philipson, can be held personally liable for violations of anti-trafficking laws.

An attorney for the defendants said no nurses were threatened or compelled to work and said the ruling will be appealed.

For now, Gershon's decision sets the groundwork for the nurses to pursue a class-action lawsuit. It also marks the latest milestone in a story running more than a decade and including an attempt by then-Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota to charge the nurses with endangering the welfare of children when they quit at two Smithtown facilities.

Eventually, a state court ruled the charges brought by Spota were unconstitutional because they violated the nurses' right to be free from slavery.

The case centers on SentosaCare as well as two other nursing and rehabilitation care companies, and two nurse-recruitment companies. The facilities and firms were involved in recruiting nurses from the Philippines to the United States.

The lawsuit at hand was filed in 2017 by nurse Rose Ann Paguirigan and on behalf of some 200 other nurses. But the tale of legal fights between the nurses and companies goes back even further, as Gershon noted.

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From 2006 to 2008, Sentosa and the other companies filed lawsuits against more than 30 Filipino nurses in attempt to force them to pay a \$25,000 damages penalty inserted in their contracts for quitting, according to Gershon.

In the current legal action, it's the nurses who are suing. They alleged the companies didn't pay them the correct prevailing wage. They also asked the court to declare the damages penalty-unenforceable and, effectively, an illegal tool to keep the nurses bound to their jobs.

Besides SentosaCare, other defendants are Sentosa Nursing Recruitment Agency, Prompt Nursing Employment Agency, Golden Gate Rehabilitation and Health Center in Staten Island and Spring Creek Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Brooklyn.

Paguirigan, according to court records, said in a deposition the penalty is the "reason we were not able to leave or were scared" while working in what she called unsafe and understaffed conditions.

Gershon agreed with the nurses.

"Having viewed the records and considered the parties' arguments, I find on the undisputed facts that defendant Prompt Nursing violated the TVPA," Gershon wrote, referring to the federal Trafficking Victims Protection Act.

"The nurses in this lawsuit were all recent arrivals from the Philippines," Gershon continued. "They were not paid the prevailing wage and a base salary, despite terms of their contracts ... Critically, if (Paguirigan) or any nurse wanted to stop working for the defendants during the first year of the contract, he or she would have to pay \$25,000" as a penalty called "liquidated damages provision."

The judge concluded: "On these undisputed facts, it is apparent Prompt Nursing acted with knowledge and intent that the liquidated damages provision would effectively coerce nurses into continuing work."

Going further, Gershon ruled Landa and Philipson and others violated "conspiracy provisions" of the anti-trafficking act and, therefore, are personally liable.

The judges slated a Nov. 4 conference to address damages.

Elliot Hahn, one of the lawyers for the defendants, called the ruling disappointing. In an email, he said no nurses were threatened or "compelled to work." And he said Gershon looked past "well settled law" in determining the nurses' prevailing wage claims.

"The court's decision may have far reaching unintended consequences throughout the industry, and affecting contracts of all sorts, and would unduly burden both the employers and immigrant employees," Hahn wrote, in part. "Given this uncertainty, we anticipate that some employers may rescind the job offers and decline to execute contracts with the immigrant employees even if the United States government would otherwise grant a visa to the immigrant employees after they waited several years for the visa."

His clients will appeal, Hahn said.

An attorney for the nurses didn't immediately return messages to comment.

By Yancey Roy

yancey.roy@newsday.com @yanceyroy



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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X

ROSE ANN PAGUIRIGAN, individually and
on behalf of all others similarly situated, :

Plaintiff, :

-vs- :

**CLASS ACTION
COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff Demands

A Jury Trial

PROMPT NURSING EMPLOYMENT AGENCY :
LLC d/b/a SENTOSA SERVICES, :
SENTOSACARE LLC, SENTOSA NURSING :
RECRUITMENT AGENCY, BENJAMIN LANDA, :
BENT PHILIPSON, BERISH RUBENSTEIN a/k/a :
BARRY RUBENSTEIN, FRANCIS LUYUN, :
GOLDEN GATE REHABILITATION & HEALTH :
CARE CENTER LLC, and SPRING CREEK :
REHABILITATION AND NURSING CENTER, :

Defendants. :

-----X

Plaintiff ROSE ANN PAGUIRIGAN, by her undersigned attorneys, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, as and for her complaint against the defendants, alleges as follows:

1. This is an action for damages, injunctive relief, declaratory relief, and other remedies for violations of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), 18 U.S.C. § 1589 *et seq.*, and for breach of contract under New York law.

2. Defendants are foreign labor recruiters and nursing home owners who have recruited more than 350 nurses in the Philippines to work for the defendants in this District under contracts of indentured servitude. Once the foreign nurses arrived in the United States, the defendants refused to pay the wages required by their employment contracts. To keep the foreign nurses from leaving, the defendants commenced and threatened to commence baseless civil litigation, professional disciplinary proceedings,

Paguirigan v. Prompt Nursing Empl. Agency LLC

United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York

September 23, 2019, Decided; September 24, 2019, Filed

17-cv-1302 (NG) (JO)

Reporter

2019 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 165587 *; 2019 WL 4647648

ROSE ANN PAGUIRIGAN, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, Plaintiff, - against- PROMPT NURSING EMPLOYMENT AGENCY LLC d/b/a/ SENTOSA SERVICES, SENTOSACARE LLC, SENTOSA NURSING RECRUITMENT AGENCY, BENJAMIN LANDA, BENT PHILIPSON, BERISH RUBENSTEIN a/k/a BARRY RUBENSTEIN, FRANCIS LUYUN, GOLDEN GATE REHABILITATION & HEALTH CARE CENTER LLC, and SPRING CREEK REHABILITATION AND NURSING CENTER, Defendants.

Subsequent History: Appeal filed, 10/23/2019

Reconsideration denied by Paguirigan v. Prompt Nursing Empl. Agency LLC, 2020 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 4837 (E.D.N.Y., Jan. 9, 2020)

Certificate of appealability denied Paguirigan v. Prompt Nursing Empl. Agency LLC, 2020 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 4838 (E.D.N.Y., Jan. 9, 2020)

Prior History: Paguirigan v. Prompt Nursing Empl. Agency LLC, 286 F. Supp. 3d 430, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 218523 (E.D.N.Y., Dec. 20, 2017)

Case Summary

Overview

HOLDINGS: [1]-Plaintiff nurse met the elements for her breach of contract claim because she proved that a contract existed between her and defendant nursing agency, that she performed under the contract, that the nursing agency breached the contract by failing to pay her the prevailing wage as of her Commencement Date and by failing to pay her a base salary, and that she was damaged; [2]-The liquidated damages provision in the contract was a penalty because it required plaintiff to submit a confession of judgment, for an amount of \$25,000 if she quit in her first year, that would be held by defendants during her employment term, and could be filed in the event that the nurse terminated her contract early, thereby intending to operate as a means to compel performance, ensuring that the nurse and other nurses did not resign prior to the end of their contract terms.

Outcome

Summary judgment granted in part. Plaintiffs' requested declaratory and injunctive relief granted.



Neutral

As of: May 11, 2020 5:05 PM Z

Paguirigan v. Prompt Nursing Empl. Agency LLC

United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York

January 9, 2020, Decided; January 9, 2020, Filed

17-cv-1302 (NG) (JO)

Reporter

2020 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 4837 *; 2020 WL 122704

ROSE ANN PAGUIRIGAN, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, Plaintiff, - against - PROMPT NURSING EMPLOYMENT AGENCY LLC d/b/a/ SENTOSA SERVICES, SENTOSACARE LLC, SENTOSA NURSING RECRUITMENT AGENCY, BENJAMIN LANDA, BENT PHILIPSON, BERISH RUBENSTEIN a/k/a BARRY RUBENSTEIN, FRANCIS LUYUN, GOLDEN GATE REHABILITATION & HEALTH CARE CENTER LLC, and SPRING CREEK REHABILITATION AND NURSING CENTER, Defendants.

Prior History: *Paguirigan v. Prompt Nursing Empl. Agency LLC*, 2019 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 165587 (E.D.N.Y., Sept. 23, 2019)

Counsel: [*1] For Rose Paguirigan, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, Plaintiff: Leandro Bolesa Lachica, Howley Law Firm, New York, NY; John J.P. Howley, Law Offices of John Howley, New York, NY.

For Prompt Nursing Employment Agency LLC, doing business as, Sentosa Services, Sentosacare, LLC, Sentosa Nursing Recruitment Agency, Mr. Benjamin Landa, Bent Philipson, Berish Rubenstein, also known as, Barry Rubenstein,

Francis Luyun, Golden Gate Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, LLC, Spring Creek Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Defendants: Elliot Hahn, LEAD ATTORNEY, Hahn Eisenberger PLLC, Brooklyn, NY; Sheldon Eisenberger, LEAD ATTORNEY, Alan M. Pollack, Robinson Brog Leinwand Greene Genovese & Gluck PC, New York, NY; Seth Eisenberger, Law Office of Seth Eisenberger, Brooklyn, NY.

For Mr. Benjamin Landa, Golden Gate Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, LLC, Bent Philipson, Spring Creek Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Prompt Nursing Employment Agency LLC, Berish Rubenstein, Sentosacare, LLC, Francis Luyun, Sentosa Nursing Recruitment Agency, Counter Claimants: Elliot Hahn, LEAD ATTORNEY, Hahn Eisenberger PLLC, Brooklyn, NY; Sheldon Eisenberger, LEAD ATTORNEY, Alan M. [*2] Pollack, Robinson Brog Leinwand Greene Genovese & Gluck PC, New York, NY; Seth Eisenberger, Law Office of Seth Eisenberger, Brooklyn, NY.

For Rose Paguirigan, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, Counter Defendant: Leandro Bolesa Lachica, Howley Law Firm, New York, NY; John J.P. Howley, Law Offices of John Howley, New York, NY.

Exhibit 5



THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
CENTRAL DISTRICT *of* CALIFORNIA

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Department of Justice

U.S. Attorney's Office

Central District of California

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, June 28, 2017

Los Angeles Hospital Agrees To Pay \$42 Million to Settle Allegations Arising From Improper Financial Arrangements with Physicians

LOS ANGELES – The owners of Pacific Alliance Medical Center, an acute care hospital located in the Chinatown District of Los Angeles, have agreed to pay \$42 million to settle allegations that they were involved in improper financial relationships with referring physicians, the Justice Department announced today.

PAMC, Ltd. and Pacific Alliance Medical Center Inc., the owners of the hospital, agreed to pay the settlement to resolve a lawsuit that alleged they had violated the False Claims Act by submitting false claims to the Medicare and MediCal programs.

The settlement, which was finalized this week, calls for PAMC Ltd. and Pacific Alliance Medical Center Inc. to pay \$31.9 million to the United States and \$10 million to the State of California.

The settlement resolves allegations brought in a “whistleblower” lawsuit that the defendants submitted or caused to be submitted false claims to Medicare and MediCal for services rendered to patients who had been referred by physicians with whom the defendants had improper financial relationships.

These improper relationships took the form of (1) arrangements under which the defendants allegedly paid above-market rates to rent office space in physicians’ offices, and (2) marketing arrangements that allegedly provided undue benefit to physicians’ practices.

The lawsuit alleged that these relationships violated the Anti-Kickback Statute and the Stark Law, both of which restrict the financial relationships that hospitals may have with doctors who refer patients to them.

“Federal law prohibits improper financial relationships between hospitals that receive federal health care funds and medical professionals – this is to protect the doctor-patient relationship and to ensure the quality of care provided,” said Acting United States Attorney Sandra R. Brown. “Patients deserve to know their doctors are making health care decisions based solely on medical need and not for any potential financial benefit.”

The whistleblower lawsuit was filed by Paul Chan, who was employed as a manager by one of the defendants, under the *qui tam* provisions of the False Claims Act. Under the False Claims Act, private citizens can bring suit on behalf of the United States and share in any recovery. The United States may intervene in the lawsuit, or, as in this case, the whistleblower may pursue the action. Mr. Chan will receive over \$9.2 million as his share of the federal recovery.

“This is another example of how the False Claims Act whistleblower provisions can help protect the public fisc,” said Acting Assistant Attorney General Chad A. Readler of the Justice Department’s Civil Division. “This recovery should help to deter other health care providers from entering into improper financial relationships with physicians that can taint the physicians’ medical judgment, to the detriment of patients and taxpayers.”

“This settlement is a warning to health care companies that think they can boost their profits by entering into improper financial arrangements with referring physicians,” said Special Agent in Charge Christian J. Schrank of the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Inspector General (HHS-OIG). “Working with our law enforcement partners, we will continue to crack down on such deals, which work to undermine impartial medical judgement, drive up health care costs, and corrode the public’s trust in the health care system.”

The case, *United States ex rel. Chan v. PAMC, Ltd., et al.*, CV13-4273 (C.D. Cal.), was monitored by the United States Attorney’s Office, the Civil Division’s Commercial Litigation Branch, and HHS-OIG.

The defendants have until July 7 to make the settlement payments.

The claims settled by this agreement are allegations only, and the defendants did not admit liability in settling the action.

Component(s):

USAO - California, Central

Contact:

Thom Mrozek
Spokesperson/Public Affairs Officer
United States Attorney’s Office
Central District of California (Los Angeles)
213-894-6947

Press Release Number:

17-130

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7
8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
9 WESTERN DIVISION

10 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND STATE OF CALIFORNIA,
11 ex rel Paul Chan,

12 Plaintiffs,

13 v.

14 PAMC, LTD.; and PACIFIC
15 ALLIANCE MEDICAL CENTER,
16 INC.,

17 Defendants

CASE NO. 13 cv 04273 - RGK (MRWx)

QUI TAM PLAINTIFF'S
CORRECTED THIRD AMENDED
COMPLAINT

1 *Qui Tam* Plaintiff Paul Chan suing for himself and for the United States and
2 the State of California, alleges as follows¹:

3 **I. INTRODUCTION**

4 1. For years, Defendant PAMC, Ltd. has brazenly violated the Stark
5 Statute and the Anti-Kickback Statute by paying doctors as an inducement to refer
6 patients to PAMC hospital. One referring doctor, who initially balked at a
7 kickback offer which required that he admit 15 - 20 patients per month, stated:
8 “There are Stark laws.” Shortly after the doctor also asked the PAMC’s Interim
9 Vice President of Business Development if she would put the offer in writing, the
10 Interim V.P. of Business Development retorted, *“Fuck that. I’m not putting that*
11 *in writing.”*

12 2. PAMC, Ltd. is a fully integrated healthcare company with different
13 lines of business including not only 1) PAMC hospital, but also 2) a managed care
14 organization, 3) two Independent Practice Associations which contract with
15 independent physicians to provide services to managed care, and 4) a 50%
16 ownership in a health plan specifically for Medi-Cal (California's Medicaid)
17 patients. In the operation of its PAMC hospital business segment, PAMC, Ltd.
18 has knowingly engaged in a pervasive scheme to pay illegal
19 compensation/remuneration to referring physicians in violation of the Stark
20 Statute and the Anti-Kickback Statute, resulting in PAMC's submission of false
21 claims to Medicare and Medi-Cal totaling more than \$15 million per year for at
22 least the past nine years, all of which is within the applicable statute of

23
24
25 ¹Pursuant to the decision of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in *Lacey v.*
26 *Maricopa County*, 693 F.3d 896, 925-928 (2012), claims alleged in the First
27 Amended Complaint that have been dismissed with prejudice and that are not
28 realleged herein are not waived and are preserved for appeal. Those claims
involve allegations as to the liability of Dr. Shin-Yin Wong; Dr. George Ma; Dr.
Tit Li; Dr. Carl Moy; Dr. Thick Gong Chow and Dr. Stephen Kwan.

1 **is determined in a manner that takes into account the volume or value of**
2 **referrals** from the referring physician/clinic each month (violating the Stark
3 Statute), and is made with a purpose of inducing referrals (violating the Anti-
4 Kickback Statute).

5
6 112. One example of a Vendor Marketing Agreement involved a PAMC
7 payment of \$5,000 per month for one of its top referring Medicare doctors: Dr.
8 Marcel Filart. In return, Dr. Filart was supposed to admit 17 patients per month to
9 PAMC. In Dr. Filart's situation, PAMC paid the monthly \$5,000 to a person
10 named Samvel Kostandyna who, on information and belief, is Dr. Filart's father
11 in law. From Relator Paul Chan's discussions with Mr. Kostandyna and his
12 daughter, in which they explained to Mr. Chan that they did not know how to
13 prepare an invoice, it is believed that Mr. Kostandyna does not have any sort of
14 marketing business and has never done any marketing for Dr. Filart. On
15 information and belief, the supposed Vendor Marketing Agreement for Dr. Filart
16 is a complete sham and simply a way to funnel money to Dr. Filart in exchange
17 for his admissions to PAMC.

18 113. PAMC received many Medi-Cal and Medicare patient
19 referrals/admissions from physicians with prohibited compensation arrangements
20 via the above described Vendor Marketing Agreement programs. PAMC
21 wrongfully billed government healthcare programs for its hospital services for
22 these referred patients and received reimbursements. Qui Tam Relator Paul Chan
23 does not have access to these billings, but he knows that PAMC diligently tracks
24 these referrals/admissions, the related billings, and the resulting reimbursements.

25 114. 5.) **“Medical Directorships” to Induce the Recommendation and**
26 **Referral of Medi-Cal and Medicare Patients.** A fifth way in which PAMC
27 compensates physicians based upon referrals to the hospital is by awarding
28 medical directorships to its top referring physicians, based on a target number of

1 referrals/admissions to be made by the physicians. Two examples of this situation
2 involve top referring physicians Dr. John Liu and Dr. Marcel Filart.

3 115. In addition to PAMC paying Dr. Liu \$1,834 per month in a Sublease
4 Agreement and paying an additional \$4,000 per month for a Shared Marketing
5 Agreement, PAMC compensated Dr. Liu by naming him, at various points in
6 time, Medical Director of Acute Rehab, Medical Director of Continuity of Care,
7 and Medical Director of PAMC's mental health wing "1 West" because of his
8 high volume of referrals/admissions. Qui Tam Relator Paul Chan does not know
9 the dollar amount paid to Dr. Liu in these directorship positions.

10
11 116. As to Dr. Filart, Qui Tam Relator Paul Chan was told by Business
12 Development Department management that he had "\$10,000 to play with" so that
13 he could offer Dr. Filart \$10,000 per month in various payment arrangements.
14 Mr. Chan never made any compensation offer to Dr. Filart. Mr. Chan did,
15 however, witness PAMC Interim Vice President of Business Development
16 Patricia Suarez tell Dr. Filart on June 5, 2013 that PAMC would name him
17 Medical Director of Continuity of Care, but that the directorship position would
18 require him to provide 15 - 20 referrals/admissions to PAMC each month. Dr.
19 Filart responded by saying "There are Stark laws." Dr. Filart also asked if Ms.
20 Suarez would put the offer in writing. When Ms. Suarez and Mr. Chan returned
21 to the PAMC offices, Ms. Suarez said "*Fuck that. I'm not putting that in*
22 *writing.*" Dr. Filart later accepted the Medical Directorship position which, on
23 information and belief, paid him \$6,000 per month.

24 117. PAMC received many Medicare and Medi-Cal patient
25 referrals/admissions from physicians with prohibited compensation arrangements
26 and illegal remuneration arrangements via medical directorships whose
27 compensation was made with a purpose to induce referrals, and was **determined**
28 **in a manner that takes into account the volume or value of referrals.** PAMC

1 6/9/2010 "Delv sublease ck to Faragalla. He said he is having health fair in
2 two wkds wants Martha R to call him re details. Also talked to him about
3 admissions... told him he only had couple in May and really need his
support right now."

4 7/13/2010 "Met with MD to discuss sublease, and volume @ Aghapy. Told
5 him we are terminating Sublease. And that numbers at Aghapy need
6 improvement or else we may have to terminate that contract too. He
7 suggested we meet Mon morning at his office. Will run it by M. Rivera and
invite M Roman to attend."

8 7/27/2010 "Dropped off sublease... he had another pt this week for Med
9 Surge... he wants to re-instate sublease... he says he will send us pts. He
10 has send 3 pts since the letter. Also, spoke to him about OB volume. He
asked about the retention person... he is open to any changes."

11 8/8/2010 "He sent another admission to us this week... per M. Rivera if he
12 continued the trend of sending us pts weekly (which he has... I will track
13 number and submit to RZ) we would cancel the cancellation letter. I need
an update on this strategy."

14 8/25/2010 "Dr. Faragalla sent another admission this week... any chance
we will be able to reinstate the sublease? Even if it is at a reduced rate?"

15 10/28/2010 "Met with Faragalla re admissions... he said he will try to send
16 more patients but wants to know if we will restart the sublease? I told him
17 (per BEF last msg) if he admits 5+ consistently for 2-3 months we would
do new sublease. He also mentioned some concerns re Sylvia in HP."

18 Dr. Marcel Filart

19 5/3/2010 "Visited and met with Dr. He knows my goal for him is 20... Also
20 discussed with him the two candidates for Phys Guarantee. Presented him
with the Cvs. MY helping me set up interview."

21 5/6/2010 "Spk w Md re interview next week with new provider and
22 admissions."

23 7/27/2010 "Met with MD Fri, took KP and JM to his office. All is ok.. He
24 mentioned some frustation with EHS... but he is handling it himself. All is
25 ok... text him this morning re admissions. His mtg is about 12... we need 5
26 from him this week."

27 11/5/2010 "Meeting with BEF and Filart went well. He recommitted to 20
28 admits per month. We will ride the wave until Yan and Filart settle their
agreement."

1 5/20/2010 "RTHL classes in questions for month of June. Await Martha
2 and PS assessment."

3 5/26/2010 "Spoke with Dr. Sevilla... he wants to do an event... I will press
4 for 5 admissions... see what I can do. Not promising anything to him
5 though."

6 7/7/2010 "Sevilla called. Spk to him briefly about admits/RTHL events.
7 Same as last month. We need to see at least 5 admits per month to do
8 RTHL events moving forward."

9 Dr. Cesar Velez

10 5/6/2010 "Delv contract, thank them for the admissions mtd"

11 5/19/2010 "Per M. Rivera leave Med Staff issues alone... continue to
12 encourage Admissions... will let the dust settle for now.... I will remind
13 Velez that we have sublease and need his support."

14 6/1/2010 "Dropped off sublease check. Velez said all is fine. He reached
15 his goal for the month of May."

16 12/7/2010 "Delivered sublease check. Second sublease is pending, he asked
17 me about it. Velez continues to support us with admits."

18 Dr. Yan

19 11/11/2010 "GR stopped by to drop off phys order forms, transportation
20 and important numbers for the hospital. Briefly inserviced his staff. Met
21 with Freddie and told him black and white that we need to double our
22 efforts since we are doubling resources. He knows Filart was only sending
23 us about 15 pts... so I told him we need 30... I think we will see for sure 25
24 pts per month. The rest of the month we may see a peek since Filart will be
25 out of town and Yan will be handling everything. Freddie said they will
26 send everything to us. Freddie also said that the deal is going through and
27 that it benefits Filart to do this."

28 2/15/2011 "Dropped off Jan check. Also we discussed the deal w Filart,
SNF assignments, and admisisions volume. Also set the meeting with JE,
BEF and Yan."

Piper Allen (Physician Integration Manager) Access call notes.

Dr. Jeremiah Aguolu

4/28/2010 "Dropped off flyers, Dr. happy with production, will have staff
start using and also passing out to patients. Discussed patient admissions

1 the full details of these arrangements, referrals/admissions, patient information
 2 and each related Medicare and Medi-Cal claim submitted and the corresponding
 3 Medicare, Medi-Cal and DSH reimbursements. The list and information to which
 4 Mr. Chan had access in his normal job function is as follows:

Physician/Clinic	Compensation Arrangement	PAMC's Payment
Dr. Ali Abaian	Marketing Agreement	\$4,000/month
Dr. Peyman Banooni	Sublease Agreement	\$2,253/month (PAMC cut Dr. Banooni's sublease amount because of his low admissions)
Dr. Rufino Cadano	Sublease Agreement	\$2,610/month (even though Dr. Cadano never hosted any event)
Dr. Lulu Chen	Sublease Agreement Marketing Agreement	\$1,913/month \$3,000/month
Dr. Paul Chu	Sublease Agreement	\$2,501/month
Dr. S. Paul Daniels (Health & Wellness MedicalClinic)	Sublease Agreement	\$2,240/month
Dr. Maged Faragalla	Marketing Agreement	\$5,000/month
Dr. Marcel Filart	Marketing Agreement Medical Directorship	\$5,000/month \$6,000/month
Dr. Byron Flores	Sublease Agreement	\$2,225/month
Dr. Cadrin Gill	Sublease Agreement	\$3,401/month (after more than five years, PAMC cancelled the sublease because of Dr. Gill's low admissions)
Dr. Enriqui Gonzalez	Marketing Agreement	\$2,500/month (PAMC cut Dr. Gonzalez's Marketing Agreement amount in April 2013 because of his low admissions)

134. Excerpt of Preliminary Provider Report, Year 2007:

PRELIMINARY PROVIDER REPORT

	Monthly \$	Yearly \$	Annual Activity		Monthly Activity Avg.		Rank	\$ / Admit	Rank - RO
			2006	2007 Annualized	2006	2007			
Liu SM \$4K & sublease \$1834 (incl. wound & med/surg)	\$5,834	\$70,008	247	80	21	7	* Combined below	\$875	
Chen	\$1,956	\$23,472	69	195	6	16		\$120	
Axis Medical Group (incl. wound & med/surg)			141	92	12	8	Slug	\$0	
Daniels (incl. wound & med/surg)	\$2,240	\$26,880	101	148	8	12	Winner	\$182	Winner
Ngo	\$1,580	\$18,964	64	88	5	7	Slug	\$216	Winner
Velez 2 clinics	\$2,814	\$33,768	134	132	11	11	Grinner	\$256	Winner
Liu / Chen	\$7,790	\$93,480	316	275	27	23	Winner	\$340	Grinner
Flores	\$2,225	\$26,700	68	78	6	7	Slug	\$342	Grinner
Filart (using 10 months for avg)	\$5,000	\$60,000	0	140	0	14	Winner	\$429	Slug
Gill (incl. wound & med/surg)	\$3,481	\$41,772	45	97	4	8	Slug	\$431	Slug
Sevilla (SM & sublease) (incl. wound & med/surg)	\$2,946	\$35,352	67	57	6	5	Slug	\$620	Sinner

Rank / Activity Rank / \$ per Admit

Winners: ≥ 12 Winners: ≤ 300

Grinners: 9-11 Grinners: \$301 - \$400

Slugs: 6-8 Slugs: \$401 - \$450

Sinners: ≤ 5 Sinners: ≥ \$451

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1 135. “**Medical Surgical Accounts**” report, copied below, and plainly
 2 showing how it is PAMC’s obvious wide-spread business model to pay referring
 3 physicians for referrals as follows:

MEDICAL SURGICAL ACCOUNTS	
Winners	
Dr. Daniels: 12/182*	A Winner all the way around. Cooperative and loyal to PAMC. Terrific volume and ROI.
Dr. Filart: 14/429*	Volume is terrific, but current ROI is at Slug level. However, volume is expected to increase significantly, ranking him as a Winner.
Drs. Liu & Chen 23/340*	Using only direct admit numbers for evaluation. Winners with respect to volume, but ROI places them at Grinner level; however UR issues impact negatively on overall performance. Nevertheless, consider them Winners when loyalty to PAMC is included in the equation.
Grinners	
Dr. Flores: 7/342*	His volume is at Slug level, but his ROI is at Grinner level. He maintains consistent performance in spite of severe practice challenges. Consider him a Grinner when all is considered.
Dr. Ngo: 7/342*	Using only direct admit numbers for evaluation. Volume is at Slug level, but ROI is at Winner level. Annualized 2007 volume shows an increase from 2006 and April was a great month for him with 10 direct admits. Consider him a Grinner.
Dr. Velez: 11/256*	At present, volume is at Grinner level, but his ROI is at Winner level. A Grinner heading for Winner.
Slugs	
Axis Medical Group: 8*	Volume has decreased relative to 2006 in spite of HBO activity.
Dr. Gill: 8/431*	A Slug at present both in volume and ROI. Although volume has been erratic, his 2007 projections are double 2006 activity. However, March was a terrific month, at 15 admits, with Dr. Liu diligently following convalescent home patients. Sustained support of Dr. Liu following Dr. Gill’s convalescent home patients should see volumes sustained at March levels (15). Recommend two months to determine if contract amendment is indicated.
Sinners	
Dr. Sevilla	Volume is low. Relationship needs strengthening if account is to thrive. Inclined amend the contract, but before taking that step will discuss situation with physician. Splitting with White? Practice issues?
* Average Admit per Month / Business Development Cost per Admit (See attached for detail)	

(emphasis added)

Exhibit 6

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

3052020075725

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

3202019017225

Form with sections: DECEDENT'S PERSONAL DATA, USUAL RESIDENCE, INFORMANT, SPOUSE/SIBLING AND PARENT INFORMATION, FUNERAL DIRECTION, PLACE OF DEATH, CAUSE OF DEATH, PHYSICIAN CERTIFICATION, and CORONER'S USE ONLY.

CERTIFIED COPY OF VITAL RECORD STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

This is a true certified copy of the record filed in the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health if it bears the Registrar's signature in purple ink.



Signature of Marcel Filart M.D., Health Officer and Registrar DO 11

APR 14 2020

This copy is not valid unless prepared on an engraved border, displaying the date, seal and signature of the Registrar.

ANY ALTERATION OR ERASURE VOIDS THIS CERTIFICATE



CALOSANG1