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# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Drew Moss, and Sahar
Maleksaeedi, Individually and on
Behalf of All Others Similarly
Situated,

Plaintiffss,
v.

Defendant.

Case No.: '11CV0906 LAB JMA

CLASS ACTION

Complaint for Damages and
Injunctive Relief Pursuant To The
Telephone Consumer Protection
Act, 47 U.S.C § 227 et seq.

Jury Trial Demanded

#### Introduction

1. Drew Moss and Sahar Maleksaeedi ("Plaintiffs") bring this Class Action Complaint for damages, injunctive relief, and any other available legal or equitable remedies, resulting from the illegal actions of Twitter, Inc. ("Defendant"), in negligently, and/or willfully contacting Plaintiffs on Plaintiffs' cellular telephones, in violation of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq., ("TCPA"), thereby invading Plaintiffs' privacy. Plaintiffs allege as follows upon personal knowledge as to their own acts and experiences, and, as to all other matters, upon information and belief, including investigation conducted by their attorneys.

#### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 2. Jurisdiction is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2) because Plaintiffs seek up to \$1,500 in damages for each call in violation of the TCPA, which, when aggregated among a proposed class number in the tens of thousands, exceeds the \$5,000,000 threshold for federal court jurisdiction. Further, Plaintiffs allege a national class, which will result in at least one class member belonging to a different state than that of Defendant, providing jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. Section 1332(d)(2)(A). Therefore, both elements of diversity jurisdiction under the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 ("CAFA") are present, and this Court has jurisdiction.
- 3. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the Southern District of California pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and 1441(a) because the events giving rise to Plaintiffs' causes of action against Defendant occurred within the State of California and the County of San Diego, within this judicial district.

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**PARTIES** 

- Plaintiffs are, and at all times mentioned herein were, citizens and residents of 4. the State of California. Plaintiffs are, and at all times mentioned herein were, "persons" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153 (10).
- 5. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that Defendant is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a corporation whose primary corporate address is in San Francisco, California. Defendant, is a citizen of this state. Defendant is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a corporation and a "person," as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153 (10). Defendant provides a social networking service through the use of text messages with more than 100 million active users. Plaintiffs allege that at all times relevant herein Defendant conducted business in the State of California and in the County of San Diego, and within this judicial district.

#### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 6. At all times relevant, Plaintiffs were a citizens of the State of California. Plaintiffs are, and at all times mentioned herein were, "persons" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153 (10).
- Defendant is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a corporation and a 7. "person," as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153 (10).
- 8. At all times relevant Defendant conducted business in the State of California and in the County of San Diego, within this judicial district.
- Plaintiffs have been members of Twitter for a considerable period of time. 9.
  - Plaintiffs activated one or more options in their Twitter accounts, online, to 10. receive notifications concerning their account via text messages on April 6, 2011.
  - Plaintiffs continued to receive text message notifications from Defendant 11. thereafter. At some point Plaintiffs decided that they no longer wanted to receive text message notifications on their cellular telephone from Defendant.

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- Plaintiffs then responded to Defendant's last text message notification by 12. replying "stop," as instructed by Twitter.
- 13. At this point, Plaintiffs withdrew any express or implied consent to receive text message notification to their cellular telephone that they may have previous given Twitter.
- 14. In response to receiving this revocation of consent, Defendant then immediately sent another, unsolicited, confirmatory text message to Plaintiffs' cellular telephones.
- This unsolicited text message placed to Plaintiffs' cellular telephone was 15. placed via an "automatic telephone dialing system," ("ATDS") as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227 (a)(1) as prohibited by 47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(1)(A).
- The telephone number that the defendant, or its agents, called was assigned to 16. a cellular telephone service for which Plaintiffs incured a charge for incoming calls pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(1).
- These telephone calls constituted calls that were not for emergency purposes 17. as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(1)(A)(i).
- Plaintiffs did not provide Defendant or its agents prior express consent to 18. receive unsolicited text messages, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227 (b)(1)(A).
- 19. These telephone calls by Defendant or its agents violated 47 U.S.C. § 227(b) **(1)**.

#### **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

- 20. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and on behalf of and all others similarly situated ("the Class").
- Plaintiffs represent, and are members of the Class, consisting of all persons 21. within the United States who received any unsolicited confirmatory text messages and/or any other unsolicited text messages from Defendant after any class member sent a reply text message, "stop," to Defendant in response to a text message sent by Defendant, which text message was not made for

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- emergency purposes or with the recipient's prior express consent, within the four years prior to the filing of this Complaint.
- Defendant and its employees or agents are excluded from the Class. Plaintiffs 22. do not know the number of members in the Class, but believe the Class members number in the hundreds of thousands, if not more. Thus, this matter should be certified as a Class action to assist in the expeditious litigation of this matter.
- 23. Plaintiffs and members of the Class were harmed by the acts of Defendant in at least the following ways: Defendant, either directly or through its agents, illegally contacted Plaintiffs and the Class members via their cellular telephones by using an unsolicited and/or confirmatory text message, thereby causing Plaintiffs and the Class members to incur certain cellular telephone charges or reduce cellular telephone time for which Plaintiffs and the Class members previously paid, and invading the privacy of said Plaintiffs and the Class members. Plaintiffs and the Class members were damaged thereby.
- 24. This suit seeks only damages and injunctive relief for recovery of economic injury on behalf of the Class and it expressly is not intended to request any recovery for personal injury and claims related thereto. Plaintiffs reserve the right to expand the Class definition to seek recovery on behalf of additional persons as warranted as facts are learned in further investigation and discovery.
- The joinder of the Class members is impractical and the disposition of their 25. claims in the Class action will provide substantial benefits both to the parties and to the court. The Class can be identified through Defendant's records or Defendant's agents' records.
- There is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and fact 26. involved affecting the parties to be represented. The questions of law and fact

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to the Class predominate over questions which may affect individual Class members, including the following:

- Whether, within the four years prior to the filing of this Complaint, a) Defendant placed any confirmatory text messages (other than a text message made for emergency purposes or made with the prior express consent of the called party) to a Class member using any automatic telephone dialing and/or texting system to any telephone number assigned to a cellular telephone service;
- Whether Plaintiffs and the Class members were damaged thereby, and b) the extent of damages for such violation; and
- Whether Defendant should be enjoined from engaging in such conduct c) in the future.
- 28. As a person that received at least one confirmatory text message without Plaintiffs' prior express consent, Plaintiffs are asserting claims that are typical of the Class. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class in that Plaintiffs have no interests antagonistic to any member of the Class.
- Plaintiffs and the members of the Class have all suffered irreparable harm as a 29. result of the Defendant's unlawful and wrongful conduct. Absent a class action, the Class will continue to face the potential for irreparable harm. In addition, these violations of law will be allowed to proceed without remedy and Defendant will likely continue such illegal conduct. Because of the size of the individual Class member's claims, few, if any, Class members could afford to seek legal redress for the wrongs complained of herein.
- 30. Plaintiffs have retained counsel experienced in handling class action claims and claims involving violations of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act.
- 31. A class action is a superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. Class-wide damages are essential to induce Defendant to

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comply with federal and California law. The interest of Class members in individually controlling the prosecution of separate claims against Defendant is small because the maximum statutory damages in an individual action for violation of privacy are minimal. Management of these claims is likely to present significantly fewer difficulties than those presented in many class claims.

Defendant has acted on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby 32. making appropriate final injunctive relief and corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

#### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

# NEGLIGENT VIOLATIONS OF THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 47 U.S.C. § 227 ET SEQ.

- Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all of the above paragraphs of this 33. Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- The foregoing acts and omissions of Defendant constitute numerous and 34. multiple negligent violations of the TCPA, including but not limited to each and every one of the above-cited provisions of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seg.
- As a result of Defendant's negligent violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227 et seq, 35. Plaintiffs and The Class are entitled to an award of \$500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).
- Plaintiffs and the The Class are also entitled to and seek injunctive relief 36. prohibiting such conduct in the future.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiffs respectfully request the Court grant Plaintiffs and The Class members the following relief against Defendant:

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# FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION FOR NEGLIGENT VIOLATION OF THE TCPA, 47 U.S.C. § 227 ET SEQ.

- 37. As a result of Defendant's negligent violations of 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1), Plaintiffs seek for themselves and each Class member \$500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every violation, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).
- 38. Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(A), injunctive relief prohibiting such conduct in the future.
- 39. Any other relief the Court may deem just and proper.

#### TRIAL BY JURY

40. Pursuant to the seventh amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, Plaintiffs are entitled to, and demand, a trial by jury.

Date: April 27, 2011 HYDE & SWIGART

By: \_/s Joshua B. Swigart\_\_\_\_\_ Joshua B. Swigart Attorneys for Plaintiffs

SJS 44 (Rev. 12/07)

### **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS		
Drew Moss, and Saha of All Others Similarly S	ar Maleksaeedi, Individually and		Twitter, Inc.		
(b) County of Residence	e of First Listed Plaintiff California	+	County of Residence of	of First Listed Defendant	California
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)		
		ė.	The second secon	D CONDEMNATION CASES, U INVOLVED.	SE THE LOCATION OF THE
(c) Attorney's (Firm Nam	e, Address, and Telephone Number)		Attorneys (If Known)	'11 CV090	6LAB JMA
Hyde & Swigart					
	South Suite 301, San Diego, C			DINGIDLE DIDEEL	
II. BASIS OF JURISI	OICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only		(For Diversity Cases Only)	RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	(U.S. Government Not a Party)			IF DEF Incorporated or Pr of Business In Thi	
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	双4 Diversity yeb (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in I		en of Another State	2	
			en or Subject of a  reign Country	3	□ 6 □ 6
IV. NATURE OF SUI	T (Place an "X" in One Box Only) TORTS	FO	ORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
□ 110 Insurance □ 120 Marine □ 130 Miller Act □ 140 Negotiable Instrument □ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment □ 151 Medicare Act □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 190 Other Contract □ 195 Contract Product Liability □ 196 Franchise  REAL PROPERTY	□         310 Airplane         □         362 Person           □         315 Airplane Product         Med.           Liability         □         365 Person           □         320 Assault, Libel & Slander         □         368 Asbest           □         330 Federal Employers' Liability         □         Liability           □         340 Marine         PERSONAL         □         370 Other           □         345 Marine Product         □         370 Other         □         371 Truth         □         370 Other         □         Proper         Proper         Proper         Proper         Proper         Product Liability         □         385 Proper         <	nal Injury - Malpractice ala Injury - Malpractice ala Injury - 62. 62. 63. 64. 64. 67. 66. 67. 67. 67. 67. 67. 67. 67. 67	0 Agriculture 0 Other Food & Drug 5 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 0 Liquor Laws 0 R.R. & Truck 0 Airline Regs. 0 Occupational Safety/Health 0 Other  LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards Act 0 Labor/Mgmt. Relations 0 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act 0 Railway Labor Act	□ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 □ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157  PROPERTY RIGHTS □ 820 Copyrights □ 830 Patent □ 840 Trademark  SOCIAL SECURITY □ 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 862 Black Lung (923) □ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) □ 864 SSID Title XVI □ 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS	□ 400 State Reapportionment □ 410 Antitrust □ 430 Banks and Banking □ 450 Commerce □ 460 Deportation □ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations □ 480 Consumer Credit □ 490 Cable/Sat TV □ 810 Selective Service □ 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange □ 875 Customer Challenge □ 12 USC 3410 ▼ 890 Other Statutory Actions □ 891 Agricultural Acts □ 892 Economic Stabilization Act
☐ 210 Land Condemnation ☐ 220 Foreclosure ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment ☐ 240 Torts to Land ☐ 245 Tort Product Liability ☐ 290 All Other Real Property	□ 441 Voting □ 510 Motion □ 442 Employment Senten □ 443 Housing/ Habeas Co Accommodations □ 530 Genera □ 444 Welfare □ 535 Death	ns to Vacate	O Other Labor Litigation I Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act  IMMIGRATION Retained Application B Habeas Corpus - Alien Detainee 5 Other Immigration Actions	□ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) □ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	□ 893 Environmental Matters □ 894 Energy Allocation Act □ 895 Freedom of Information Act □ 900Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice □ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
▼1 Original □ 2 Re	an "X" in One Box Only) emoved from	rt Reone	ened anothe	erred from	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	ON Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under whi 47U.S.C. \$227 et seq  Brief description of cause:	ich you are filing (I	Do not cite jurisdictiona	y) I statutes unless diversity):	28:1331 yeb
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:			MAND \$ ,000.00 +	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND:	if demanded in complaint:  Yes ①No
VIII. RELATED CAS IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions): JUDGE			DOCKET NUMBER	
DATE 4/28/11	SIGNATUI	RE OF ATTORNEY O	OF RECORD		
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY					
DECEME#	A DDI VID	NG IED	HIDOE	MAC HID	NCE.

JS 44 Reverse (Rev. 12/07)

#### INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

#### Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I. (a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.C.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.

United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.

United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.

Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)

- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerks in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.

Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.

Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.

Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.

Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.

Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.

Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.

Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment. (7) Check this box for an appeal from a magistrate judge's decision.

- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.

  Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553
  Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.

Demand. In this space enter the dollar amount (in thousands of dollars) being demanded or indicate other demand such as a preliminary injunction.

Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.

VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.