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6 Attorneys for KIMSAPRINCESS, INC.
AND KIM KARDASHIAN WEST

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

10
11 KIMSAPRINCESS, INC.; and KIM
12 KARDASHIAN WEST, an individual,

13 Plaintiffs,

14 vs.

15 MISSGUIDED USA (FINANCE) INC.,
16 a Delaware corporation; and
MISSGUIDED LIMITED, a United
Kingdom corporation of unknown form,

17 Defendants.

Case No.

COMPLAINT FOR:

- (1) **VIOLATION OF STATUTORY
RIGHT OF PUBLICITY (Cal.
Civ. Code § 3344);**
- (2) **VIOLATION OF COMMON
LAW RIGHT OF PUBLICITY;**
- (3) **FALSE DESIGNATION OF
ORIGIN (15 U.S.C. § 1125(a));**
- (4) **TRADEMARK
INFRINGEMENT (15 U.S.C. §
1114(1));**
- (5) **COMMON LAW TRADEMARK
INFRINGEMENT**

[DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL]

1 Plaintiffs Kimsaprincess, Inc. and Kim Kardashian West (individually and
2 collectively, “Plaintiffs” or “Kardashian”) alleges as follows:

3 **INTRODUCTION**

4 1. Kim Kardashian West is a television celebrity, model, and
5 spokesperson. Kardashian has been immensely successful in developing and
6 promoting her own fashion, beauty, and other products that have sold under the
7 famous “Kardashian” name and related trademarks. In addition, she has been highly
8 sought after for many years, and continuing to this day, as a paid spokesperson for
9 third-party products. With Kardashian enjoying one of the largest social media
10 followings of *any* celebrity in the world, companies pay enormous sums of money to
11 engage Kardashian to help promote their brands. Even a single social media post by
12 Kardashian can fetch fees of several hundred thousand dollars, and her longer-term
13 endorsement arrangements regularly garner fees in the millions of dollars.

14 2. While most companies understand and respect Kardashian’s right to
15 control and approve any use of her name and likeness in the promotion of products,
16 other companies have sought out ways to leverage her celebrity status and social
17 media following without seeking her consent, thus effectively turning her into an
18 unwitting and unwilling spokesperson of their products. In the instant case,
19 Defendants Missguided USA (Finance) Inc. and Missguided Limited (collectively,
20 “Defendants” or “Missguided”) have made this sort of unlawful misappropriation of
21 Kardashian’s persona—and that of many other celebrities as well—a cornerstone of
22 their marketing and sales strategy.

23 3. Like other “fast fashion” companies, Missguided, which sells clothing
24 throughout the world on its www.missguidedus.com website (among others), has
25 become notorious for “knocking off” the clothing worn by celebrities like
26 Kardashian. But Missguided does not merely replicate the looks of these celebrities
27 as seen on red carpets, in paparazzi photos, and in social media posts. Missguided
28 systematically uses the names and images of Kardashian and other celebrities to

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1 advertise and spark interest in its website and clothing. Missguided’s website and
 2 social media pages are riddled with images of and references to Kardashian that are
 3 designed to promote the www.missguidedus.com website and to elicit sales of
 4 clothing that are purportedly “inspired by” Kardashian. Missguided’s use of
 5 Kardashian’s name and likeness is so pervasive that consumers have begun to
 6 erroneously and mistakenly conclude that she is affiliated with Missguided and is
 7 working with the company to knock off the clothing that fashion designers have
 8 created for her.

9 4. Missguided’s unauthorized use of Kardashian’s trademarked name and
 10 likeness to promote its website and products is a blatant and willful violation of her
 11 statutory and common law rights of publicity, and it further constitutes trademark
 12 infringement in violation of the Lanham Act and California common law. By this
 13 action, Kardashian seeks a permanent injunction restraining Missguided’s unlawful
 14 misappropriation of her persona and trademarks, and she seeks an award of actual
 15 damages, the disgorgement of Missguided’s ill-gotten profits, and an award of
 16 punitive damages to deter Missguided from future violations of her intellectual
 17 property rights.

18 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

19 5. The Court has original jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and
 20 1338(a). This is a civil action arising under federal law, the Lanham Act of 1946 as
 21 amended (codified at 15 U.S.C. §§ 1051, et seq.). The pendent state law claims are
 22 so related to the federal claims that they form part of the same case or controversy
 23 pursuant to Article III of the United States Constitution. The court therefore has
 24 supplemental jurisdiction over those claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).

25 6. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)
 26 for several independent reasons, including that: Defendant “resides” in this judicial
 27 district for venue purposes under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c)(2); a substantial part of the
 28 events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this district; and a

1 substantial part of property that is the subject of the action is situated in this district.

2 **PARTIES**

3 7. Plaintiff Kimsaprincess, Inc. is a California corporation with its
4 principal place of business in Los Angeles County, California.

5 8. Plaintiff Kim Kardashian West is an individual residing in Los Angeles
6 County, California.

7 9. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that
8 Defendant Missguided USA (Finance) Inc. ("Missguided USA") is a Delaware
9 Corporation. At this time, Plaintiffs are unaware of Missguided USA's principal
10 place of business.

11 10. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that
12 Defendant Missguided Limited ("Missguided UK") is a corporation organized and
13 existing under the laws of the United Kingdom, with its principal place of business
14 in Manchester, United Kingdom.

15 11. Defendants Missguided USA and Missguided UK are collectively
16 referred to herein as "Missguided."

17 **ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

18 12. Kardashian is a world-famous television celebrity, model, and
19 spokesperson. For over a decade, she has been featured on the reality television
20 series *Keeping Up With The Kardashians*, which is broadcast in over 160 countries.
21 Kardashian now enjoys one of the largest social media followings of *any* celebrity
22 anywhere in the world, including more than 120 million followers on Instagram, and
23 close to 60 million followers on Twitter.

24 13. Kardashian promotes and sells a variety of products through her own
25 companies, including a cosmetics line sold under the "KKW Beauty" mark and a
26 fragrance line sold under the "KKW Fragrance" mark. Further, Kardashian is in
27 high demand as a paid spokesperson for third-party products. Because of her
28 popularity and reach on social media, companies routinely pay Kardashian *millions*

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1 of dollars in fees to serve as a celebrity endorser.

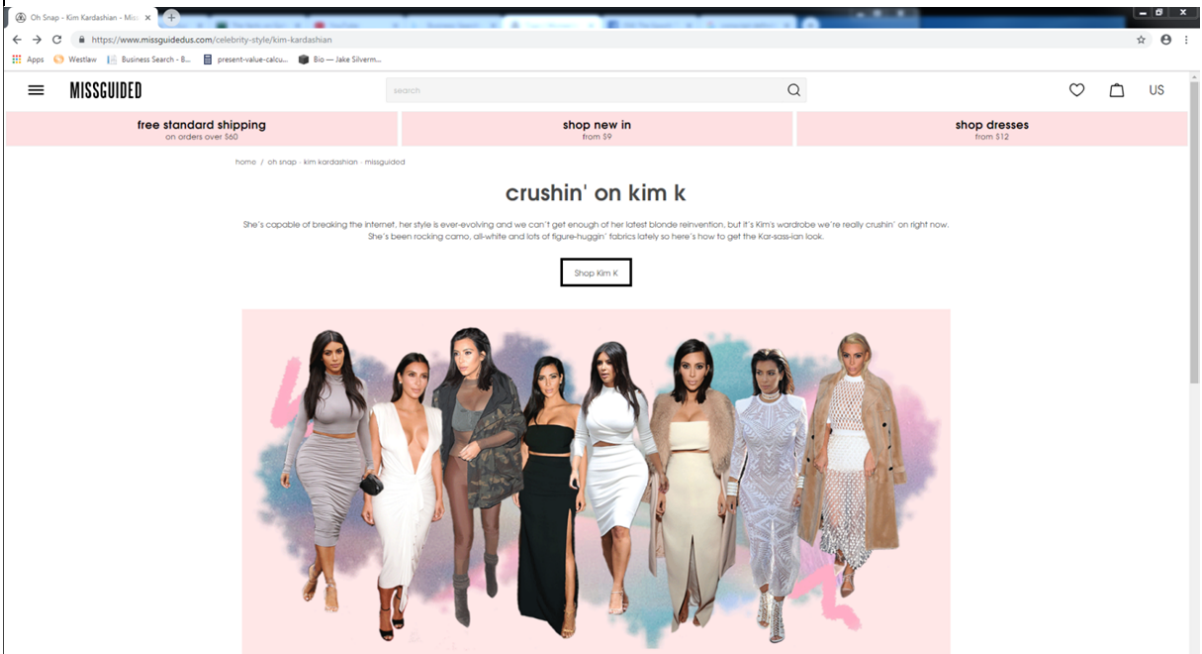
2 14. Kardashian is selective of the third-party companies with whom she
3 chooses to partner. She frequently turns down endorsement deals. And when she
4 does sign on as a spokesperson for third-party products or services, she often works
5 closely with these partners to develop particular products for her endorsement.
6 Kardashian's control over the use of her name, likeness, and trademarks in
7 promoting third-party products and services is absolutely critical to safeguard her
8 reputation, and to prevent the public from being misled into believing that she has
9 associated herself with some product or service that she does not endorse.

10 15. As alleged in further detail below, in total disregard of Kardashian's
11 trademark rights and rights of publicity, Defendants have repeatedly used
12 Kardashian's name and image without authorization to generate interest in their
13 brand and website, and to elicit sales of their products.

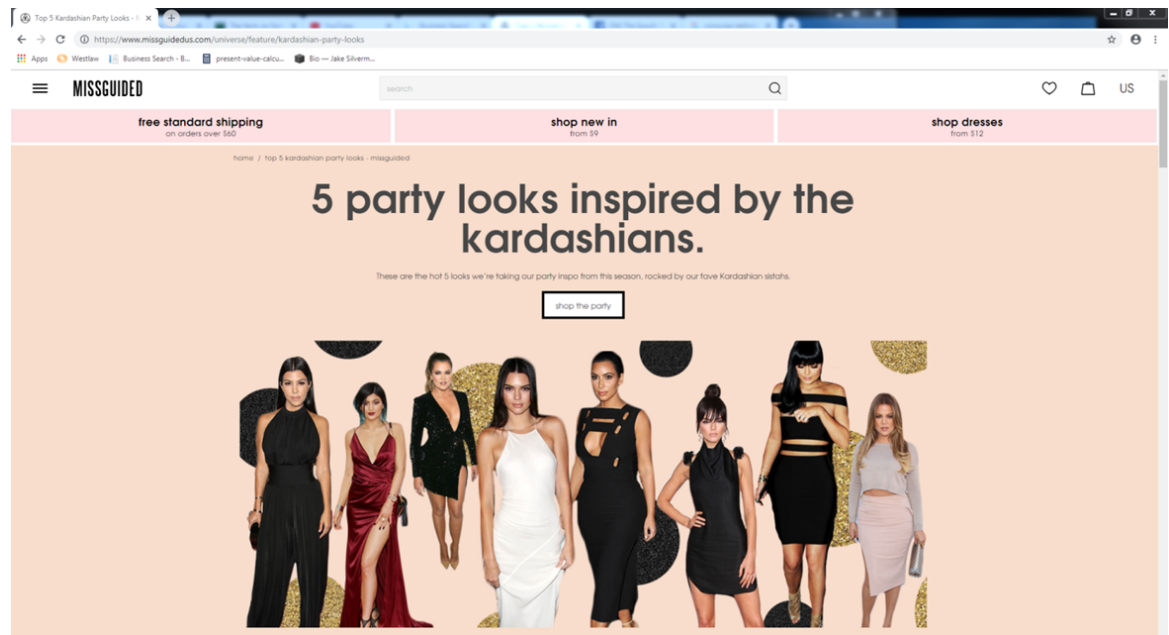
14 16. Missguided operates several websites that sell clothing, including the
15 website www.missguidedus.com. Missguided specializes in "fast" and inexpensive
16 clothing designs, which are often derivative of other companies' designs if not
17 blatant knock-offs. Missguided has become particularly well-known for copying
18 designs worn by famous celebrities, which it then offers for sale on its sites within
19 days—sometimes even hours—of the celebrity appearing in the clothing.

20 17. Misgguided has not only knocked-off the clothing of other designers,
21 but it has unabashedly misappropriated the rights of celebrities like Kardashian in
22 selling these knock-offs on its websites. Missguided's U.S. website has included
23 entire pages that are devoted solely to the sale of clothing inspired by Kardashian,
24 and on which Kardashian's name and likeness are prominently used *without her*
25 *permission* to promote the products, as shown in the following example:
26
27
28

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18. Other pages from Missguided's U.S. website have featured both Kardashian *and* her famous sisters, using *all* of their names and likenesses without authorization to promote Missguided's knock-off clothing:



19. As shown above, these website pages do not merely report on

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1 Kardashian's style or fashions. Missguided is using Kardashian's name and image
 2 for the *express* purpose of promoting and selling products on the site. Indeed, the
 3 web pages depicted above, and others like them on the Missguided website, contain
 4 direct links to pages on the site where clothing can be purchased. In the first
 5 example shown above, visitors to the site are specifically prompted to click a "Shop
 6 Kim K." link, where they can buy clothing copied from Kardashian's prior looks.

7 20. On its social media platforms as well, including Instagram, Missguided
 8 has repeatedly used Kardashian's name and likeness without permission to promote
 9 its sale of clothing on the www.missguidedus.com website. Recently, for example,
 10 after Kardashian posted a photo on Instagram of a dress that was made for her
 11 (below left), Missguided quickly responded with its own Instagram post (below
 12 right) boasting that it would be ripping off the design within "a few days":



26 Missguided purposefully inserted Kardashian's Instagram username
 27 (@kimkardashian) into its post to capitalize on her celebrity status and social media
 28 following in promoting the sale of its upcoming product.

21. Pictured below is another example in which Missguided used (without authorization) Kardashian's name and image in an Instagram post in order to promote a dress that it was selling on its website:



22. Additionally, Missguided has routinely posted other photos of Kardashian on its Instagram feed—at times together with her husband and children—that do not specifically solicit sales of a particular item of clothing as do the preceding examples, but which function nevertheless to advertise Missguided's brand and website. The whole of Missguided's Instagram page is devoted to the advertising of its website and the clothing sold there. Many of Missguided's posts on the feed, including those shown above, promote clothing that is available on www.missguidedus.com; and frequently, Missguided's Instagram posts contain direct links to pages on the site where clothing can be purchased. The entirety of the Instagram page, therefore, is an advertisement for the Missguided brand, website, and products; and accordingly, Missguided's Instagram posts depicting images of Kardashian and using her name are clearly intended to, and have the effect, of promoting Missguided's brand and products. In fact, Missguided has gone so far to as to emboss its "M" logo on photographs of Kardashian and her family to promote

its site and products, as shown in the following example (which is just one of many):



23. Missguided has so systematically misappropriated Kardashian’s name and likeness that the consuming public is likely to and has come to the mistaken conclusion that she is affiliated with Missguided and is working hand in hand with the company to create “fast fashion” versions of her clothing. A website entitled “The Fashion Law” (www.thefashionlaw.com) recently published an article entitled *Kim K and Missguided: Fast Fashion at its Quickest or a Marketing Ploy in Disguise?* The article referenced the speed with which Missguided had been able to post images of a knock-off version of the gold dress worn by Kardashian in the images shown in Paragraph 20 above, and it proffered that this may well be the result of “a coordinated marketing ploy between the mega-influencer [Kardashian] and the millennial-centric fashion company.” In the same article, the author referred to other commentators who had hypothesized (incorrectly) that Missguided’s quick turnaround of a knock-off of Kardashian’s dress was as “an example of ‘a thinly veiled collab’ at play between Missguided and Kim K.”

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FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Violation of Cal. Civ. Code § 3344 – Against All Defendants)

24. Plaintiffs incorporate all prior allegations of this Complaint by this reference.

25. Plaintiffs are the owners of all rights of publicity in Kardashian's name, image, likeness, and persona.

26. Missguided has willfully and without authorization used Kardashian's name, image, likeness, and persona for commercial purposes, to advertise the Missguided brand and website, and to promote the sale of clothing on Missguided's site.

27. Missguided's unauthorized use of Kardashian's name, image, likeness, and persona constitutes a commercial misappropriation in violation of Section 3344 of the California Civil Code.

28. As a direct and proximate result of Missguided's wrongful conduct, Plaintiffs have suffered, and will continue to suffer, damages in an amount to be proven at trial, but in no event less than \$10 million.

29. Missguided has further been unjustly enriched by its misappropriation of Kardashian's statutory right of publicity. Accordingly, Plaintiffs are entitled to restitution of all income, profits, and other benefits resulting from Missguided's conduct, in an amount to be determined according to proof at trial.

30. Missguided's actions as alleged above were malicious, oppressive, and fraudulent, and done with the intent to injure Plaintiffs and with a willful and conscious disregard for Plaintiffs' rights. As a result, Plaintiffs are entitled to recover from Missguided punitive and exemplary damages in an amount sufficient to punish and deter it and others from engaging in such acts in the future.

31. Missguided's actions have further caused and will continue to cause irreparable injury to Plaintiffs that cannot be remedied by an award of monetary damages alone. Plaintiffs are therefore entitled to preliminary and permanent

1 injunctive relief preventing the continuing infringement of their rights of publicity.

2 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

3 **(Violation of Common Law Right of Publicity – Against All Defendants)**

4 32. Plaintiffs incorporate all prior allegations of this Complaint by this
5 reference.

6 33. Plaintiffs are the owners of all common law rights of publicity in
7 Kardashian's name, image, likeness, and persona.

8 34. Missguided has willfully and without authorization used Kardashian's
9 name, image, likeness, and persona for commercial purposes, to advertise the
10 Missguided brand and website, and to promote the sale of clothing on Missguided's
11 site.

12 35. Missguided's unauthorized use of Kardashian's name, image, likeness,
13 and persona constitutes a violation of California's common law right of publicity.

14 36. As a direct and proximate result of Missguided's wrongful conduct,
15 Plaintiffs have suffered, and will continue to suffer, damages in an amount to be
16 proven at trial, but in no event less than \$10 million.

17 37. Missguided has further been unjustly enriched by its infringement of
18 Kardashian's common law right of publicity. Accordingly, Plaintiffs are entitled to
19 restitution of all income, profits, and other benefits resulting from Missguided's
20 conduct, in an amount to be determined according to proof at trial.

21 38. Missguided's actions as alleged above were malicious, oppressive, and
22 fraudulent, and done with the intent to injure Plaintiffs and with a willful and
23 conscious disregard for Plaintiffs' rights. As a result, Plaintiffs are entitled to
24 recover from Missguided punitive and exemplary damages in an amount sufficient
25 to punish and deter it and others from engaging in such acts in the future.

26 39. Missguided's actions have further caused and will continue to cause
27 irreparable injury to Plaintiffs that cannot be remedied by an award of monetary
28 damages alone. Plaintiffs are therefore entitled to preliminary and permanent

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1 injunctive relief preventing the continuing infringement of their rights of publicity.

2 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

3 **(False Designation of Origin (15 U.S.C. § 1125(a)) – Against All Defendants)**

4 40. Plaintiffs incorporate all prior allegations of this Complaint by this
5 reference.

6 41. For many years, Plaintiffs have extensively used the trademarks KIM
7 KARDASHIAN and KIM KARDASHIAN WEST in commerce in connection with
8 a myriad of products and services, including Kardashian’s advertising and
9 promotion of third-party products in the fashion and beauty industries.

10 42. Plaintiffs are further the owners of several federally registered
11 trademarks in Kardashian’s name, including without limitation: (1) U.S.
12 Registration No. 4,989,420 for the use of KIM KARDASHIAN WEST in Int’l Class
13 41 in connection with “Entertainment in the nature of providing information by
14 means of a global computer network in the fields of entertainment and pop culture;
15 entertainment services, namely, personal appearances by a celebrity, actress and
16 model.”; (2) U.S. Registration No. 4,978,865 for the use of KIM KARDASHIAN
17 WEST in Int’l Class 35 in connection with “Advertising services, namely,
18 promoting the brands, goods and services of others; endorsement services, namely,
19 promoting the goods and services of others”; and (3) U.S. Registration No.
20 4,516,079 for the use of KIM KARDASHIAN in Int’l Class 35 in connection with
21 “Advertising services, namely, promoting the brands, goods and services of others;
22 endorsement services, namely, promoting the goods and services of others”
23 (collectively, the “Registered Marks”).

24 43. The Registered Marks are valid trademarks owned by Plaintiffs.
25 Additionally, by virtue of Plaintiffs’ longstanding and continuous use of the marks
26 KIM KARDASHIAN and KIM KARDASHIAN WEST in commerce, Plaintiffs
27 have acquired valid common law trademarks in these names. The public has come to
28 recognize these marks as exclusively identifying Plaintiffs, and the marks are

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1 famous worldwide.

2 44. Missguided has infringed and is continuing to infringe Plaintiffs'
3 registered and common law trademarks by using these marks on its websites,
4 including the www.missguidedus.com website, to promote Missguided's brand and
5 sale of clothing. Missguided has further infringed and is continuing to infringe
6 Plaintiffs' marks by using them on social media, including in Instagram posts, to
7 promote its Missguided brand and websites and the products sold on those sites.

8 45. Missguided's unauthorized use of Plaintiff's registered and common
9 law trademarks is likely to confuse and deceive consumers as to the origin,
10 sponsorship, and/or endorsement of the Missguided brand, website, and products.
11 Specifically, Missguided's use of Plaintiffs' marks is likely to cause consumers to
12 mistakenly believe that Plaintiffs are associated with Missguided, or that they
13 sponsor or endorse Missguided and its websites. And in fact, consumers have
14 *already* expressed such confusion, suggesting in social media posts and online
15 articles that Plaintiffs must be in a "collaboration" with Missguided.

16 46. As a direct and proximate result of the acts of trademark infringement
17 set forth above, Plaintiffs have suffered actual damages in an amount to be proven at
18 trial, but in no event less than \$10 million. Plaintiffs are entitled to the full range of
19 relief available under the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1117, including, without
20 limitation, an award of actual damages and the disgorgement of Missguided's profits
21 arising from the acts of trademark infringement. Missguided's conduct further
22 renders this an "exceptional" case within the meaning of the Lanham Act, thus
23 entitling Plaintiffs to an award of attorneys' fees and costs.

24 47. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that
25 Missguided has committed the infringement described above knowing that its
26 unauthorized use of the KIM KARDASHIAN and KIM KARDASHIAN WEST
27 trademarks is likely to cause consumer confusion. Missguided has thus willfully,
28 knowingly, and maliciously deceived and confused the relevant consuming public,

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1 such that Plaintiffs are entitled to an award of treble damages.

2 48. Missguided's actions have further caused and will continue to cause
3 irreparable injury to Plaintiffs that cannot be remedied by an award of monetary
4 damages alone. Plaintiffs are therefore entitled to preliminary and permanent
5 injunctive relief preventing the continuing infringement of their trademark rights.

6 **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

7 **(Trademark Infringement (15 U.S.C. § 1114(1)) – Against All Defendants)**

8 49. Plaintiffs incorporate all prior allegations of this Complaint by this
9 reference.

10 50. The Registered Trademarks are valid marks owned by Plaintiffs.

11 51. Missguided has infringed the Registered Trademarks as alleged in
12 detail above by using those marks (or confusingly similar variations thereof) in a
13 manner likely to cause confusion or mistake as to Plaintiffs' association with or
14 sponsorship or endorsement of Missguided and its website and products.

15 52. As a direct and proximate result of the acts of trademark infringement
16 set forth above, Plaintiffs have suffered actual damages in an amount to be proven at
17 trial, but in no event less than \$10 million. Plaintiffs are entitled to the full range of
18 relief available under the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1117, including, without
19 limitation, an award of actual damages and the disgorgement of Missguided's profits
20 arising from the acts of trademark infringement. Missguided's conduct further
21 renders this an "exceptional" case within the meaning of the Lanham Act, thus
22 entitling Plaintiffs to an award of attorneys' fees and costs.

23 53. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that
24 Missguided has committed the infringement described above knowing that its
25 unauthorized use of the Registered Trademarks is likely to cause consumer
26 confusion. Missguided has thus willfully, knowingly, and maliciously deceived and
27 confused the relevant consuming public, such that Plaintiffs are entitled to an award
28 of treble damages.

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54. Missguided's actions have further caused and will continue to cause irreparable injury to Plaintiffs that cannot be remedied by an award of monetary damages alone. Plaintiffs are therefore entitled to preliminary and permanent injunctive relief preventing the continuing infringement of their trademark rights.

FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Common Law Trademark Infringement – Against All Defendants)

55. Plaintiffs incorporate all prior allegations of this Complaint by this reference.

56. Plaintiffs own valid common law trademarks in KIM KARDASHIAN and KIM KARDASHIAN WEST for use in connection with a wide variety of products and services, including without limitation the promotion of products and services in the fashion and beauty industries. The Registered Trademarks are likewise valid trademarks owned by Plaintiffs.

57. The public has come to recognize the KIM KARDASHIAN and KIM KARDASHIAN WEST marks as exclusively identifying Plaintiffs, and the marks are famous worldwide.

58. Missguided has infringed and is continuing to infringe Plaintiffs' trademarks by using these marks on its websites, including the www.missguidedus.com website, to promote Missguided's brand and sale of clothing. Missguided has further infringed and is continuing to infringe Plaintiffs' marks by using them on social media, including in Instagram posts, to promote its Missguided brand and websites, as well as the products sold on those sites.

59. Missguided's unauthorized use of Plaintiff's trademarks is likely to confuse and deceive consumers as to the origin, sponsorship, and/or endorsement of the Missguided brand, website, and products. Specifically, Missguided's use of Plaintiffs' marks is likely to cause consumers to mistakenly believe that Plaintiffs are associated with Missguided, or that they sponsor or endorse Missguided and its websites. And in fact, consumers have *already* expressed such confusion, suggesting

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1 in social media posts and online articles that Plaintiffs must be in a “collaboration”
2 with Missguided.

3 60. As a direct and proximate result of the acts of trademark infringement
4 set forth above, Plaintiffs have suffered actual damages in an amount to be proven at
5 trial, but in no event less than \$10 million.

6 61. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that
7 Missguided has committed the infringement described above knowing that its
8 unauthorized use of the KIM KARDASHIAN and KIM KARDASHIAN WEST
9 trademarks is likely to cause consumer confusion. Missguided has thus willfully,
10 knowingly, and maliciously deceived and confused the relevant consuming public,
11 such that Plaintiffs are entitled to an award of treble damages.

12 62. Plaintiffs are further informed and believe, and based thereon allege,
13 that Missguided has acted with fraud, oppression, or malice in infringing Plaintiffs’
14 marks as alleged above. As such, in addition to the other relief sought herein,
15 Plaintiffs are entitled to an award of punitive damages.

16 63. Missguided’s actions have further caused and will continue to cause
17 irreparable injury to Plaintiffs that cannot be remedied by an award of monetary
18 damages alone. Plaintiffs are therefore entitled to preliminary and permanent
19 injunctive relief preventing the continuing infringement of their trademark rights.

20 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment as follows:

21 A. On all claims for relief, for an award of compensatory and treble
22 damages in an amount to be proven, but in no event less than \$10 million;

23 B. On all claims for relief, for the disgorgement of Missguided’s profits
24 attributable to the infringement of Plaintiffs’ trademarks and rights of publicity;

25 C. On the First, Second, and Fifth Claims for Relief, for an award of
26 punitive damages in an amount sufficient to deter unlawful conduct by Missguided
27 in the future;

28 D. For a preliminary and permanent injunction restraining and enjoining

1 Missguided from using Plaintiffs' name, images, likeness, persona, and trademarks;

2 E. For pre-judgment and post-judgment interest according to proof and to
3 the maximum extent allowed by law;

4 F. For attorneys' fees and costs; and

5 G. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.
6

7 DATED: February 20, 2019

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11 By: /s/ Michael J. Kump

12 Michael J. Kump
13 Attorneys for KIMSAPRINCESS, INC.
14 AND KIM KARDASHIAN WEST
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DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Pursuant to Local Rule 38-1, Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

DATED: February 20, 2019

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By: /s/ Michael J. Kump
Michael J. Kump
Attorneys for KIMSAPRINCESS, INC.
AND KIM KARDASHIAN WEST

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