# INSTRUCTIONS

Please submit this form to your local JAMS Resolution Center. Once the below items are received, a JAMS professional will contact all parties to commence and coordinate the arbitration process, including the appointment of an arbitrator and scheduling a hearing date.

~	1-800-352-JAMS
盛	www.jamsadr.com

If you wish to proceed with an arbitration by executing and serving a Demand for Arbitration on the appropriate party, please submit the following items to JAMS with the requested number of copies:

- A. Demand for Arbitration (2 copies)
- B. Proof of service of the Demand on the appropriate party (2 copies)
- C. Entire contract containing the arbitration clause (2 copies)
  - To the extent there are any court orders or stipulations relevant to this arbitration demand, e.g. an order compelling arbitration, please also include two copies.

### D. Administrative Fees

- For two-party matters, the Filing Fee is \$1,500. For matters involving three or more parties, the filing fee is \$2,000. The entire Filing Fee must be paid in full to expedite the commencement of the proceedings. Thereafter, a Case Management Fee of 12% will be assessed against all Professional Fees, including time spent for hearings, pre- and post-hearing reading and research and award preparation. JAMS also charges a \$1,500 filing fee for counterclaims. For matters involving consumers, the consumer is only required to pay \$250. See JAMS Policy on Consumer Arbitrations Pursuant to Pre-Dispute Clauses. For matters based on a clause or agreement that is required as a condition of employment, the employee is only required to pay \$400. See JAMS Policy on Employment Arbitrations, Minimum Standards of Fairness.
- A refund of \$600 will be issued if the matter is withdrawn within five days of filing. After five days, the filing
  fee is non-refundable.

Once completed, please submit to your local JAMS Resolution Center.

Resolution Center locations can be found on the JAMS website at: <a href="http://www.jamsadr.com/locations/">http://www.jamsadr.com/locations/</a>.



# Demand for Arbitration Form (continued) Instructions for Submittal of Arbitration to JAMS

RESPONDEN	DENT (PARTY ON WHOM DEMAND FOR ARBITRATION IS MADE)			
NAME	Oracle America, Inc.			
ADDRESS	500 Oracle Parkway			
CITY	Redwood Shores	STATE	CA	zip 94065
PHONE	650-506-7000 FAX	EMAIL		
NDENT'S R	PRESENTATIVE OR ATTORNEY (IF KNOWN)			
REPRESENTA	TIVE/ATTORNEY Brendan Dolan			
FIRM/ COMPANY	Vedder Price (CA), LLP	TOT UT SEC. 1 & 1 & 1 & 1		
ADDRESS	275 Battery Street, Suite 2464	PER STORMAL AND A		
CITY	San Francisco	STATE	CA	zip 94111
PHONE	415-749-9500 FAX 415-749-9502	EMAIL	bdolan@v	/edderprice.com
PHONE	415-749-9500 FAX 415-749-9502	EMAIL	bdolan@v	/edderprice.com
VI CLAIN	<b>MANT</b>	EMAIL	bdolan@v	/edderprice.com  Add more claimants on
		EMAIL	bdolan@v	
VI CLAIT	<b>MANT</b>	EMAIL	bdolan@v	
VI CLAIP CLAIMANT NAME	MANT Marcella Johnson	STATE	bdolan@v	
VI CLAIP CLAIMANT NAME ADDRESS	MANT Marcella Johnson		bdolan@v	Add more claimants on
VI CLAIP CLAIMANT NAME ADDRESS CITY PHONE	MANT Marcella Johnson c/o Claimant's Attorney, below	STATE	bdolan@v	Add more claimants on
OLAIP CLAIMANT NAME ADDRESS CITY PHONE INT'S REPR	MANT Marcella Johnson c/o Claimant's Attorney, below	STATE	bdolan@v	Add more claimants on
OLAIP CLAIMANT NAME  ADDRESS  CITY  PHONE  NT'S REPR	MANT Marcella Johnson c/o Claimant's Attorney, below  FAX ESENTATIVE OR ATTORNEY (IF KNOWN)	STATE	bdolan@v	Add more claimants on
A CLAIR CLAIMANT NAME  ADDRESS  CITY  PHONE  NT'S REPR REPRESENTA	Marcella Johnson  c/o Claimant's Attorney, below  FAX  ESENTATIVE OR ATTORNEY (IF KNOWN)  TIVE/ATTORNEY Danielle Fuschetti	STATE	bdolan@v	Add more claimants on
OLAIP CLAIMANT NAME  ADDRESS  CITY  PHONE  NT'S REPR  REPRESENTA	Marcella Johnson  c/o Claimant's Attorney, below  FAX  ESENTATIVE OR ATTORNEY (IF KNOWN)  TIVE/ATTORNEY  Danielle Fuschetti  Sanford Heisler Sharp, LLP	STATE	bdolan@v	Add more claimants on

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If mediation in advance of the arbitration is desired, please check here and a JAMS Case Manager will assist the parties in coordinating a mediation session.

# NATURE OF DISPUTE / CLAIMS & RELIEF SOUGHT BY CLAIMANT

CLAIMANT HEREBY DEMANDS THAT YOU SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING DISPUTE TO FINAL AND BINDING ARBITRATION. A MORE DETAILED STATEMENT OF CLAIMS MAY BE ATTACHED IF NEEDED.

Claimant was a sales representative at Respondent Oracle America, Inc. Claimant brings this action to recover earned but unpaid commissions that Oracle wrongfully withheld from her and other similarly situated sales representatives in breach of Oracle's contracts with its sales representatives and in violation of the California Labor Code.

Claimant further brings this action on behalf of the general public to seek all injunctive and preventive relief authorized by California Business and Professions Code § 17200 et seq. resulting from Respondent's willful failure to pay its sales employees all earned commissions, Respondent's failure to pay wages timely, and Respondent's failure to maintain and issue accurate wage statements and records of commission earnings and deductions.

For a more detailed statement of claims, please see the attached Demand for Class Arbitration.

Claimant requests that this matter be related to Johnson v. Oracle, JAMS Ref. No. 1100087724. Claimant takes the position that this case and the claims that it contains are properly part of JAMS Ref. No. 1100087724, and Claimant reserves all rights regarding that issue.

AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY (US DOLLARS)

\$150,000,000.00

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This demand is made pursuant to the arbitration agreement which the parties made as follows. Please cite location of arbitration provision and attach two copies of entire agreement.

tion provision and attach <u>two copies</u> of entire agreement.
ARBITRATION PROVISION LOCATION
Please see Exhibit A to Claimant's Demand for Class Arbitration, entitled "Employment Agreement & Mutual Agreement to Arbitrate," pages 2-3.
RESPONSE The respondent may file a response and counter-claim to the above-stated claim according to the applicable arbitration rules. Send the original response and counter-claim to the claimant at the address stated above with wo copies to JAMS.
REQUEST FOR HEARING
REQUESTED LOCATION San Francisco, CA
ELECTION FOR EXPEDITED PROCEDURES (IF COMPREHENSIVE RULES APPLY) See: Comprehensive Rule 16.1
By checking the box to the left, Claimant requests that the Expedited Procedures described in JAMS Comprehensive Rules 16.1 and 16.2 be applied in this matter. Respondent shall indicate not later than seven (7) days from the date this Demand is served whether it agrees to the Expedited Procedures.
SUBMISSION INFORMATION
signature June 29, 2018
NAME (PRINT/TYPED) Danielle Fuschetti, Attorney for Claimant

# Demand for Arbitration Form (continued)

Instructions for Submittal of Arbitration to JAMS

Completion of this section is required for all consumer or employment claims.

# CONSUMER AND EMPLOYMENT ARBITRATION

Please indicate if this is a CONSUMER ARBITRATION. For purposes of this designation, and whether this case will be administered in California or elsewhere, JAMS is guided by California Rules of Court Ethics Standards for Neutral Arbitrators, Standard 2(d) and (e), as defined below, and the JAMS Consumer and Employment Minimum Standards of Procedural Fairness:

YES, this is a CONSUMER ARBITRATION.

NO, this is not a CONSUMER ARBITRATION.

"Consumer arbitration" means an arbitration conducted under a pre-dispute arbitration provision contained in a contract that meets the criteria listed in paragraphs (1) through (3) below. "Consumer arbitration" excludes arbitration proceedings conducted under or arising out of public or private sector labor-relations laws, regulations, charter provisions, ordinances, statutes, or agreements.

- 1. The contract is with a consumer party, as defined in these standards;
- 2. The contract was drafted by or on behalf of the non-consumer party; and
- 3. The consumer party was required to accept the arbitration provision in the contract.

"Consumer party" is a party to an arbitration agreement who, in the context of that arbitration agreement, is any of the following:

- An individual who seeks or acquires, including by lease, any goods or services primarily for personal, family, or household purposes including, but not limited to, financial services, insurance, and other goods and services as defined in section 1761 of the Civil Code;
- An individual who is an enrollee, a subscriber, or insured in a health-care service plan within the meaning of section 1345 of the Health and Safety Code or health-care insurance plan within the meaning of section 106 of the Insurance Code:
- 3. An individual with a medical malpractice claim that is subject to the arbitration agreement; or
- 4. An employee or an applicant for employment in a dispute arising out of or relating to the employee's employment or the applicant's prospective employment that is subject to the arbitration agreement.

In addition, JAMS is guided by its Consumer Minimum Standards and Employment Minimum Standards when determining whether a matter is a consumer matter.

If Respondent disagrees with the assertion of Claimant regarding whether this IS or IS NOT a CONSUMER ARBITRATION, Respondent should communicate this objection in writing to the JAMS Gase Manager and Claimant within seven (7) calendar days of service of the Demand for Arbitration.

# EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

If this is an EMPLOYMENT matter, Claimant must complete the following information:

Private arbitration companies are required to collect and publish certain information at least quarterly, and make it available to the public in a computer-searchable format. In employment cases, this includes the amount of the employee's annual wage. The employee's name will not appear in the database, but the employer's name will be published. Please check the applicable box below:

	Less than \$100,000	\$100,000 to \$250,000	More than \$250,000	1	Decline to State
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WAIVER OF ARBITRATION FEES

In certain states (e.g. California), the law provides that consumers (as defined above) with a gross monthly income of less than 300% of the federal poverty guidelines are entitled to a waiver of the arbitration fees. In those cases, the respondent must pay 100% of the fees. Consumers must submit a declaration under oath stating the consumer's monthly income and the number of persons living in his or her household. Please contact JAMS at 1-800-352-5267 for further information. Note: this requirement is not applicable in all states.

1	MICHAEL D. PALMER (pending OSAAC appro SANFORD HEISLER SHARP, LLP	oval)								
2	1350 Avenue of the Americas, 31 <sup>st</sup> Floor New York, NY 10019 Telephone: (646) 402-5650 Facsimile: (646) 402-5651 Email: mpalmer@sanfordheisler.com									
3										
4										
5	DANIELLE FUSCHETTI (SBN 294064)									
6	SANFORD HEISLER SHARP, LLP 111 Sutter Street, Suite 975									
7	San Francisco, CA 94104 Telephone: (415) 795 2020									
8	Facsimile: (415) 795 2021 Email: dfuschetti@sanfordheisler.com									
9	XINYING VALERIAN (SBN 254890)									
10	VALERIAN LAW 1604 Solano Avenue, Suite D									
11	Albany, CA 94707 Telephone: (888) 686-1918									
12	Facsimile: (510) 982-4513 Email: xinying@valerian.law									
13	LAURA L. HO (SBN 173179)									
14	GINGER L. GRIMES (SBN 307168) GOLDSTEIN BORGEN DARDARIAN & HO									
15	300 Lakeside Drive, Suite 1000 Oakland, CA 94612									
16	Telephone: (510) 763-9800 Facsimile: (510) 835-1417									
17	Email: lho@gbdhlegal.com ggrimes@gbdhlegal.com									
18	Attorneys for Claimant Marcella Johnson and the	e Proposed Class								
19	In JAMS	5								
20										
21		MS Ref. No								
22	On Behalf of Herself and All Others Similarly Situated,									
23	DE	MAND FOR CLASS RBITRATION								
24										
25	v.									
26	ORACLE AMERICA, INC.,									
27	RESPONDENT.									
28										
	DEMAND FOR CLASS	A P R ITP A TION								

Claimant Marcella Johnson was a sales representative at Respondent Oracle America, Inc. Claimant brings this Demand for Class Arbitration to recover earned but unpaid commissions that Oracle wrongfully withheld from her and other similarly situated sales representatives, and to seek injunctive relief to end Oracle's policy and practice of failing to pay commissions within the time prescribed by the California Labor Code. As set forth below, Oracle engages in deceptive and unlawful maneuvers to avoid paying representatives their rightful commission wages.

Further, Oracle arbitrarily and retroactively changed Claimant's commissions after they had been earned and paid – to the point that Oracle claimed that Claimant actually owed the Company twenty thousand dollars. Oracle then unlawfully compelled Claimant to continue to work without receiving commissions until she paid off her so-called "debt." Thus, Oracle engaged in illegal peonage (debt servitude) and forced labor practices – a twenty-first century tech analog of sharecropping and the company store – prohibited by federal law.

# **INTRODUCTION**

- 1. Claimant Johnson, a former sales representative at Oracle, brings class claims against Oracle on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated. Claimant seeks to recover commission wages unlawfully withheld by Oracle in breach of Oracle's contracts with its sales representatives and in violation of the California Labor Code, and to remedy Oracle's systemic failure to pay wages timely.
- 2. Respondent Oracle is a Fortune 100 technology giant. Oracle attracts employees by offering them the opportunity to "make a difference" and help "make the world a better place for everyone." But the reality does not live up to this lofty rhetoric. Oracle reaps its profits on the backs of its workers by failing to honor its legal and contractual obligations to compensate them fairly.
- 3. For many years, Oracle has routinely and systematically shortchanged its salesforce of their earned commission wages. Oracle does so by retroactively changing the terms and conditions for calculating commissions after those commissions are earned and

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- due and sometimes even after they have been paid. As a matter of policy and practice, Oracle retrospectively cancels the contractual plans and formulas under which salespeople have made their sales and earned associated commissions. Oracle then replaces the operative contractual terms with back-dated, less favorable provisions in order to pay the employees substantially less than what they are entitled to. In essence, if the compensation arising under a commissions contract is more than what Oracle decides it wants to pay – even well after the fact – it unilaterally disregards the contract and refuses to pay.
- 4. Accordingly, Oracle engages in a classic bait-and-switch, under which the system is rigged. Oracle incentivizes its employees to make sales through promises of potentially lucrative commissions. But if they are successful in making sales on Oracle's behalf, the company might simply opt not to pay.
- 5. In some instances, Oracle coerces employees into accepting retroactive adjustments to earned commissions by threatening that if they fail to accept the new commission plans within 24 hours, they will not be paid pending commissions at all. If an employee is intrepid enough to decline, Oracle barrels ahead anyway and applies the new terms to completed past sales.
- 6. As a result of these practices, Oracle frequently "claws back" previously paid commissions. If employees cannot afford to pay back their earned commission wages, they are left with a Hobson's choice: continue to work for Oracle without commissions until the supposed "debt" is paid off or leave the company and face a collections lawsuit.
- 7. Oracle has a term for retroactive changes to a commission plan: "re-plans." Re-plans are rooted in compensation policies which unlawfully provide that Oracle can reduce commissions based on opaque and secret criteria. Oracle is not transparent or upfront about the circumstances and reasons for "re-plans."
- 8. Although seemingly arbitrary to the sales employees, Oracle's practices are anything but haphazard. Led by the finance department and supported by sales operations and compensation department employees, Oracle's re-plans are about one thing: retroactively defraying the company's incurred labor costs to align with its corporate

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financial goals. Oracle adopts systematic processes that enable it to regularly overpromise and underdeliver to its workers; over the years, Oracle has padded its bottom line with many millions of dollars in workers' earned commission wages.

- 9. Oracle's practices breach its contractual arrangements with sales employees. These practices further violate the California Labor Code's prohibitions on untimely payment of wage, on taking deductions from employees' wages to defray ordinary business costs, and on secretly paying a lower wage than the one designated by contract. In addition, Oracle's practices contradict the Labor Code's requirement that commission contracts be transparent about the methods for computing and paying commissions and enable workers to fairly anticipate their actual compensation. Finally, by systematically promising employees certain commissions and using unlawful re-plans to avoid paying these commissions, Oracle engages in unfair business practices under California's Unfair Competition Law.
- 10. Through this class arbitration, Claimant challenges Oracle's practices of imposing retroactive changes in commission plans that result in loss of pay and failing to pay commissioned sales employees within the time set forth by the Labor Code. Claimant also pursues individual peonage and forced labor claims under 18 U.S.C. §§ 1581 and 1589. Claimant seeks to recover unpaid wages, waiting time penalties, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, and all other appropriate relief to which Claimant and class members are entitled.

# THE PARTIES

- 11. Claimant Marcella Johnson resides in Modesto, California. She worked for Oracle in 2013 and 2014 in Oracle's offices in Redwood City, California.
- 12. Respondent Oracle is a Delaware Corporation with its corporate headquarters in Redwood City, San Mateo County, California.
- 13. Oracle was and is an employer under the California Labor Code and common law.
  - 14. Oracle employed Claimant and other employees to perform sales work for

Oracle's systematic refusal to pay the full commissions earned by sales employees.

Claimant additionally seeks injunctive relief for Oracle's untimely payment of earned

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# A. Class Definitions

- The Class consists of all commissioned sales employees who have been or will be employed by Oracle in California at any time from February 14, 2013 to the present.
- The "Re-plan Subclass" consists of all commissioned sales employees who have been or will be employed by Oracle in California at any time from February 14, 2013 to the present, to whom Oracle has issued a commission plan which is subsequently replaced by another commission plan containing both a retroactive effective date and a commission formula less favorable to the employee, i.e. one which results in lower commission earnings, (through changes such as higher quotas and lower commission rates) in comparison to the plan that is being replaced. Class members had pending commissions payments and/or prior commission payments reduced or clawed back as a result of retroactive re-plans.
  - 25. Claimant is a member of the Class and Subclass she seeks to represent.
- 26. Claimant reserves the right to amend the class definitions based on discovery or legal developments.

# B. Requirements of Federal Rule 23(a)

# i. Numerosity and Impracticability of Joinder

- 27. The proposed Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable.
- 28. Upon information and belief, there are more than 1,000 members of the proposed Class.
- 29. The Class members are readily ascertainable through Oracle's centralized and electronically maintained records.

# ii. Common Questions of Law and Fact

- 30. The prosecution of Claimant's claims will require the adjudication of numerous questions of law and fact common to the Class. The common questions include:
  - a. Whether Respondent Oracle retroactively reduced Claimant's and the

36. Claimant has retained counsel sufficiently qualified, experienced, and able to conduct this arbitration and to meet the time and fiscal demands required to pursue a class action of this size and complexity.

# C. Requirements of Rule 23(b)(2)

- 37. Oracle has acted on grounds generally applicable to Claimant and the proposed Class by adopting and following systemic policies, practices, and procedures that deprive sales employees of earned commission wages and unreasonably and unlawfully delaying the payment of commission wages. Refusal to pay all commission wages and failure to pay on time are Oracle's standard operating procedures rather than sporadic occurrences.
- 38. Oracle has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to Claimant and the proposed Class. Oracle's class-wide conduct justifies the requested injunctive and declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole.
- 39. Injunctive, declaratory, and affirmative relief are significant forms of relief sought in this case. Entitlement to declaratory, injunctive, and affirmative relief flows directly and automatically from proof of Oracle's ongoing refusal to pay all commission wages in the timeframes required by California law. In turn, entitlement to declaratory, injunctive, and affirmative relief forms the factual and legal predicate for the monetary and non-monetary remedies for individual losses caused by Oracle's systemic refusal to pay full commissions and systemic failure to timely pay commissions.

# D. Requirements of Rule 23(b)(3)

- 40. The common questions of law and fact predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class members. Resolution of these common questions for the Class as a whole will greatly advance the efficiency purposes of class actions.
- 41. A class arbitration is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. In particular, individual Class members lack the financial resources to vigorously prosecute an action against a large corporation such as Oracle and would not be able to pursue their claims independently.

- 42. Class treatment will permit a large number of similarly-situated persons to pursue their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without the unnecessary duplication of efforts and expense that numerous individual actions engender.
- 43. Employees are often afraid to assert their legal rights out of fear of direct or indirect retaliation. Class proceedings allow class members to vindicate their rights while eliminating or reducing these substantial risks. Accordingly, class treatment will foster more robust and complete enforcement of the Labor Code.
- 44. The pursuit of separate actions by individual members of the Class would create a risk of inconsistent and/or varying adjudications with respect to the individual members of the Class, establishing incompatible standards of conduct for Respondent Oracle and resulting in the impairment of Class members' rights and the disposition of their interests through actions to which they were not parties.
- 45. The issues in this class action can be decided by means of common, class-wide proof. In addition, this Tribunal can, and is empowered to, fashion methods to efficiently manage this action as a class action.

# E. Rule 23(c)(4) Issue Certification

46. Additionally, or in the alternative, this Tribunal may grant "partial" or "issue" certification under Rule 23(c)(4). Resolution of common questions of fact and law would materially advance the arbitration for all Class members.

# **FACTS**

# A. Oracle's Sales Commissions Policies, Practices and Procedures

- 47. Respondent Oracle committed the following acts knowingly, intentionally, and willfully.
- 48. The Oracle policies, practices and procedures alleged in this Class Arbitration Demand existed at all relevant times, *i.e.*, going back at least to February 2013, and they are continuous and ongoing.
- 49. Typically, commission wages constitute a highly significant portion of Oracle sales employees' overall compensation.

- 50. For Class members, Oracle uniformly issues written job offers promising that they would be compensated through a combination of base salary and commissions, often with the target commissions comprising half of their total compensation. Class members accept these job offers in order to be employed in a commissioned sales position.
- 51. Oracle provides each sales employee with an Individualized Compensation Plan ("ICP") containing commission rates, sales targets (i.e., quotas) and other numeric terms, along with written Terms and Conditions of Incentive Compensation ("T&C"). The ICP sets forth the formula by which commissions are to be calculated.
- 52. Oracle considers the ICP, the T&C, and associated appendices to comprise the commission contract required by California Labor Code Section 2751.
  - 53. The T&C is identical for all Class members.
- 54. After an employee such as Claimant Johnson starts work in a sales position, Oracle distributes the T&C and the ICP to her electronically and obtains her acceptance to these provisions.
- 55. Oracle first requires employees to click "accept" on the T&C, after which Oracle then provides the ICP to the employees. Next, employees are asked to click "accept" for the ICPs. Compliance with this acceptance process is required for employees to be eligible to receive commission payments for their work. Indeed, Oracle commonly issues the instruction to Class members and sales employees nationwide that failure to accept ICPs within 24 hours will result in nonpayment of commissions.
- 56. At various points after an initial ICP is in place, Oracle issues revised ICPs to some employees through this same procedure. Typically, Oracle issues revised ICPs to employees soon after the start of each fiscal year usually sometime in mid-to-late June. Oracle also issues revised ICPs at other times. Class members uniformly receive the same draconian instruction that acceptance of the ICPs as mandatory. Oracle issues uniform messages to sales employees that it will not be paying commissions unless the re-plans are accepted.
  - 57. Revised ICPs that have back-dated effective dates and therefore affect

previous sales are known as "re-plans." Re-plans apply retroactively to sales transactions completed by Re-plan Subclass members under the prior operative ICP. Re-plans affect past sales going back to a date of Oracle's choosing, sometimes to the beginning of the same fiscal year and sometimes to a date in a previous fiscal year. Re-plans are typically used to alter – either by reducing or altogether eliminating – commissions generated and due under the original ICP.

- 58. Oracle's commission contracts set forth conditions precedent to the payment of commissions. Generally, commissions are calculated and paid after transactions are booked or revenue is recognized. The T&C sets forth the commission calculation triggers and payment triggers for the different products sold by Oracle. However, Oracle's re-plans frequently demand retroactive adjustment of earned commissions even after the conditions are fully satisfied.
- 59. Oracle's commission contracts contain uniform clauses authorizing reductions to commissions. These standard clauses state that Oracle has discretion to: (a) retroactively reduce commission payments and to otherwise determine the amount of commissions paid; and (b) to deviate from, modify, cancel and/or replace any term of a commission contract (*e.g.*, ICP), such as the commission rates and quotas.
- 60. When sales employees press for explanations for retroactive reductions to the commissions they have earned, Oracle cites to terms in its standardized commission contracts that give the company discretion to adjust commissions at any time.
- 61. The criteria Oracle uses to cut salespeople's commissions are not set forth in Oracle's T&C or compensation plans. Nor does Oracle make clear that it will exercise its discretion not only to change Oracle's commissions terms on an across-the-board basis but also to retrospectively slash the commissions due to an individual salesperson.
- 62. By the terms of the commission contract, and in practice, Oracle possesses total, unilateral discretion to change the terms by which commissions are calculated and to reduce commission payments due under the contract. Oracle does so at any time of its choosing, based on undisclosed criteria.

- 63. These contractual terms are unlawful, void and unenforceable under California law. The law prohibits the use of such discretionary power to deny employees the benefits of their commission contracts. An unfettered prerogative to eliminate employees' compensation and refuse to pay them would render these contracts illusory.
- 64. Moreover, Oracle fails to exercise its discretion reasonably and in good faith in accordance with the parties' expectations. Oracle commonly uses re-plans to retroactively reduce employees' earned compensation. Employees would not anticipate that Oracle would systematically abuse its position to appropriate the contractual fruits of their labor.
- 65. Typically, Oracle imposes re-plans that retroactively lower the employee's commission rate and/or increase her sales quota on transactions that sales representatives have already completed. The new calculation results in a significantly lower commission or no commission at all.
- 66. Thus, the re-plan is a mechanism to change an employee's commission contract in a way that cuts back commissions already earned. Oracle does not impose these forfeitures because the sales have fallen through, but merely because it does not want to actually pay the commission in effect at the time the sale was consummated.
- 67. Oracle's commission policies and procedures are based on the overriding goal of aligning the company's financial performance with its financial forecasts. In response to corporate demands that Oracle meet or exceed its profit targets, Oracle turns to employees' earned sales commissions as low-hanging fruit ripe for the plucking. Oracle engages in a continual process of scrutinizing and adjusting existing ICPs in order to garner for itself monies due to its salesforce in connection with finalized transactions.
- 66. In so doing, Oracle routinely reduces salespeople's commissions to offset business costs which are beyond class members' control. Through the use of re-plans, Oracle effectively deducts its ordinary costs of doing business from the earned commissions of sales employees.
  - 67. The re-plans can occur at any time, including after commissions have

already been paid to the employees. For example, Oracle sometimes issues a re-plan for an already-concluded fiscal year, months after the end of a fiscal year, with the effect of reducing the commissions for the prior year.

- 68. After the re-plans, Oracle changes the underlying commission compensation records to reflect lowered commissions. If the commissions have not yet been paid to the employee, the amount of commissions in the payment pipeline is reduced. If commissions have already been paid to the employee, but are retroactively cut, Oracle "claws back" the commissions.
- 69. Oracle treats the claw-back amount as a debt to be paid off. Often, this is reflected in a "negative commission balance." Oracle then takes newly earned commission wages as a set-off for the negative balance, for employees who continue working at Oracle, or demands cash repayment from former employees.
- 70. Current employees must either continue working for Oracle without any commissions payments as newly-earned commissions are forfeited to the Company to pay off the "negative commissions balance" or face the prospect of a collection demand and suit from Oracle. Oracle threatens to sic its team of lawyers and debt collectors on employees who leave the Company with an outstanding "debt."
- 71. Where retroactive re-plans reduce previously paid commissions, Oracle misrepresents that the previous payments were merely a loan, or merely an advance, and converts previously paid commissions into debt owed by the employees.
- 72. However, Oracle records employees' commission payments on itemized wage statements (paystubs) and on W-2 forms as commission wages, not as loans or advances. Oracle treats the commission wages of California employees, at the time they are paid, as W-2 income subject to customary taxes and withholdings. Oracle does not later amend any wage statements or tax statements to reflect a reduction in previously reported commissions.
- 73. Further, Oracle fails to pay sales employees all earned commission wages due within the time required by California law.

- 74. Oracle's policy and practice of making retroactive commission reductions through re-plans violates Labor Code Sections 201, 202, 203, 204, and 204c because Oracle refuses to commit to a timeframe for making reductions and reserves the right to impose re-plans at any time.
- 75. In addition, Oracle's standard commission processing schedules unreasonably delay the payment of commission payments. For most transactions, Oracle releases commission payments no earlier than 45-days-in-arrears meaning 45 days after the end of the month in which a deal is booked or has hit all the triggers that would enable the commission calculation to occur. For large or mega deals (particularly high value deals), Oracle follows a 75-days-in-arrears policy.
- 76. Furthermore, pursuant to its standard payment schedules Oracle fails to pay earned commission wages on designated, regular paydays at least twice a month as required by California law. Instead, Oracle schedules commission payments for once per month or once per quarter.
- 77. Oracle thereby purposely delays payment of commissions by at least several pay periods through the operation of its standardized schedules that are uniformly applicable to sales employees, including Claimant Johnson.
- 78. Because Oracle treats commission payments as advances on future commissions, it does not inform Class members or maintain records of when commissions are actually earned, nor of when it considers their commission wages earned. Oracle's wage statements do not indicate the amounts of gross and net commissions earned, or deductions from commissions in the form of clawbacks. Wage statements do not identify the commissionable events, such as deals, for which Class members are being paid.
- 79. Upon information and belief, Oracle does not maintain written records of deductions showing the month, day, and year, and a copy of the statement and the record of the deductions it effectuates when it re-plans Class members retroactively. Nor, upon information and belief, does it maintain payroll records showing the hours worked daily by and the wages paid to, commission rates for commission payments made to, and number

87. This re-plan significantly reduced Claimant's earned commissions on past sales transactions. As a result, Oracle's previous payments to Claimant under the operative commissions contract were greater than the total commissions resulting from the new, lower rate. Accordingly, after the re-plan, Claimant suddenly had a "negative commission

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balance" of approximately \$20,000.

- 88. According to Oracle, after the re-plan, the previous payments caused an overpayment and now Oracle could claw back the "negative commission balance."
- 89. Claimant complained to her second-line supervisor Director of Sales Vanja Temim, who stated that all commissions are "interest free loans." Claimant understood this to mean that she was legally required to pay approximately \$20,000 back to Oracle. Oracle's Compensation Department confirmed that Claimant owed a "debt" to Oracle.
- 90. When Claimant inquired as to what would happen if she left the company, Oracle informed her that if she stopped working for Oracle, it would have the right to collect the negative balance from her, including through a lawsuit. Oracle indicated that it would in fact pursue a collections process if Claimant left the Company without paying her "debt." Thus, Oracle made clear that it would resort to legal process against Claimant if she stopped working for Oracle before she had paid off the supposed "debt."
- 91. Oracle's threat of a potential collections action against Claimant was credible. Claimant had been informed and believed that Oracle had actually filed collections actions against other former employees in her division to recover bonuses that had been paid to them. In numerous instances, Oracle has pursued or threatened collection lawsuits against its former sales employees to claw back commission payments.
- 92. Oracle's threat acted as a hammer that compelled Claimant to work without commissions for several months. Claimant desperately wanted to resign from her job and leave Oracle, but could not. Claimant could not afford to "repay" Oracle out of her pocket. She was a new parent and the primary earner in her household. She had only recently resolved her personal debts and was rebuilding her credit to purchase a home for her family. A collections lawsuit against Claimant would not only have required her to expend substantial time and resources but would have irrevocably damaged her credit.
- 93. Consequently, Ms. Johnson felt she had no choice but to remain at Oracle and work off her "debt" to the company.
  - 94. Additional commissions that Claimant earned for the remainder of her

employment with Oracle were not paid to her but were confiscated by Oracle to offset the \$20,000 "negative commission balance."

- 95. Claimant was subject to Oracle's standardized policies relating to the timing of commission payments. Her commission payments were delayed by Oracle's policy of paying at least 45-days-in-arrears and by Oracle's policy of not paying commission wages twice per month. Claimant was subject to the policy of once-per-month commission payouts, if she had a positive commission balance.
- 96. As a consequence of Oracle's policies relating to the timing of commission payments, Claimant was forced to wait several pay periods or more after the completion of sales before the compensation department was able to confirm for her whether commissions would be credited to her. Therefore, Claimant was forced to prolong her employment at Oracle as she waited for confirmation that she had cleared the negative commission balance.
- 97. Claimant resigned from her position at Oracle effective July 2014, as soon as she received confirmation from Oracle that she had earned sufficient additional commissions to get "out of the hole" with Oracle and avoid a threatened collections action.
- 98. Thus, Claimant worked for several months without commissions, which formed a substantial part of Oracle's compensation package and to which she was contractually and legally entitled.
- 99. Likewise, other sales employees in Human Capital Management suffered the effects of Oracle's retroactive "re-planning" practices during the same fiscal year.
- 100. Throughout the relevant period, sales employees company-wide have been routinely deprived of earned commission payments because of similar re-plans. Like Claimant, Re-plan Subclass members have regularly suffered retroactive changes to their contractual commissions criteria resulting in a substantial loss of earned compensation.

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# FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

# FAILURE TO PAY EARNED COMMISSION WAGES AND UNLAWFUL DEDUCTIONS FROM EARNED COMMISSION WAGES IN BREACH OF CALIFORNIA LABOR CODE AND CONTRACT (On Behalf of Claimant and the Re-plan Subclass)

- 101. Claimant re-alleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.
- 102. Claimant and Re-plan Subclass members earned commission wages within the meaning of California Labor Code Sections 200 and 204.1.
- 103. Oracle has knowingly, intentionally, and willfully failed and refused to pay Claimant and Re-plan Subclass members the entire amount of the commissions they earned under their respective commissions plans. Oracle has operated under and continues to operate under a common policy and plan of failing and refusing to pay salespeople their full compensation by systematically implementing retroactive forfeitures of commissions earned.
- 104. Claimant and Re-plan Subclass members entered into written commission contracts with Respondent Oracle. These contracts provided that Oracle would pay commissions based on sales credited to Claimant and Re-plan Subclass members in accordance with the commission rates set forth in their Compensation Plans (ICPs).
- 105. Claimant and Re-plan Subclass members have performed all of the express contractual duties and obligations that would entitle them to receive commissions under those ICPs. Claimant and Re-plan Subclass members have met all lawful and express conditions precedent to the earning of commissions. Oracle has credited Claimant and Re-plan Subclass members for sales that are encompassed by their commission contracts and calculated the commissions that they are entitled to on those sales based on their ICPs.
- 106. But, Oracle has failed to pay Claimant and Re-plan Subclass members the commissions due under the contracts. Oracle relies on provisions that allow it to retroactively change commission terms at any time and thereby deprive salespeople of commissions earned and due for completed sales. These provisions are void and unenforceable exculpatory clauses under California Civil Code Section 1668.

107. Furthermore, these provisions are unlawful, void and unenforceable under California Labor Code Sections 221, 223, and 2751. These terms, if enforced, would render Oracle's contractual bargain and obligation to pay commissions a nullity that the company can disregard at whim.

- 108. Labor Code Section 221 states: "It shall be unlawful for any employer to collect or receive from an employee any part of wages theretofore paid by said employer to said employee." Labor Code Section 221 prohibits an employer from deducting from wages as a set-off for debts. Furthermore, California's Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders prohibit an employer from using employees' earned wages to offset its ordinary business costs.
- 109. Oracle's use of re-plans to avoid paying earned commissions, including by clawing back previously paid compensation, constitutes the unlawful withholding and deduction of earned wages in violation of Section 221.
- 110. Labor Code Section 223 states: "Where any statute or contract requires an employer to maintain the designated wage scale, it shall be unlawful to secretly pay a lower wage while purporting to pay the wage designated by statute or by contract."
- 111. In violation of Section 223, Oracle secretly underpays salespeople's commission wages while purporting to follow the commission rates designated by contract. Oracle clandestinely recalculates the commissions owed and due to employees and pays them amounts lower than those to which they are contractually entitled.
- 112. Labor Code Section 2751 states, in pertinent part: "Whenever an employer enters into a contract of employment with an employee for services to be rendered within this state and the contemplated method of payment of the employee involves commissions, the contract shall be in writing and shall set forth the method by which the commissions shall be computed and paid." Section 2751 does not permit employers to unilaterally and retroactively set the terms and conditions for commissions payments; employees must agree to the applicable terms and conditions in advance and be able to anticipate their actual compensation as they are performing the work and making applicable sales.

- 113. In violation of Section 2751, Oracle routinely deviates from the specified contractual methods for the computation and payment of commissions. Stated otherwise, Oracle improperly relies on undisclosed methods not set forth in the commissions contract.
- 114. Individually and collectively, Labor Code Sections 221, 223, and 2751 and Civil Code Section 1668 invalidate Oracle's illegal contract provisions and give rise to Claimant and Re-plan Subclass members' claims for unpaid wages under the valid and enforceable terms of their written commission contracts.
- 115. As part of the retroactive re-plan practices and related compensation practices detailed in this Demand, Oracle deducted from Claimant's and Re-plan Subclass members' earned commissions and either withheld wages due or confiscated back previously paid wages including by taking deductions from additional earned wages.
- 116. Labor Code Section 221 prohibits an employer from deducting amounts from an employee's wages, even as a set-off for amounts clearly owed by the employee. Here, Claimant and Re-plan Subclass members did not lawfully owe to Oracle any commissions they had earned. The commission wages that were paid to Claimant and Re-plan Subclass members or designated as due to them were not loans or advances. Because the lawful and express contractual conditions to earning commissions were satisfied, the commissions are considered wages. Therefore, under Section 221, Oracle cannot lawfully recoup the commission whether or not it has been paid.
- 117. Nonetheless, Oracle engaged in self-help and deducted commission wages to set-off commission amounts that it wanted to take back following a retroactive re-plan. Such withholding and diversion of wages is not authorized under Labor Code Section 224 and constitutes unlawful wage deductions under Section 221.
- 118. Pursuant to California Labor Code §§ 200 et seq., Claimant and Re-plan Subclass members are entitled to recover unpaid wages, with interest, attorney's fees, and costs, all in an amount to be proven at trial.

# SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(On Behalf of Claimant and the Re-plan Subclass)

- Claimant re-alleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.
- Claimant resigned from Oracle and concluded her employment in July 2014. As of that date, Claimant was owed at least \$20,000 in unpaid commissions.
- At the time of Claimant's separation, Respondent Oracle knowingly and willfully failed to pay her all of the commission wages she had earned and which had been calculated or could be reasonably calculated under the commissions contract in effect at
- Oracle has operated under and continues to operate under a common policy and plan of failing and refusing to timely pay unpaid wages owed to sales representatives whose employment ended, as required by California Labor Code Sections 201 and 202.
- As a result of its failure to timely pay separated employees including Claimant and Re-plan Subclass members – all compensation due, Oracle is liable for statutory waiting time penalties pursuant to California Labor Code Section 203.

# THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 et seq. (On Behalf of Claimant and the Re-Plan Subclass)

- Claimant re-alleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.
- Respondent Oracle is a "person" as defined under California Business &
- Respondent Oracle is a multinational computer technology corporation that develops and sells the public a myriad of sophisticated software programs. Oracle's products include database management systems like customer relationship management programs, supply chain management programs, and enterprise resource planning. Oracle's products and services are intended to turn information and data into competitive advantages

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constitute unfair business practices under Section 17200. Oracle's commission wage

policies, practices, and procedures deceive employees about when, how, and what they will

be paid and oppress employees who have inherently less bargaining power than their

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> These businesses include but are not limited to Sun Microsystems, NetSuite (previously headquartered in California); Bluekai (a startup originally based out of California); Agile Software Corporation (based out of California); Hyperion Solutions Corporation (a California based Company and now subsidiary of Oracle); Taleo (database vendor headquartered in California).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> As one example, Oracle acquired in 2006 Sleepycat Software, Inc. a formerly private company that maintained a database software system developed at the University of California, Berkeley.

139. By attracting more talented sales personnel through false promises of higher wages, Oracle also increases its market power.

140. In the course of dealings with prospective employees and business dealings with other California business entities, including companies that Oracle seeks to acquire, Oracle misrepresents that it complies with California labor laws. In recent years Oracle has acquired and continues to acquire or engage in business transactions with numerous businesses located or incorporated in California, or whose stakeholders are California residents. As an additional example, Oracle has acquired ownership, licenses, and rights to products and services developed in California, by California residents<sup>3</sup>, or at institutions located in California and subsidized with public funds.<sup>4</sup> In some cases, Oracle's sales personnel—subject to Oracle's illegal and unfair compensation practices—worked on these transactions.

141. Oracle's practice of underpaying commission wages contrary to sales employees' compensation plans is unethical, unscrupulous, and injurious not only to employees but to third parties who are not employed by the Company—including customers, consumers, and other businesses and their stakeholders—who transact with Oracle on the reasonable belief that Oracle pays its workers the commissions they earned.

142. Oracle diverts to its own bottom line monies due to its employees but represents that its profit margins were legitimately earned. Had consumers, investors, acquisition targets, and entities with which Oracle otherwise engages in collaborative business endeavors known of Respondent's malfeasance, they may not have transacted business with Oracle.

143. Oracle thus deceives members of the public and gains unfair leverage and advantages from violations of state labor law. Other companies that do not cheat are disadvantaged competitively, making them easier and cheaper acquisition targets, to Oracle's benefit and to the detriment of the stakeholders and employees in those

<sup>4</sup> See supra note 2.

 $<sup>\</sup>int_{0}^{3} See supra note 1.$ 

companies. When a major market actor consistently reaps benefits from breaking the law, it structures the market around that illegal practice. Likewise, it interferes with consumer relationships among the public. Consequently, Oracle's illegal employment practices injure both its employees and the competitive marketplace.

- 144. Firms that compete with Oracle to hire its employees are marketplace competitors even when those companies provide different products or services. As a competitive market place provides consumers higher quality products, more variety, and greater innovation, "competition among employers helps actual and potential employees through higher wages, better benefits, or other terms of employment. Consumers can also gain from competition among employers because a more competitive workforce may create more or better goods and services." 5
- 145. Oracle's compensation practices function as disincentives for employees to voluntarily terminate employment for (justifiable) fear that Oracle will pursue legal action to recover monies from the commissioned employee. In this way, Oracle's practices and its Incentive Compensation Plan effectively function as a non-compete or similar agreement to restrict a competitive labor market for employers and employees. As Oracle commissioned employees are deterred from exiting employment with Oracle, competitors cannot recruit or hire skilled sales personnel on a level playing field.
- 146. Not only do firms compete for employees in a competitive marketplace but employees are entitled to reap the benefits of a competitive market for the skills and services they provide.
- 147. As a result of Oracle's unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent business acts and practices, competitors, investors, consumers and the general public suffer harm. Market participants suffer loss of business, loss of goodwill, and risk the loss of enterprises themselves as a result of impaired competition.
  - 148. Oracle's violations of California's Unfair Competition Law are ongoing and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/public\_statements/992623/ftc-doj\_hr\_guidance\_final\_10-20-16.pdf

- 156. Respondent Oracle is a multinational computer technology corporation that develops and sells the public a myriad of sophisticated software programs. Oracle's products include database management systems like customer relationship management programs, supply chain management programs, and enterprise resource planning. Oracle's products and services are intended to turn information and data into competitive advantages for its customers.
- 157. Oracle is its industry's market leader. The 2015 *PwC's Global 100 Software Leaders* ranks Oracle at #2.
- 158. Business & Professions Code Section 17200 defines unfair competition, in relevant part, as an unfair or unlawful business act or practice. This law intends to safeguard the public against unfair, dishonest, deceptive, destructive, fraudulent and discriminatory business practices. It language proscribes unfair anti-competitive practices even when those practice are not unlawful under existing law.
- 159. Oracle has engaged and continues to engage in business practices which violate California law, including but not limited to California Labor Code Section 204, 204c, 226(a), Section 1174(d), and the applicable Industrial Welfare Commission Wage Orders.
- 160. Oracle's willful failure to pay all earned commission wages on time by operation of the arrears policy, its failure to maintain and issue accurate wage statements and records of commission earnings and deductions, and its payment of commission wages on a monthly or quarterly schedule constitute unlawful business activity prohibited by California Business and Professions Code Section 17200. These practices arise from fraud and result in unfair competition.
- 161. Moreover, since June 1, 2014, Oracle has deviously forced its employees, like Claimant, to forfeit rights that are nonwaivable under the law; it has done this by conditioning commission payments on acceptance of a modified arbitration clause buried in Appendix 9 of its Fiscal Year 2015 Terms & Conditions of Incentive Compensation. This arbitration clause purports to waive employees' right to seek public, permanent

headquartered in California).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> As one example, Oracle acquired in 2006 Sleepycat Software, Inc. a formerly private company that maintained a database software system developed at the University of California, Berkeley.

<sup>8</sup> See supra note 6.
<sup>9</sup> See supra note 7.

it offers sales personnel commissions that are fair, lawful and more favorable than its competitors. Consequently, it reaps the benefits of favorable press and lures talented sales personnel through false promises of high commissions. As one example, Forbes has ranked Oracle sixth out of its "10 Companies That Pay Salespeople Really Well." It is reasonable to presume that past, current, and future sales reps would look elsewhere for employment if Respondent's practices were known to the public.

168. Oracle's promises to pay commissioned employees higher wages, including implicitly, the promise to tender this payment in the time prescribed by law, put anti-competitive pressure on competitors who pay lesser wages in a timely manner. By attracting more talented sales personnel through false promises of higher wages Oracle also increases its market power.

169. In the course of dealings with prospective employees and business dealings with other California business entities, including companies that Oracle seeks to acquire, Oracle misrepresents that it complies with California labor laws. In recent years Oracle has acquired and continues to acquire or engage in business transactions with numerous businesses located or incorporated in California, or whose stakeholders are California residents. As an additional example, Oracle has acquired ownership, licenses, and rights to products and services developed in California, by California residents, or at institutions located in California and subsidized with public funds. In some cases, Oracle's sales personnel—subject to Oracle's illegal and unfair compensation practices—worked on these transactions.

170. Oracle's practice of underpaying commission wages contrary to sales employees' compensation plans is unethical, unscrupulous, and injurious not only to employees but to third parties who are not employed by the Company—including customers, consumers, and other businesses and their stakeholders—who transact with Oracle on the reasonable belief that Oracle pays its workers their commissions within the

time required by law.

171. Furthermore, Oracle retains monies due to its employees well beyond the time it is legally permitted to do so. It uses this delay in payment to "calculate" compensation in a manner that minimizes commissions paid out. To the extent that that this illegal policy results in a profit for the Company, Oracle's profits depend in part on its continued illegal conduct, despite the Company's representation that its profit margins were legitimately earned. Had consumers, investors, acquisition targets, and entities with which Oracle otherwise engages in collaborative business endeavors known of Respondent's malfeasance, they may not have transacted business with Oracle.

- 172. Oracle thus deceives members of the public and gains unfair leverage and advantages from violations of state labor law. Other companies that do not cheat are disadvantaged competitively, making them easier and cheaper acquisition targets, to Oracle's benefit and to the detriment of the stakeholders and employees in those companies. When a major market actor consistently reaps benefits from breaking the law, it structures the market around that illegal practice. Likewise, it interferes with consumer relationships among the public. Consequently, Oracle's illegal employment practices injure both its employees and the competitive marketplace.
- 173. Firms that compete with Oracle to hire its employees are marketplace competitors even when those companies provide different products or services. As a competitive market place provides consumers higher quality products, more variety, and greater innovation, "competition among employers helps actual and potential employees through higher wages, better benefits, or other terms of employment. Consumers can also gain from competition among employers because a more competitive workforce may create more or better goods and services." <sup>10</sup>
- 174. Oracle's compensation practices function as disincentives for employees to voluntarily terminate employment for (justifiable) fear because they are waiting on

https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/public\_statements/992623/ftc-doj\_hr\_guidance\_final\_10-20-16.pdf

payments due to the arrears policy. In this way, Oracle's practices and its Incentive Compensation Plan effectively function as a non-compete or similar agreement to restrict a competitive labor market for employers and employees. As Oracle commissioned employees are deterred from exiting employment with Oracle, competitors cannot recruit or hire skilled sales personnel on a level playing field.

- 175. Not only do firms compete for employees in a competitive marketplace but employees are entitled to reap the benefits of a competitive market for the skills and services they provide.
- 176. As a result of Oracle's unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent business acts and practices, competitors, investors, consumers and the general public suffer harm. Market participants suffer loss of business, loss of goodwill, and risk the loss of enterprises themselves as a result of impaired competition.
- 177. Oracle's violations of California's Unfair Competition Law are ongoing and pose a continuing threat to employees and the general public. Oracle's practices harm the general public—all participants in the marketplace.
- 178. As a result of its unlawful and unfair acts, Oracle has reaped and continues to reap unfair benefits and illegal profits at the expense of Claimant, Class members, and the general public.
- 179. Oracle should be made to disgorge these ill-gotten gains and restore to Claimant and the Class members the wrongfully withheld wages to which they are entitled, as well as interest on these wages.
- 180. Claimant and Class members seek, on behalf of the general public, all injunctive and preventive relief authorized by Business and Professions Code Sections 17202 and 17203.
- 181. The benefits of injunctive relief extend well beyond the individual Class members. Monetary relief alone will not redress irreparable harm Oracle perpetrates through its practices. Public injunctive relief is necessary to remedy Oracle's systemic wrongs and benefit the public at large. Consequently, Claimant seeks injunctive relief on

behalf of the general public as well as the Class.

182. This action is designed to ensure the enforcement of an important right affecting the public interest and a large number of employees. The necessity and financial burden of private enforcement is great, and the risks to the named Claimant for stepping forward are also significant. Accordingly, Claimant would be entitled to attorneys' fees should she prevail, separate and apart from any recovery of unpaid wages and penalties.

# FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF PEONAGE (DEBT SERVITUDE) 18 U.S.C. §§ 1581, 1595 (On Behalf of Claimant)

- 183. Claimant re-alleges and incorporates by reference all previous paragraphs.
- 184. Under federal law, 18 U.S.C. § 1581, it is unlawful to hold any person to a condition of "peonage" i.e. debt servitude. Peonage is a status of compulsory or involuntary service based upon an actual or alleged indebtedness of the worker.
- 185. Oracle held Claimant in a condition of peonage by compelling her to work for the Company in order to pay off an alleged "debt." Oracle engaged in improper and wrongful behavior that led Claimant to believe that she had no alternative but to perform the labor. Oracle threatened serious legal action against Claimant if she did not comply.
- Claimant to work against her will. When Oracle unlawfully manufactured an alleged "debt" of \$20,000, Claimant faced an intolerable choice. If she left Oracle, she would be forced to defend against a baseless legal action and would face immeasurable financial harm. She could not afford to pay the "debt" payments or to hire a lawyer to defend her. Claimant knew she could not pay the amount in full, and she reasonably feared that Oracle would file a collections action and obtain a judgment against her. Claimant did not know the full consequences of defaulting in a collections action. At minimum, a judgment would cause almost irreparable long-term harm to her credit, substantially impacting her and her family's future ability to obtain credit and future employment. Hence, the mere credible

continuing its unlawful, unfair and deceptive practices;

1		E.	Statutory penalties under state law;
2		F.	Restitution under state law;
3		G.	Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, as provided by law;
4		Н.	Attorneys' fees and costs under applicable law, including expert fees and
5	costs.		
6		I.	Such additional and further relief as this Tribunal may deem just and proper.
7			
8	Dated:	June 2	29, 2018 Respectfully submitted,
9			
10			By: Danielle Fuschetti
11			Michael D. Palmer
12			SANFORD HEISLER SHARP, LLP
13			Counsel for Claimant and the Proposed Class
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			DEMAND FOR CLASS ARBITRATION

# Exhibit A

# **EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT & MUTUAL AGREEMENT TO ARBITRATE**

Please read this Agreement carefully before you agr ee to its terms by signing it. You may wish to con sult an attorney prior to signing the Agreement. The Agree ment sets forth certain important benefits, terms a nd conditions related to your employment with Oracle. It also se ts forth the mutual agreement between you and Oracl e to arbitrate any dispute or claim arising out of or re lated to your Oracle employment and to waive all ri ghts to a trial or hearing before a court or jury, except as provided below.

## **Proprietary Information**

Oracle's proprietary rights and confidential information are among the company's most important assets. In addition to signing this Agreement as a condition of employment, you also must sign the Proprietary Information Agreement included in the New Hire Offer Packet.

# **Oracle Policies**

Your adherence to the Oracle Code of Ethics and Business Conduct, set forth in a booklet that is mailed to you within two weeks of your first date of employment at Oracle, is vital to Oracle and to your success at Oracle. When you sign this Agreement, you are agreeing to thoroughly familiarize yourself with the Oracle Code of Ethic s and Business Conduct and you are agreeing to abide by it. You a Iso agree to take Oracle's Ethics and Business Condu ct course, available on-line through Oracle's intranet. In ad dition, when you sign this Agreement, you are acknowledging that you have read the letter addressing Oracle's Safety Program highlights included in the New Hire Offer Packet. Oracle maintains an Internal Privacy Policy, which describ es Oracle's privacy practices for employment-relate d information, including personal information that may be collecte d, how and where personal information is processed, personal information may be provided, and how you may access and rectify personal information about you. You agree to abide by the terms of Oracle's Internal Pr ivacy Policy in effect during your employment; a cu rrent copy of Packet. The Oracle Code of Ethics and Business Cond uct, the such policy is also included in the New Hire Offer Oracle Employee Handbook, and Oracle's Internal Priv acy Policy are all on the Oracle intranet and acces sible to all employees. You agree, after beginning employment, to access the Employee Handbook and thoroughly famil iarize yourself with Oracle policies and to abide by them. Additionally, from time to time, Oracle will comm important information about its policies by way of electronic mail notification and/or the Oracle intr anet. By signing this agreement, you agree to thoroughly review these policy communications and to abide by them.

Oracle is a government contractor, and, as such, certain federal, state, and local laws may place prohibitions or other restrictions on the ability of former government wo rkers, and/or relatives of current or former govern ment workers, to be employed by or to perform certain work on beh alf of Oracle. By signing below, you are affirming that your employment with Oracle, and any work you perform when ile employed by Oracle, will not conflict with any such prohibitions or restrictions.

## **Employment Eligibility**

In order to comply with the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, the federal government require s the company to examine documents which prove your legal right to work in the United States. Please see th Verification of Eligibility for Employment information which also is a part of the New Hire Offer Packet.

# **Benefits**

Oracle offers its employees a comprehensive medical , dental, vision, life and disability insurance pac kage through Oracleflex, a flexible benefits program. Oraclefle x may require employee contributions. The company also offers benefits including a 401(k) Savings and Retirement Plan, an Employee Stock Purchase Plan, a Dependent C are Reimbursement Plan and an Educational Reimbursement Plan. The details of these plans are included in the New Hire Offer Packet and/or are available on the Oracle intranet. You understand that you must make your Oracleflex benefits elections within the limited time period set forth in the communication accompanying your personal identification number that you will receive after beginning employment.

By signing this Agreement, you authorize Oracle to associated with your elections under Oracleflex, the Oracle 401(k) Savings and Investment Plan, the Oracle Employee Stock Purchase Plan, or any other benefit offered by Oracle in which you participate and for which an employee contribution is required.

Your starting compensation, position and other terms and conditions related to your employment are set forth in the offer letter you received. By signing this Agreement, you also are agreeing to the terms and conditions set forth in

the offer letter, which are incorporated herein. O ral or written representations contradicting or sup plementing the terms of the offer letter are not valid.

# At-Will Employment<sup>1</sup>

Employment at Oracle is at-will. The company makes no express or implied commitment that your employment is will have a minimum or fixed term, that Oracle may take adverse employment action only for cause or that yo ur employment is terminable only for cause. Either you or Oracle may terminate the employment relationship at any time for any reason. Additionally, Oracle may take any other employment action at any time for any reason. No one at Oracle may make, unless specifically authorized in writing by Oracle's Board of Directors, any prom ise, express or implied, that employment is for any fixed term or that cause is required for the termination of or change in the employment relationship.

# **Equal Employment Opportunity and Escalation Process**

Oracle believes that all employees should be treate d fairly and equitably in conformance with its Equa I Employment Opportunity policy. We take personnel action witho ut regard to race, color, national origin, sex, mar ital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, disability, veteran status, or any other character istic prohibited by federal, state or local law. Our commitment to this policy applies to every phase of the employment relationship, and we make every effort to comply with this policy. If, however, you feel you have not been treated fair ly in some way in your Oracle employment, you agree, before taking any other action, to make a written complaint to a Director of the Human Resources Department and to allow individ uals within the Department a reasonable period of to ime in which to investigate and informally attempt to resolve your issues.

# **Mutual Agreement to Arbitrate**

You and Oracle understand and agree that any existi ng or future dispute or claim arising out of or rel ated to your Oracle employment, or the termination of that employment, will be resolved by final and binding arbitration and that no other forum for dispute resolution will be available to either party, except as to those claims identified below. The decision of the arbitrator shall be final and binding on both you and Oracle and it shall be enforceable by any court having proper jurisdiction.

The arbitration proceedings shall be conducted purs uant to the Federal Arbitration Act, and in accordance with the National Rules for the Resolution of Employment Disputes of the American Arbitration Association or the Employment Arbitration Rules and Procedures adopted by Judicia I Arbitration & Mediation Services ("JAMS"). The arbitrator will have all the powers a judge would have in dealing with any question or dispute that may arise before, during and after the arbitration.

# **Claims Not Covered**

Claims not covered by this Arbitration Agreement are:

- 1. Claims under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 or any tort related to or arising out of sexual assault or harassment, including assault and battery, intentio nal infliction of emotional distress, false imprisonment, or negligent hiring, supervision, or retention,
- 2. Claims for benefits under the workers' compensation , unemployment insurance and state disability insurance laws, and
- 3. Claims by you or by Oracle for temporary restraining orders or preliminary injunctions ("temporary equitable relief") in cases in which such temporary equitable relief would be otherwise authorized by law. In such cases where temporary equitable relief is sought, the trial on the merits of the action will occur in front of, and will be decided by, the arbitrator, who wil I have the same ability to order legal or equitable remedies as could a court of general jurisdiction.

### Costs

Oracle agrees to bear the costs of the arbitrator's fee and all other costs related to the arbitration , assuming such costs are not expenses that you would be required to bear if you were bringing the action in a court of law. You and Oracle shall each bear your own attorneys' fees incurred in connection with the arbitration, and the arbitrator will not have authority to award attorneys' fees unless a st atute at issue in the dispute or other appropriate law authorizes the award of attorneys' fees to the prevailing part y, in which case the arbitrator shall have the auth ority to make an award of attorneys' fees as permitted by the applicable statute or law.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Note: This at-will employment provision is not applicable to employees located in the state of Montana.

# Consideration

You understand and acknowledge that you are offered employment in consideration of your promise to arb itrate claims. In addition, the promises by Oracle and by you to resolve claims by arbitration in accordance with the provisions of this Arbitration Agreement, rather than through the courts, provide consideration for each other.

Employment Agreement & Mutual Agreement to Arbitrate

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## **Knowing and Voluntary Agreement; Complete Agreement**

You understand and agree that you have been advised to consult with an attorney of your own choosing b efore signing this Employment Agreement & Mutual Agreement to Arbitrate, and you have had an opportunity to do so.

YOU FURTHER UNDERSTAND AND AGREE THAT YOU HAVE READ THIS EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT & MUTUAL AGREEMENT TO ARBITRATE CAREFULLY. BY SIGNIN G IT, YOU ARE EXPRESSLY WAIVING ANY AND ALL RIGHTS TO A TRIAL OR HEARING BEFORE A COURT OR JURY OF ANY AND ALL DISPUTES AND CLAIMS SUBJECT TO ARBITRATION UNDER THIS ARBITRATION AGREEMENT WHICH CLAIMS YOU MAY NOW OR IN THE FUTURE HAVE.

This Arbitration Agreement contains the complete ag reement between Oracle and you regarding the subjec t of arbitration and alternate dispute resolution, and s upersedes any and all prior written, oral, or other types of representations and agreements between Oracle and you, if any.

### Severability

If any portion of this Employment Agreement & Mutual Agreement to Arbitrate shall, for any reason, be held invalid or unenforceable, or contrary to public policy or any law, the remainder of the Agreement shall not be affected by such invalidity or unenforceability, but shall remain in full force and effect, as if the invalid or unenforceable term or portion thereof had not existed within this Agreement.

# **Modification**

This Employment Agreement & Mutual Agreement to Arbi trate may be modified only in a writing, expressly referencing this Agreement and you by full name, signed by you and Oracle's Board of Directors.

By pressing the 'Acknowledge and Accept' button bel ow you are agreeing that you have read and that you understand every provision of this Agreement and that, in consideration for your employment at Oracle, you agree to abide by its terms

You may return to the previous page without taking action by pressing the Return button below.

# PROOF OF SERVICE 2 I am over eighteen years old, not a party in this action, and my business address is 111 3 Sutter Street, Suite 975, San Francisco, California, 94104. On June 29, 2018, I caused to be 4 served a true copy of the attached on the parties in said action as follows: 5 JAMS DEMAND FOR ARBITRATION FORM 6 DEMAND FOR CLASS ARBITRATION AND EXHIBIT A THERETO 7 (BY REGULAR MAIL) by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope 8 with postage thereon fully prepaid, for collection and mailing at my place of business following ordinary business practices. Said documents will be depicted with the United 9 States Post Office Mailbox at San Francisco, California, addressed as follows: 10 (BY OVERNIGHT DELIVERY/FEDERAL EXPRESS) by placing a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope, with delivery fees prepaid, deposited with the authorized 11 overnight/Federal Express carrier/box at San Francisco, California, addressed as follows: 12 X (BY PERSONAL SERVICE) by causing to be personally delivered by hand and leaving a true copy with the person(s) named below and/or a person having charge of the office at 13 the address shown below: 14 (BY FACSIMILE) by transmitting the foregoing document(s) by facsimile to the party(ies) identified below by using the facsimile number(s) indicated. Said 15 transmission(s) were verified as complete and without error. 16 X (BY ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION) by transmitting the foregoing document(s) by electronic transmission to the party(ies) identified below by using the email addresses as 17 indicated. Said transmission(s) were verified as complete and without error. 18 Brendan Dolan 19 bdolan@vedderprice.com Lucky Meinz 20 lmeinz@vedderprice.com Brittany A. Sachs 21 bsachs@vedderprice.com Vedder Price (CA), LLP 22 275 Battery Street, Suite 2464 San Francisco, CA 94111 23 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the 24 foregoing is true and correct. Executed in San Francisco on June 29, 2018. 25 26 F. Cody Kahoe 27