		Case 8:08-cv-00522-AG-AN Document 1	Filed 05/09/2008	Page 1 of 19				
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	1	DOUGLAS A. WINTHROP (No. 183532) Email: dwinthrop@howardrice.com HOWARD RICE NEMEROVSKI CANAD	v	AVH SUIT	-71			
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	4	A Professional Corporation Three Embarcadero Center, 7th Floor San Francisco, California 94111-4024 Telephone: 415/434-1600 Facsimile: 415/217-5910		PH 3				
	6	Attorneys for Plaintiff UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTI a federally chartered corporation	EE,					
	7 8	a federally chartered corporation	· ·	1				
	9	UNITED STATES I	DISTRICT COURT					
	10	CENTRAL DISTRIC	T OF CALIFORNIA					
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	12	UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, a federally chartered	No. SACV08-00	0522 AG (ANx)				
HOWARD	13	corporation,	COMPLAINT FO	R VIOLATION OF NS OLYMPIC AND TS ACT				
NEMERONSKI CANADY FALK	14	Plaintiff,	AMATEUR SPOR	RTS ACT				
A Professional Corporation	15	v.						
	16 17	ASICS AMERICA CORPORATION, a California corporation, and DOES 1 through 10,						
	17	Defendants.	•					
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Plaintiff United States Olympic Committee (the "USOC"), by and for its complaint against Defendant ASICS America Corporation, alleges as follows:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

 The USOC files this action against Defendant for violation of the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act (the "Olympic and Amateur Sports Act"), 36 U.S.C. §§220501 *et seq*. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331.

2. The USOC is informed and believes that Defendant has its principal place of business within this judicial district. This action arises out of wrongful acts committed by Defendant in this judicial district, which subjects Defendant to the personal jurisdiction of this Court. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b).

PARTIES

The USOC is a non-profit, federally chartered corporation with its principal
 place of business at One Olympic Plaza, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909-5760.

4. The USOC alleges upon information and belief that Defendant is a
 California corporation with its principal place of business in Irvine, California.
 Defendant is the North American subsidiary of sporting goods manufacturer ASICS
 Corporation (Japan). Defendant sells athletic shoes, sports apparel and accessories.
 Its shoe line includes footwear for running, racing, track and field, walking, training,
 basketball, wrestling and volleyball.

5. The true names and capacities of the Defendants named herein as Does 110, inclusive, are unknown to the USOC, who therefore sues said Defendants by such
fictitious names. The USOC will amend this Complaint to allege their true names and
capacities when ascertained. The USOC is informed and believes and thereon alleges
that each of the Defendants is liable to the USOC for the events alleged herein.

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THE USOC AND THE OLYMPIC MARKS

6. Since the first modern Olympic Games in Athens, Greece, in 1896, the USOC has used certain unique symbols and terminology in connection with the United States' participation in the Olympic Games. The words and terminology have included the Five Interlocking Rings (the "OLYMPIC Symbol") and the words OLYMPIC, OLYMPIAD, CITTUS, ALTIUS, FORTIUS and certain other words (collectively the "OLYMPIC Marks"). The goodwill associated with these marks arises from and is due in large part to the USOC's efforts. These marks are valuable assets, and this value ensures the USOC's long-term ability to fund the U.S. Olympic Team's participation in the Olympic Games and other activities.

Pursuant to the Olympic and Amateur Sports Act (and its predecessor 7. statute, the Amateur Sports Act of 1978, 36 U.S.C. §§371, et seq.), the USOC has been granted, inter alia, the exclusive right to use the OLYMPIC Marks in the United States. Unlike a plaintiff suing under the Lanham Act, the USOC need not demonstrate that the public is likely to be confused by a particular unauthorized use of OLYMPIC or any of the other OLYMPIC Marks. In the Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, Congress authorized the USOC to bring a civil action against any person who uses any of the OLYMPIC Marks "without the consent of the [USOC] ... for the purpose of trade, to induce the sale of any goods or services, or to promote any ...

8. Since 1950, the USOC has been entrusted under federal law with 21 responsibility for coordinating and developing amateur athletic activity in the United 22 States directly related to international amateur athletic competition and has been 23 granted exclusive jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to participation of the United 24 States in the Olympic Games. To fulfill these responsibilities, the USOC obtains 25 most of its funding through sponsorship fees, suppliership agreements and fees 26 obtained through licensing of media properties and merchandise. For example, Nike, 27 Inc., a leading designer, marketer and distributor of athletic footwear, apparel and 28

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1 accessories, is one of the USOC's leading sponsors, devoting substantial resources to 2 the USOC for the right to use the OLYMPIC Marks and thereby associate itself with 3 the U.S. Olympic Team and the Olympic Games. In the most recent Olympic 4 quadrennium, 2005 to 2008, the value of Nike's sponsorship of the USOC and the 5 U.S. Olympic Team has been over \$20 million.

6 9. The fees that the USOC generates through the licensing of its intellectual 7 property, including the OLYMPIC Marks, are used to house, feed, train and otherwise 8 support U.S. Olympic athletes and to finance the United States' participation in the 9 Olympic Games. For example, during the past four years, these fees were used to assist the USOC in: 10

11 (a) hosting approximately 25,000 athletes, coaches, officials and program staff per year for the National Governing Bodies ("NGBs") for the individual 12 13 Olympic sports at its three Olympic training centers (located in Chula Vista, 14 California, Colorado Springs, Colorado, and Lake Placid, New York) and at its U.S. Olympic Education Center in Marquette, Michigan;

(b) working with local communities and assisting in funding at least 16 17 twenty-seven Olympic and Paralympic sports in partnership with NGBs on behalf of 18 the Community Olympic Development Programs in Atlanta, Minneapolis, San 19 Antonio, Springfield, Missouri, Flagstaff, Arizona, Lake County, Indiana, and 20 Moorestown, New Jersey;

21 directing over \$10 million per year in grants to more than one (c) 22 thousand individual athletes;

23 (d) directing over \$9 million per year to support athletes, coaches and 24 NGBs in the areas of sports medicine, sports science, coaching, and training;

25 awarding over \$150 million in grants to its member organizations, (e) 26 including NGBs, for individual Olympic and Paralympic sports;

27 providing millions of dollars in support to U.S. athletes and teams in (f)28 national and international competitions including over \$30 million this year to send

the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic teams to Beijing; and

(g) funding the USOC's many other statutory functions.

10. Unlike almost every other National Olympic Committee around the world, the USOC does not rely on the government for a substantial portion of its funding. Therefore, its exclusive rights under the Olympic and Amateur Sports Act to the use of, *inter alia*, the word OLYMPIC, are critical to the USOC's continued ability to fulfill its federally chartered mission.

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DEFENDANT'S REPEATED AND WILLFUL VIOLATIONS OF THE OLYMPIC AND AMATEUR SPORTS ACT

11 11. In late April 2008, Defendant began to display an advertisement on the home page of its website, www.asicsamerica.com, that makes frequent and prominent use of the word OLYMPIC and promotes Defendant's products (the "Website Advertisement"). The Website Advertisement features two photographs of marathon runner Deena Kastor. In large banner text, the Website Advertisement states, 15 "KASTOR HEADS TO THIRD OLYMPICS." Below this text, the advertisement 16 17 states, "Deena Kastor secured her spot on the US Olympic Team by winning the 18 Women's Marathon Olympic Trials." Below the photographs of Kastor is an 19 advertisement for Defendant's GT-2130 running shoe. Above the photographs is a link labeled "FIND A RETAILER," by which users may locate retailers of 20 21 Defendant's products. To the left of the photographs are links to Defendant's product 22 lines, by which users may learn about Defendant's products, including suggested 23 retail prices. The Website Advertisement itself contains a link to a statement that 24 promotes, inter alia, the fact that Defendant sponsors Kastor, and describes the 25 specific shoes and accessories made by Defendant that Kastor wore during the race. 26 The USOC is informed and believes that Defendant provides paid sponsorship to 27 Kastor in exchange for her endorsing, using and promoting Defendant's products, and 28 that Defendant publishes advertisements about its sponsored athletes, including

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Kastor, because of the economic benefits it receives as a result of such advertising. A true and correct copy of the Website Advertisement is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

12. Defendant has neither sought nor received authorization from the USOC to use the word OLYMPIC in the Website Advertisement, or in any manner whatsoever. To the contrary, based on Defendant's prior advertising and the USOC's responses thereto, Defendant is running this advertisement with full knowledge—and disregard—of the USOC's federally protected rights in the word OLYMPIC.

13. After the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens, Defendant ran a full-page advertisement in the September 3, 2004, edition of USA TODAY that depicted a stylized ASICS letter "A" draped in a laurel wreath similar to those awarded to the medal winners in Athens (the "Athens Advertisement"). The Athens Advertisement read, "YOU WEAR THE MEDALS. WE WEAR THE PRIDE." Pictures of three Olympic athletes appeared below, with their names, events and medals won noted next to the photographs. At the bottom, the Athens Advertisement stated, "Congratulations to all of the Olympic athletes from your friends at ASICS," followed by Defendant's website address (www.asicsamerica.com). As described above, Defendant's website contains product advertisements and information about retailers of Defendant's products. The USOC is informed and believes that, at the time the Athens Advertisement ran, Defendant provided paid sponsorship to the athletes pictured in the Athens Advertisement in exchange for their endorsing, using and promoting Defendant's products, and that Defendant publishes advertisements about its sponsored athletes, including the athletes pictured in the Athens Advertisement, because of the economic benefits it receives as a result of such advertising. A true and correct copy of the Athens Advertisement is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

14. After the Athens Advertisement appeared, the USOC objected in writing to
Defendant's unauthorized use of the word OLYMPIC and its attempt to associate
itself with the Olympic Games, but Defendant refused to cease its unauthorized use of
the OLYMPIC Marks.

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15. In November 2007, Defendant again published an advertisement in USA 1 2 TODAY that made frequent use of the word OLYMPIC. The almost full-page 3 advertisement (the "Ryan Hall Advertisement") featured a photograph of marathon 4 runner Ryan Hall and included the text, "Congratulations to Ryan Hall on his recordbreaking win at the US Olympic Marathon Team Trials. Good luck in the 2008 Summer Olympic Games." A large ASICS logo appeared below this text. The USOC is informed and believes that Defendant provides paid sponsorship to Ryan Hall in exchange for his endorsing, using and promoting Defendant's products, and that Defendant publishes advertisements about its sponsored athletes, including Hall, because of the economic benefits it receives as a result of such advertising. A true and correct copy of the Ryan Hall Advertisement is attached hereto as Exhibit C.

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16. After the Ryan Hall Advertisement appeared, the USOC again objected to Defendant's unauthorized use of the word OLYMPIC and its attempt to associate itself with the Olympic Games. Once again, Defendant rejected the USOC's demand that it conform its conduct to the requirements of the Olympic and Amateur Sports Act.

CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Violation Of The Olympic And Amateur Sports Act) (36 U.S.C. §220506(c))

21 The allegations of paragraphs 1 through 16 are incorporated herein by 17. 22 reference.

23 18. Defendant has used the word OLYMPIC in the Website Advertisement, the 24 Athens Advertisement and the Ryan Hall Advertisement for the purpose of trade, to 25 induce the sale of Defendant's goods or services, and to promote the athletic 26 performance of its sponsored athletes.

27 19. The USOC has not consented to Defendant's use of the word OLYMPIC in 28 this manner.

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20. Unless Defendant is enjoined, it will continue to promote the athletes it sponsors and the sale of its goods and services by unlawfully using the word OLYMPIC in the United States and in this jurisdiction.

21. Defendant's unauthorized use has caused and will continue to cause the USOC to suffer immediate and irreparable injury, loss and damage because, among other things, (a) the USOC's exclusive, federally protected rights to use the word OLYMPIC have been and will continue to be violated, and (b) the USOC's ability to obtain fees from sponsorships, supplierships and licensing of goods, services and merchandise will be diminished or undermined by Defendant's unauthorized use of the word OLYMPIC and its attempt to associate itself in its advertising with the Olympic Games. Accordingly, the USOC is entitled to preliminary and permanent injunctive relief barring Defendant from engaging in violations of the Olympic and Amateur Sports Act.

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22. Defendant's actions to circumvent the consent requirements of the Olympic and Amateur Sports Act have been willful.

23. This is an "exceptional case" pursuant to 36 U.S.C. §220506(c) and 15U.S.C. §1117(a) and, as such, the USOC is also entitled to recover its attorneys' fees from Defendant.

WHEREFORE, the USOC prays for relief as follows:

That Defendant be adjudged to have used the word OLYMPIC for the
 purposes of trade without the authorization of the USOC, in violation of federal law;

22 2. That Defendant be adjudged to have used the word OLYMPIC to induce
 23 the sale of goods or services without the authorization of the USOC, in violation of
 24 federal law;

3. That Defendant be adjudged to have used the word OLYMPIC to promote
an athletic performance without the authorization of the USOC, in violation of federal
law;

4. For an order requiring that Defendant permanently cease use of the Website

Advertisement, the Athens Advertisement and the Ryan Hall Advertisement or any
 similar or comparable advertisements;

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5. That Defendant and its parents, affiliates, subsidiaries, officers, directors, employees, agents, successors and assigns, and all those persons in active concert or participation with them, be preliminarily and permanently enjoined and restrained from using any OLYMPIC Mark, including without limitation the word OLYMPIC, as well as any other trademark, service mark, trade name, designation, symbol, emblem or insignia of the USOC, or any combination or simulation thereof, for purpose of trade, to induce the sale of any goods or services, or to promote any theatrical exhibition, athletic performance, or competition, without the express written consent of the USOC;

6. That Defendant be directed to file with this Court, and to serve upon the USOC within thirty days after service upon Defendant of this Court's injunction issued in this action, a written report sworn to and signed under oath setting forth in detail the manner in which it has complied with such injunction;

7. For an award of all profits heretofore realized by Defendant as a result of its violations of the Olympic and Amateur Sports Act pursuant to 36 U.S.C. §220506 and 15 U.S.C. §1117 and, if the Court finds that that amount is inadequate, for an amount that the Court determines to be just;

8. For an award of the USOC's reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to 36 U.S.C. §220506 and 15 U.S.C. §1117(b);

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1	9. For an award of costs	and ·						
2		For all other relief the Court deems just and proper.						
3	DATED: May 9, 2008.	J I I						
4	DATED: May _1, 2008.	DOUGLAS A. WINTHROP HOWARD RICE NEMEROVSKI CANADY						
5		FALK & RABKIN A Professional Corporation						
6								
7		By: Douf a. Wint						
8		DOUGLAS A. WINTHROP						
9		Attorneys for Plaintiff UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, a federally chartered corporation						
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Case 8:08-cv-00522-AG-AN Document 1 Filed 05/09/2008 Page 11 of 19

EXHIBIT A

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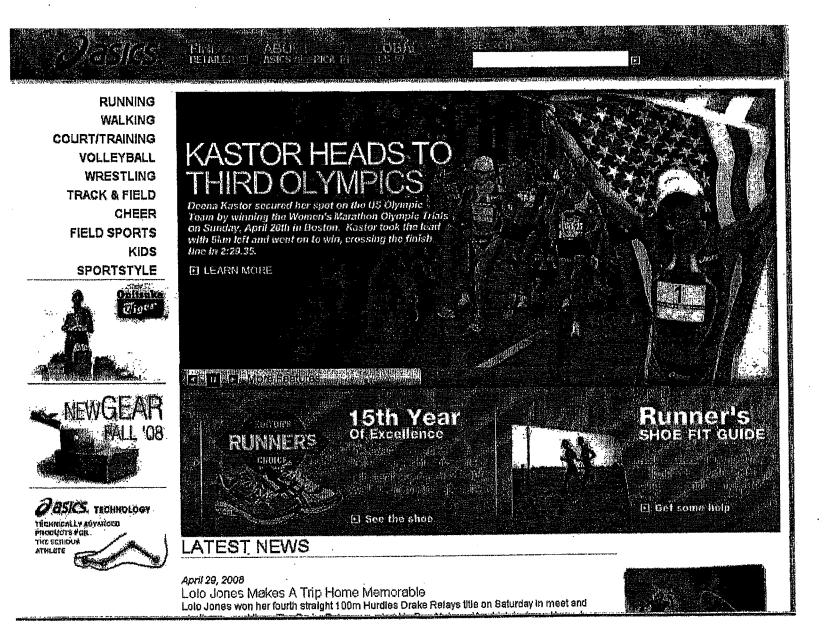
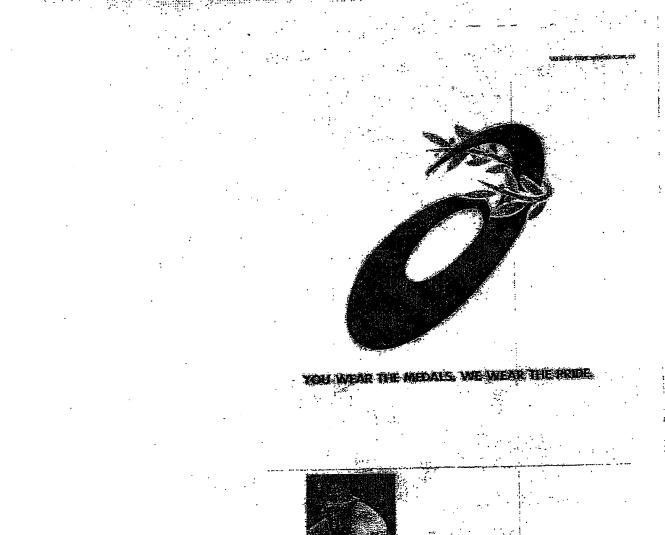


Exhibit A

EXHIBIT B

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Exhibit B 11

EXHIBIT C

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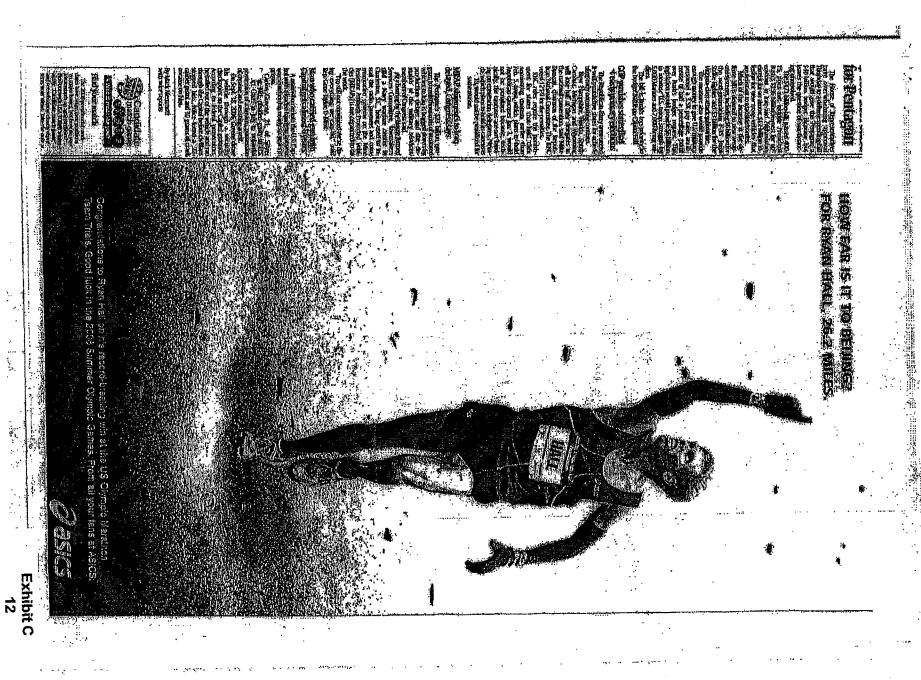
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AO 440 (Rev. 8/01) Summons in a Civil Action

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5 440 (rev. 6/01) Summons in a Civit Action

United States District Court

Central District of California

UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, a federally chartered corporation,

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL CASE

V.

CASE NUMBER: SACV08-00522 AG (ANX)

ASICS AMERICA CORPORATION, a California corporation, and DOES 1 through 10

TO: (Name and address of Defendant) ASICS AMERICA CORPORATION Attn: Richard Bourne 16275 Laguna Canyon Road Irvine, CA 92618

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve on PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY (name and address)

Douglas A. Winthrop (No. 183532) Howard Rice Nemerovski Canady Falk & Rabkin Three Embarcadero Center, 7th Floor San Francisco, CA 94111-4024 Telephone: (415) 434-1600

an answer to the complaint which is served on you with this summons, within ______20_____ days after service of this summons on you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. Any answer that you serve on the parties to this action must be filed with the Clerk of this Court within a reasonable period of time after service.

SHERRI R. CARTER

CLERK

(BVFDEP

MAY - 9 2008

DATE

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET

I (a) PLAINTIFFS (Check box if you are representing yourself) UNITED STATES OLYMPIC COMMITTEE, a federally chartered corporation,					EFENDA ASICS through	AMERICA	COR	P., 2 C	alìfornia corpora	ction, an	d DOI	3S 1	
						County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (In U.S. Plaintiff Cases Only): Orange County, California							
 (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number. If you are representing yourself, provide same.) DOUGLAS A. WINTHROP (No. 183532) HOWARD, RICE, NEMEROVSKI, CANADY, FALK & RABKIN Three Embarcadero Center, 7th Floor San Francisco, California 94111-4024, (415) 434-1600 													
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an X in one box only.) III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES - For Diversity Cases Only (Place an X in one box for plaintiff and one for defendant.)													
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff Government Not a Party)				Citizen of This Sta	PTF DEF PTF DEF izen of This State □ 1 Incorporated or Principal Place □ 4 □ of Business in this State □ 1 □ 1 □ 1 □ 1 □ 1					DEF 			
🗋 2 U.S. Government Defendar	ıt ⊡4	Diversity (Indicate Citiz of Parties in Item III)	enship	Citizen of Another	State		□2	□2	Incorporated and of Business in Ar				
				Citizen or Subject	of a Fore	ign Country	□3		Foreign Nation				
IV. ORIGIN (Place an X in or	e box o	nly.)											
I Original □ 2 Remov Proceeding State C		3 Remanded from Appellate Court		einstated or 5 to 5	Fransferre	xi from anoth	er dist	rict (spa	cify): 🗍 6 Multi Distri Litiga	ict	Judg	eal to D ge from gistrate l	
V. REQUESTED IN COMPL	AINT:	JURY DEMAND:	Yes D	No (Check 'Yes'	only if de	manded in co	mplai	nt.)					
CLASS ACTION under F.R.C	. P. 2 3:	□Yes I No		5 M	ONEY D	EMANDED	IN CO)MPL/	INT: \$ injunction	on, prof	its, fee	s and c	osts
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (Ci	te the U.	S. Civil Statute under whi	ch you	are filing and write	a brief st	atement of ca	iuse. I	Do not (rite jurisdictional s	tatutes u	nless d	iversity.)
36 U.S.C. 220506(c) U	author	ized use of word OLY	APIC :	for the purpose of	trade, to	induce the	sale o	of good	s or services and	to pron	note al	hletic	
performances VII. NATURE OF SUIT (Pla	ce an X	in one box only.)	_		<u>· · ·</u>	<u> </u>							
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If yes, list case number(s):

CV-71 (07/05)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Case Number: SACV08-00522 AG (ANX)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

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d ... e ١., UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL COVER SHEET AFTER COMPLETING THE FRONT SIDE OF FORM CV-71, COMPLETE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW. VIII(b). RELATED CASES: Have any cases been previously filed that are related to the present case? If No U Yes If yes, list case number(s): Civil cases are deemed related if a previously filed case and the present case: (Check all boxes that apply) 🖾 A. Arise from the same or closely related transactions, happenings, or events; or B. Call for determination of the same or substantially related or similar questions of law and fact; or C. For other reasons would entail substantial duplication of labor if heard by different judges; or D. Involve the same patent, trademark or copyright, and one of the factors identified above in a, b or c also is present. IX. VENUE: List the California County, or State if other than California, in which EACH named plaintiff resides (Use an additional sheet if necessary) Check here if the U.S. government, its agencies or employees is a named plaintiff. Colorado List the California County, or State if other than California, in which EACH named defendant resides. (Use an additional sheet if necessary). Check here if the U.S. government, its agencies or employees is a named defendant. Orange County List the California County, or State if other than California, in which EACH claim arose. (Use an additional sheet if necessary) Note: In land condemnation cases, use the location of the tract of land involved. Orange County 6 Ó n X. SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (OR PRO PER): Date Notice to Counsel/Parties: The CV-71 (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. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required pursuant to Local Rule 3-1 is not filed but is used by the Clerk of the Court for the purpose of statistics, venue and initiating the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions, see separate instructions sheet.)

Key to Statistical codes relating to Social Security Cases:

Nature of Suit Code	Abbreviation	Substantive Statement of Canse of Action
861	ША	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. Also, include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the program. (42 U.S.C. 1935FF(b))
862	BL	All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. (30 U.S.C. 923)
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended; plus all claims filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))
863	DIWW	All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))
864	SSID	All claims for supplemental security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security Act, as amended.
865	RSI	All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. (g))