

1	HOWARTH & SMITH	OF ORIGINAL FILED Los Angeles Superior Court	
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7	Attorneys for Plaintiff		
8	JP HYAN		
9	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
10	FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES		
11		BC429966	
12	JP HYAN, an individual,	) CASE NO.	
12	Plaintiff,	<u> </u>	
13		) COMPLAINT FOR COMPENSATORY AND PUNITIVE DAMAGES:	
14	vs.	ý)	
15	Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff, Incorporated, a	) (1) PROFESSIONAL NEGLIGENCE ) (2) BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY	
16	corporation; Brian L. Davidoff, Esq., an individual; Fred A. Fenster, Esq., an	) (3) BREACH OF CONTRACT ) (4) INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF	
17	individual; Geoffrey M. Gold, Esq., an individual; Olivia Goodkin, Esq., an individual; Frank D. Hobbs, Esq., an	) EMOTIONAL DISTRESS ) (5) NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF	
18	individual; Frank D. Hobbs, Esq., an individual; Rosslyn (Beth) Hummer, Esq., an	ÉMOTIONAL DISTRESS (6) NEGLIGENT	
19	individual; and DOES 1 through 100,	) MISREPRESENTATION ) (7) FRAUD AND DECEIT	

Defendants.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL** 

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Plaintiff JP Hyan ("Plaintiff" or "Hyan") complains of the Defendants, and each of them, and alleges as follows:

#### **Parties**

- 1. Plaintiff JP Hyan is an individual currently residing in the State of Utah and formerly a resident of the County of Los Angeles, California.
- 2. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges, that Defendant Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff, Incorporated ("Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff"), was at all times mentioned herein and now is a corporation engaged in the practice of law, organized and existing under and by virtue of the laws of the State of California, and that said Defendant was and now is authorized to engage and is engaged in the practice of law in the State of California, and that said Defendant has regularly conducted business in the State of California.
- 3. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant Brian L. Davidoff ("Davidoff") is an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of California and at all relevant times has been a shareholder and partner in the defendant law firm Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff, and a resident of California. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that beginning in approximately 2006 and continuing through to present, Davidoff has been head of the Executive Committee and served as Managing Director of defendant law firm Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff.
- 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant Fred A. Fenster ("Fenster") is an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of California and at all relevant times has been a shareholder and partner in the defendant law firm Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff, and a resident of California, practicing law in the State of California.
- 5. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant Geoffrey M. Gold ("Gold") is an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of California and at all relevant times has been either an associate and employee of the defendant law firm Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff or a shareholder and partner in the defendant law firm Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff, and a resident of California, practicing law in the State of California.

- 6. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant Olivia Goodkin ("Goodkin") is an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of California and at all relevant times has been a shareholder and partner in and served on the Executive Committee of the defendant law firm Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff, and a resident of California, practicing law in the State of California.
- 7. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant Frank D. Hobbs ("Hobbs") is an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of California and at all relevant times was a shareholder and attorney in the defendant law firm Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff, and a resident of California. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that through at least 2006, Hobbs served as Managing Director of Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff, through at least August 2008 was a partner and shareholder in Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff, and that from August 2008 Hobbs has been a shareholder in and of counsel to the defendant law firm Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff, practicing law in the State of California.
- 8. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant Rosslyn (Beth) Hummer ("Hummer") is an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of California and at all relevant times has been either an associate and employee of the defendant law firm Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff or a shareholder and partner in the defendant law firm Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff, and a resident of California, practicing law in the State of California.
- 9. All Defendants (collectively "Defendants") in paragraphs 2-8 represented Plaintiff and provided legal services and advice and were in an attorney client relationship with Plaintiff at all relevant times to the events set forth in this complaint. Among other things as set forth herein, each Defendant breached its duty to Plaintiff by failing to represent him according to the standard of care required of attorneys and/or failing to supervise attorneys who failed to represent Plaintiff according to the standard of care and these breaches of duty caused Plaintiff harm and damage.
- 10. The true names and capacities, whether individuals, legal corporations, or otherwise, of Defendant DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, and each of them, are unknown to

Plaintiff at this time and therefore Plaintiff sues said Defendants by such fictitious names.

Plaintiff will amend this Complaint to show the true names and capacities of the fictitiouslynamed Defendants when they have been ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and
thereon alleges, that each fictitiously named Defendant is liable in some manner to Plaintiff
respecting the events and damages referred to in this Complaint.

- 11. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that at all times mentioned herein, each of the Defendants, including all DOE Defendants sued under fictitious names, was the agent, employee, partner, shareholder, joint venturer, officer, director, owner, successor and/or alter ego of every other Defendant, and acting wholly within the course and scope of such agency, employment, and/or other relationship in conducting the actions and activities set forth in this Complaint, and generally or specifically approved the actions, activities or omissions of each other Defendant in advance of their being taken, or generally or specifically approved the failure to take necessary and appropriate actions and activities in advance, and /or subsequently ratified each other Defendant's conduct. References made herein to "Defendants" shall be deemed to mean the acts of Defendants acting individually, jointly, and/or severally.
- 12. Venue is proper in Los Angeles County because Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff maintains its principal office in Los Angeles County.

### Hyan Initiates the LACERA Program and Brings it to Lowe

13. Mr. JP Hyan is a former Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputy, who retired from law enforcement in 1988 and began working in the financial industry. Hyan, who was a licensed stock broker and investment advisor, worked for Drexel Burnham, Merrill Lynch and then Wertheim-Schroeder between 1988 and the early 1990's. In or about 1990, Hyan was approached by a construction client for his assistance in securing funding for home building projects. This inquiry sparked Hyan's unique and untried idea of creating a program whereby a public pension fund would invest in homebuilders by funding their home building projects. Hyan decided to approach one such public pension fund, the Los Angeles County Employees' Retirement Association ("LACERA"). Plaintiff was

professionally acquainted with Robert Hermann, a member on the Board of Investments and	
the Board of Retirement for LACERA. Hyan developed a business plan for LACERA	
which would include not only his services but also a suitable financial management	
company to develop and manage the project. In his search for a company he located Lowe	
Enterprises, Inc., a privately owned national real estate company active in commercial,	
industrial and residential property investment, management and development.	

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In or about 1992, Hyan met with Lowe Enterprises, Inc. ("Lowe") and 14. described his business plan for LACERA, including the opportunity this presented for Lowe. In due course, Lowe agreed to hire Hyan to launch the program and formally proceed with the business model for LACERA; the program would later become known as the LACERA Single Family Housing Program ("LACERA Program"). Hyan went to work for Lowe Enterprises Investment Management ("LEIM"), a registered investment advisor and wholly owned subsidiary of Lowe, in 1992-93, and was instrumental in negotiating an agreement between LEIM and LACERA. In recognition of his key role in creation of the LACERA Program, as part of his employment agreement LEIM agreed to pay Hyan 10% of the gross fees received by LEIM from the LACERA Program (also referred to as the LACERA Residential Mortgage Account). In or about 1995, the LACERA Program was launched; it was a success from the beginning for both LACERA as well as for LEIM and Lowe, over the course of twelve years generating many tens of millions of dollars in management and incentive fees to Lowe/LEIM, and it became increasingly profitable, so that as of 2006 it brought in \$27 million in management and incentive fees to LEIM that year.

# Hyan's Retention of Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff and Negotiation of the 1997 Separation Agreement

15. In 1997, Hyan decided to separate from Lowe and LEIM, and in January or February of 1997, Hyan retained Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff to assist in negotiating, settling and memorializing separation terms and a formal separation agreement ("Separation Agreement") and a related consulting agreement ("Consulting Agreement"). Frank D.

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Hobbs was the primary attorney responsible for handling the matter, negotiating with Lowe/LEIM and its counsel, and advising Hyan as to the terms and the formal agreements. Geoffrey Gold also met with Mr. Hyan and Mr. Hobbs, reviewed the file and advised Hyan on the matter.

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- Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff did not obtain a written fee agreement with Hyan in 16. 1997. Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff represented to Hyan that it would fully and properly advise, protect, document and memorialize Hyan's interests in the negotiation of his separation from Lowe/LEIM, and that it would edit, draft, review and approve the formal documentation of any agreements with Lowe/LEIM for Hyan's benefit. Relying on Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff's representations, in or about January or February 1997, Hyan retained Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff to protect his interests in connection with his departure from Lowe and LEIM. Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff was retained to fully and properly advise, protect, document and memorialize Hyan's interests in the negotiation of his separation from Lowe/LEIM, and to edit, draft, review and approve the Separation Agreement and Consulting Agreement for Hyan's benefit. In fact, Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff, including but not limited to attorneys Frank Hobbs and Geoffrey Gold, did perform legal services for Hyan, but unknown to Hyan in fact did not fulfill these representations, failed to fully and properly advise, protect, document and memorialize Hyan's interests in the negotiation of his separation from Lowe/LEIM, and failed to properly edit, draft, review and approve the Separation Agreement for Hyan's benefit, such that Hyan's Separation Agreement did not document the terms which Hyan had obtained from Lowe/LEIM and which were the object of the representation, and he was divested of the right to the on-going annual compensation which he bargained for and which Lowe/LEIM was willing to agree to.
- 17. In September 1997, Hyan met personally with Robert Lowe, the president of Lowe, and agreed on a basic structure and general terms with respect to Mr. Hyan's separation from Lowe and LEIM. One of the key points agreed upon was that Mr. Hyan would continue to receive 10 percent of the gross fees generated by the LACERA program indefinitely. Hyan then relayed the major points of the agreement to Hobbs, including that

the LACERA payments would continue "indefinitely" and "in perpetuity," and relied on Hobbs to work with Lowe's in-house counsel, John DeMarco, to formally document the deal. It was made clear to Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff that the primary object of the representation was to secure Hyan's right to continue to receive payments from the LACERA program indefinitely. Indeed, this was acknowledged by Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff in its briefing submitted in a subsequent related arbitration recommended, initiated and conducted by Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff and discussed in more detail herein, which states "Notably, the most important right to be protected for Hyan in the entire Separation Agreement was the right to continue to receive proceeds from the LACERA program. Indeed... Hyan testified to his understanding that the right to payment would exist even if the housing program were transferred by LEIM... Hyan relied on all the terms of his Separation Agreement to protect his interest in the revenue stream from the LACERA housing program, even in the event of a transfer of that revenue stream."

listing as a top priority the key term that Hyan's right to compensation under his existing agreement would "continue indefinitely." Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff subsequently received draft separation and consulting agreements from counsel for Lowe. The separation agreement clearly provides that Hyan would "continue to receive ... ten percent ... of the gross fees received from [LACERA]" but only "so long as [LEIM] continues to receive such fees." This provision was never modified, and is included in the final version of the agreement. Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff never proposed necessary changes to this provision, never made necessary changes, and never suggested necessary changes that would protect Hyan's interest in the LACERA fee stream should Lowe or LEIM transfer the account to another entity. Also, during the exchange of draft separation agreements, counsel for Lowe put into the contract a standard clause providing that the agreement would be binding on the parties' "successors and assigns." This addition was not proposed by or commented on by Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff. It was included in the final contract.

- Despite the object of representation to preserve Hyan's right to a percentage 19. of the LACERA proceeds indefinitely - being clear, Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff did nothing to achieve it and in fact advised Mr. Hyan to sign documents which left his interests entirely at risk and unprotected as to foreseeable events. Despite the agreements of Plaintiff and Lowe which Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff was to make sure were reflected in the agreement in proper legal terms, Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff did not propose or include any contract provisions that would either preclude or limit Lowe or LEIM from moving the LACERA stream of income to a third party, or provide a method of compensation for Hyan in the event it did make such a move. There were a number of alternative provisions that Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff could and should have included in the contract in order to carry out Hyan's and Lowe's intent and protect Hyan's interests, but which it did not include. In October 1997, Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff advised Hyan to sign the final Separation and Consulting Agreements, and Hyan did so relying on Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff's advice and believing that the formal documents carried out his intent and protected his interests as he had retained Defendants to do.
- appropriate contract provisions that would either have precluded or limited Lowe or LEIM from moving the LACERA stream of income to a third party or from doing so without proper compensation to Hyan, as it could and should have done, it is reasonable to conclude that Lowe and/or LEIM would have accepted them without reduction in the benefits to Hyan under the agreement. Lowe and LEIM wanted to keep this profitable line of business and were prepared to do so on the basis of paying 10% from the stream of revenue Hyan had produced, which they in fact did do for a decade, consistent with the intent of the arrangement. When the Separation Agreement was entered into, Hyan had significant leverage as to the existing client relationship with LACERA, including by taking the business he brought to Lowe with him or to another party, or by competing for it. Further, Lowe and/or LEIM had no apparent intent to monetize or otherwise transfer the LACERA account to a third party in 1997, as demonstrated by the fact that Lowe/LEIM did not do so

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for ten years after the agreement was executed. At the time, Lowe/LEIM and Hyan entered
into a detailed consulting agreement that was predicated on an ongoing relationship between
Lowe/LEIM and LACERA. Had Lowe or LEIM resisted such a request for proper
prophylactic provisions in 1997, this would have alerted Hyan that what might otherwise
seem a low risk was actually a high risk, cause him to more aggressively protect his interests
and put Lowe and LEIM in a weaker bargaining position, meaning that Lowe and/or LEIM
would be even more likely to agree to one of the customary alternatives proposed. If
Defendants had competently represented Plaintiff and properly protected his interests, he
could and would have obtained a clause in the final contract achieving exactly what
Defendants understood the object of the Separation Agreement to be.

21. Following execution of the Separation Agreement in 1997, Lowe and/or LEIM continued to make the 10% payments to Hyan for ten years according to their expressed intent at the time of the Separation Agreement and according to the intent of Plaintiff. During this period, Lowe and/or LEIM created a wholly owned subsidiary and California corporation called Lowe Enterprises Residential Advisors, Inc. (LERA), which managed the LACERA Program, had the contract with LACERA and received fees from LACERA. After it deducted its expenses, LERA distributed all remaining monies to its parent LEIM, and either LEIM or Lowe continued to pay Hyan his share of the proceeds. Hyan received a yearly income stream that exceeded \$2.5 million by 2006.

# Hyan's Return to Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff in 2007 to Fix the Problem Once Payments Under the Separation Agreement Stopped

- 22. In late 2006 or early 2007, Lowe and LEIM transferred its relationship with LACERA to a third party, TriPacific Capital Advisors, LLC, ("TriPacific") through the sale of its wholly owned subsidiary LERA. Lowe and/or LEIM stopped making payments to Hyan after December 2006, and TriPacific, which did not sign any contracts with Plaintiff, never made payments to Hyan.
- 23. Thereupon, in January 2007 Hyan contacted Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff for assistance to address and rectify the problem so that he could continue to receive the

intended benefits under the Separation Agreement they represented him on and advised him		
to sign. Instead of acknowledging that under the 1997 Separation Agreement, Lowe/LEIM		
had the right to stop payments once neither of these legal entities was receiving fees from		
the LACERA program, and that the problem was in the contract language itself, Rutter,		
Hobbs & Davidoff covered up its original mistakes by misdirecting Hyan to initiate and file		
litigation against TriPacific and related entities and individuals for the payments he was no		
longer receiving from Lowe/LEIM. In early 2007, Hyan met with Hobbs and Gold, who		
told him that under the Separation Agreement he had the right to continued payments from		
the third party. Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff did not acknowledge or admit to the mistakes it		
had made in reviewing and approving the contract without proper terms to protect Hyan or		
achieve the object of the agreement. What the standard of care for attorneys required was		
that they candidly advise Hyan that because of the contract Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff had		
handled and approved, there was no basis for asserting that TriPacific had any obligation to		
continue payments to Hyan because it was not a successor to Lowe/LEIM, and it had not		
been assigned any obligations of Lowe/LEIM. The standard of care required Defendants to		
tell Hyan then that, given the contract terms and the sale of the line of business to a third		
party, there was no longer a duty of Lowe or LEIM to pay Hyan even though the LACERA		
program he created continued; and even if any duties could be deemed to have transferred to		
TriPacific, this did not include payment of the 10% commission.		

Instead, Hobbs and Gold told Hyan that they had reviewed the file and that Tri-Pacific was obligated to pay Hyan his 10% under the Separation Agreement. Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff advised that TriPacific had an obligation to pay Hyan because it was a "successor or assign" under the Separation Agreement. Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff advised Hyan to file a lawsuit and subsequently to proceed with arbitration against Tri-Pacific and related entities and individuals.

At the time it recommended this course of action to Hyan, it was clear that there was no basis for filing suit against TriPacific because there was no breach of the contract

Defendants had obtained and recommended, and because TriPacific was neither a successor

or assign under clear, straightforward California law. Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff was knowingly taking a position with no legitimate basis whatsoever and doing so for an improper purpose – to deflect attention from its own original malpractice.

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Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff did not obtain a written fee agreement with Hyan in 2007 when he came to them to address the problem of Lowe/LEIM stopping payments under the 1997 Separation Agreement. Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff represented to Hyan that it would fully and properly protect his interests, and truthfully advise him as to the proper course of action to remedy the problem and obtain compensation for the damages caused by the cessation of payments under the contract. Relying on Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff's representations, in or about January 2007, Hyan agreed to go forward with Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff to fully and properly protect his interests, and to truthfully advise him as to the proper course of action to obtain compensation for the damages caused by the cessation of payments by Lowe/LEIM under the 1997 Separation Agreement. After more than a year of representation had gone by, Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff presented and had Hyan execute a written fee agreement in April 2008, on the eve of the TriPacific arbitration hearing. Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff represented to Hyan, among other things, that it would use its best efforts, inform Hyan of the truth as it saw it, keep Hyan informed, and tell Hyan what was going to happen step by step. At that time, Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff also required Hyan to execute a Deed of Trust on his home in Park City, Utah, in favor of Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff, in order to secure payment of fees and costs incurred under the retention.

In fact, Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff, including among others, attorneys Hobbs, Fenster, Gold, Goodkin, Davidoff, and Hummer, did represent Hyan in this improper and unjustified litigation and gave him legal advice during this time, but did not act within the proper standard of care or according to their own representations as to the standard they would use in such representation, and in fact did not fully and properly protect his interests, or truthfully advise him as to the proper course of action to obtain compensation for damages caused by the cessation of payments by Lowe/LEIM under the 1997 Separation Agreement.

Defendants advised Plaintiff that the Separation Agreement they had advised him to sign

protected him in the circumstances presented, that he was entitled to his 10% commission from TriPacific, and that he would prevail in the litigation they would file on his behalf. Defendants did not tell Hyan he was likely to lose the litigation it initiated and recommended, or that he had exposure for the attorneys' fees of the opposing party.

#### The TriPacific Litigation

- 25. Hyan followed Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff's advice and on April 13, 2007, Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff filed suit on behalf of Hyan against Tri-Pacific and related entities in Los Angeles Superior Court, alleging claims for Declaratory Relief and Intentional Interference with Contract. As a result of pursuing the improper and unnecessary litigation against TriPacific and related entities, Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff charged Hyan over \$610,000 in attorneys' fees and costs (including interest). Frank Hobbs was the main attorney at Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff pursuing the TriPacific litigation. On or about May 2007, Rosslyn (Beth) Hummer was assigned as an associate to the matter. She worked closely with Hobbs and often advised and worked with Hyan during the TriPacific litigation through at least December 2008.
- 26. In its complaint against TriPacific, Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff asserted that the standard successor and assign clause, which had been inserted by Lowe's counsel, applied to TriPacific as a "successor or an assign" of Lowe or LERA or some other LERA affiliated entity. On July 23, 2007, counsel for TriPacific filed a petition to compel arbitration of the dispute, noting that according to Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff's complaint, Hyan's cause of action arose directly from the Separation Agreement, and thus was subject to arbitration.

In September 2007, Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff filed a brief opposing TriPacific's petition to compel arbitration, arguing that because TriPacific denied liability under the Separation Agreement, it was not entitled to seek arbitration under that agreement. In the brief, Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff expressly acknowledged that TriPacific and the individual defendants "are not and cannot be shown to be legally related to any party to an arbitration agreement with" Hyan and that "there is no common ownership or identity of interest" between TriPacific and LEIM or Lowe. In the same brief, RDH also argued (inconsistently)

that TriPacific and LERA had "secretly engage[d] in a sham transaction to transfer ...

LACERA ... to a newly formed entity." After argument, the Los Angeles Superior Court granted TriPacific's opinion and ordered the matter to arbitration.

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- Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff then pursued arbitration against TriPacific and 27. related entities and individuals before the AAA. The arbitration process culminated in a week long arbitration hearing in April 2008, followed by post-hearing briefing. The Arbitrator ruled entirely against Hyan and in favor of respondents TriPacific and related entities, finding that there had been no breach of the Separation Agreement and that TriPacific was neither a successor nor assign of Lowe/LEIM. The Arbitrator issued his Interim Award in June, 2008 and his Final Award in October, 2008, noting that "there is an easy case to be made that Hyan never intended matters to work out such that anyone would enjoy any of the fruits of his labor without compensating him for it," but because LEIM "continued to exist," neither TriPacific nor the other respondents could be a "successor" to LEIM under the law. The arbitrator observed that he was "unfamiliar with any doctrine by which the act of accepting an assignment of rights imposes on the assignee obligations beyond those set forth in the assignment agreement itself," and also ruled that there had been no evidence of any contract breach. The arbitrator awarded TriPacific \$419,510 in attorneys' fees, expenses and arbitration costs, which Hyan was then obligated to pay.
- 28. After the Interim Award issued in June, 2008, Hyan learned that Hobbs was being "forced out" of his partnership at Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff, but that he would be Of Counsel. He was informed that Fred Fenster was to be taking over his matter as primary attorney and working with Beth Hummer. Hyan demanded a meeting with the Executive Committee of Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff to discuss the case. On August 7, 2008, Hyan met with Brian Davidoff, Fred Fenster and Olivia Goodkin, who were on the Executive Committee of Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff, to discuss his frustration with the representation. Fred Fenster told Hyan that he had reviewed everything in the case file. At no time did anyone at this meeting tell Hyan that there was any problem in the original drafting of the 1997 Separation Agreement, or that the continued pursuit of the action against TriPacific

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was meritless, and doomed to failure, and that he would thus be exposed for TriPacific's
attorney fees and costs. Instead, they encouraged and advised Hyan to continue with the
case against TriPacific, and recommended further extensive briefing. In fact, Fred Fenster
continued to tell Hyan up until the December 22, 2008 hearing he handled on the case that
success was almost "guaranteed." Hyan continued to follow Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff's
advice, and Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff continued to bill costs and fees to Hyan. After the
Interim Award issued in June 2008, Hyan also continued to consult with Hobbs both before
and after the August 7, 2008 meeting and Hobbs continued to advise him about the case.
Hobbs told Hyan in or about mid-August 2008 that Hobbs was still Of Counsel with and an
owner of the firm. At no time did Hobbs advise Hyan that he was no longer representing
him or that he was not associated with the Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff firm.

- 29. TriPacific moved in Los Angeles Superior Court to confirm the award, which Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff opposed, and Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff also moved to vacate the award and disqualify the arbitrator in December 2008. Hummer and Fenster appeared at the December 22, 2008 hearing on behalf of Hyan. The court denied Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff's motions, and confirmed the award. Judgment was entered in favor of TriPacific by the Los Angeles Superior Court on December 22, 2008, in the amount of \$461,665.10 plus 10% interest, which now totals over \$500,000.
- 30. Defendants have represented Plaintiff on this and other matters beginning in 1997 and continuing until at least May 26, 2009. Defendants have continuously represented Plaintiff on the Lowe/LEIM matter, including negotiation of the Separation Agreement in 1997 through advising and representing Plaintiff relating to the cessation of payments in late 2006/early 2007 and pursuing the litigation against TriPacific until at least May 26, 2009.
- 31. Pursuant to a written tolling agreement between Plaintiff and Defendants, all legal and equitable limitations periods, including all statutes of limitations, applicable to Plaintiff's claims against Defendants, were tolled for a period of thirty-one (31) days between December 15, 2009 and January 15, 2010.

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#### Plaintiff's Damages

- 32. Hyan had not received his 10% of the LACERA proceeds since December 2006, his main source of income. As Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff set out in its First Amended Complaint filed on behalf of Hyan, "before January 2007, Plaintiff [Hyan] received greater than \$2,000,000 annually as his agreed share of the revenues of LER Advisors, and has been damaged by Defendants' refusal to pay him." The loss of the 10% of gross fees from the LACERA Program, including the past missed payments from the end of 2006 and into the future, discounted to present value at a conservative 10% per annum, results in damages of \$24.6 million.
- 33. On top of the loss of his main source of income since December 2006, Hyan incurred attorneys' fees and costs to Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff in pursuing the TriPacific action, and then in December 2008 had the judgment entered against him, including TriPacific's attorney fees and costs. Hyan, without his main source of income, did not have funds available to pay the judgment. TriPacific, through its attorneys, began in 2009 to take actions to levy on the judgment, attaching both Hyan's and his wife Francine Hyan's property in Utah and California, including real estate, financial accounts and personal property. Foreclosure proceedings were initiated on Mr. and Mrs. Hyan's homes both in Utah and in California.

On or about May 18, 2009, law enforcement personnel and attorneys for TriPacific entered Hyan's home in Park City, Utah, and seized a great deal of personal property while Hyan was present. Hyan began feeling chest pains on May 18 during this "raid," and on May 20, 2009, suffered a cardiac incident and was hospitalized, as a result of stress from these events.

34. As a direct result of Defendants' failure to fully and properly advise, protect, document and memorialize Hyan's interests in the negotiation of his separation from Lowe/LEIM, and to properly edit, draft, review and approve the Separation Agreement for Hyan's benefit, and failure to fully and properly protect his interests and truthfully advise him as to the proper course of action to compensate him for damages caused by the

COMPLAINT

cessation of payments by Lowe/LEIM under the 1997 Separation Agreement, Hyan has		
suffered substantial financial injury and has been put under extreme and undue pressure,		
anxiety and distress thereby. Defendants' breach of their duty to Plaintiff caused Plaintiff to		
suffer this emotional distress and Defendants knew that this would be the probable result of		
their conduct, or engaged in intentional conduct to cover up their own errors and with		
reckless or conscious disregard of the probability of causing Plaintiff to suffer emotional		
distress		

35. As a result of Defendants' actions and omissions, including the failure to protect Hyan in negotiating the contract and the improper action Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff conceived and pursued against TriPacific, Hyan has been damaged in an amount of at least \$30,558,000 according to proof. This includes \$24.6 million in past and future payments from the LACERA Program, \$610,000 in costs and attorneys fees charged by Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff for the action against TriPacific which should not have been brought, \$500,000 for the judgment against him as a result of the improper action, \$75,000 in additional monies being added to the judgment for costs incurred by TriPacific in the enforcement actions, \$72,000 to date incurred to law firms defending against the enforcement proceedings taking place in Utah and California, \$3,184,000 for losses caused by the forced sale of his homes and \$1,417,000 for the loss in the value of personal property seized and sold to satisfy the judgment against him. Mr. Hyan has incurred over \$100,000 in medical expenses for treatment related to the stress resulting from the loss of his income stream, the judgment in the TriPacific litigation and the enforcement proceedings.

#### FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(For Professional Negligence)

- 36. Plaintiff hereby repeats and realleges the factual allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 35 above as though set forth in full herein.
- 37. Defendants represented Plaintiff as his attorneys and had an attorney client relationship.

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- 38. When Defendants handled Plaintiff's legal matters, Defendants had a legal duty to exercise that degree of learning, and use the degree of care and skill, ordinarily possessed by a reputable attorney or law firm, practicing under similar circumstances. Defendants had a duty to use reasonable diligence and their best judgment in the exercise of skill and the application of learning. Defendants had a duty to use the skill, knowledge and care that a reasonably careful attorney or law firm would have used in similar circumstances. Defendants owed all customary professional and fiduciary duties to Plaintiff and owed a duty of loyalty to Plaintiff not to act adversely to Plaintiff's interests, and to refrain from taking any action or omitting to take any action which was likely to result in loss, injury, damage, harm or detriment to Plaintiff.
- 39. As a result of the actions, errors and omissions, set forth above, Defendants have breached such legal duties, and have been professionally negligent.
- 40. But for Defendants' professional negligence in connection with the negotiation, drafting, and approval of the 1997 Separation Agreement, Plaintiff would have obtained a better result.
- 41. As a direct and proximate result of such professional negligence, Plaintiff has suffered damages as to items set forth in paragraphs 32-35 in the amount of \$30,558,000, together with prejudgment interest thereon at the legal rate, as well as additional damages, including but not limited to non-economic damages for severe emotional distress, attorneys' fees, costs, and expert fees, which amount is yet to be ascertained.
- 42. The conduct of Defendants, and each of them, as alleged above, was grossly negligent, unconscionable, fraudulent, oppressive, malicious and done intentionally or in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights and in order to protect themselves and further their own professional and financial self interest at Plaintiff's expense and to his detriment so as to justify an award of punitive damages.

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### SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Breach of Fiduciary Duty)

- Plaintiff hereby repeats and realleges the factual allegations contained in 43. paragraphs 1 through 42 above as though set forth in full herein.
- 44. By virtue of their confidential attorney-client relationship and Defendants' superior knowledge, it was reasonable for Plaintiff to repose trust and confidence in Defendants, and each of them, and a fiduciary relationship thereby existed where Plaintiff reasonably relied on the integrity and the fidelity of Defendants. As such, and by virtue of their status of attorney and client, Defendants owed fiduciary duties to Plaintiff to act with the highest degree of good faith and care in accordance with the highest legal ethical standards, and to disclose fully all material facts that could bear upon the subject matter of Plaintiff's relationship with Defendants.
- 45. By virtue of the foregoing acts and conduct on the part of Defendants, Defendants have breached their fiduciary duties owed to Plaintiff.
- 46. As a direct and proximate result of such professional negligence, Plaintiff has suffered damages as to items set forth in paragraphs 32-35 in the amount of \$30,558,000, together with prejudgment interest thereon at the legal rate, as well as additional damages, including but not limited to non-economic damages for severe emotional distress, attorneys' fees, costs, and expert fees, which amount is yet to be ascertained.
- The conduct of Defendants, and each of them, as alleged above, was grossly 47. negligent, unconscionable, fraudulent, oppressive, malicious and done intentionally or in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights and in order to protect themselves and further their own professional and financial self interest at Plaintiff's expense and to his detriment so as to justify an award of punitive damages.

### THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Breach of Contract)

48. Plaintiff hereby repeats and realleges the factual allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 47 above as though set forth in full herein.

1	49. Defendant Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff had a contract or contracts to represent
2	Hyan, which was or were sometimes oral only and sometimes partly oral and partly written.
3	Under such contract or contracts, Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff was to fully and properly
4	advise, protect, document and memorialize Hyan's interests in the negotiation of his
5	separation from Lowe/LEIM, to properly edit, draft, review and approve the Separation
6	Agreement for Hyan's benefit, and to fully and properly protect his interests and truthfully
7	advise him as to the proper course of action to compensate him for damages caused by the
8	cessation of payments by Lowe/LEIM under the 1997 Separation Agreement.
9	50. As set forth above, Defendants breached the contract or contracts by not
10	performing their obligations under it or them.

- acts by not performing their obligations under it or them.
- 51. Hyan has performed all conditions, covenants and/or promises required on his part to be performed and/or incurred the obligations required pursuant to the terms of the contract or contracts.
- 52. As a direct and proximate result of such professional negligence, Plaintiff has suffered damages as to items set forth in paragraphs 32-35 in the amount of \$30,558,000, together with prejudgment interest thereon at the legal rate, as well as additional damages, including but not limited to non-economic damages for severe emotional distress, attorneys' fees, costs, and expert fees, which amount is yet to be ascertained.

#### **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

(Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress)

- 53. Plaintiff hereby repeats and realleges the factual allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 52 above as though set forth in full herein.
  - 54. As set forth above, Defendants engaged in outrageous, unprivileged conduct.
- 55. Defendants intended or knew the probable result of their conduct would be to cause Plaintiff to suffer physical and/or emotional distress or engaged in the conduct with reckless or conscious disregard of the probability of causing Plaintiff to suffer physical and/or emotional distress.

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conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights and in order to protect themselves and further their

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1	own professional and financial self interest at Plaintiff's expense and to his detriment so as		
2	to justify an award of punitive damages.		
3	SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION		
4	(Negligent Misrepresentation)		
5	66. Plaintiff hereby repeats and realleges the factual allegations contained in		
6	paragraphs 1 through 65 above as though set forth in full herein.		
7	67. Defendants reasonably should have known the falsity of the representations		
8	and omissions set forth above, and/or the need to disclose the omitted matters to make their		
9	other statements not materially misleading.		
10	68. Defendants reasonably should have known that Hyan would rely on their falson		
11	representations and/or omissions.		
12	69. As a direct and proximate result of such negligent misrepresentation, Plaintiff		
13	has suffered damages as to items set forth in paragraphs 32-35 in the amount of		
14	\$30,558,000, together with prejudgment interest thereon at the legal rate, as well as		
15	additional damages, including but not limited to non-economic damages for severe		
16	emotional distress, attorneys' fees, costs, and expert fees, which amount is yet to be		
17	ascertained.		
18	70. The conduct of Defendants, and each of them, as alleged above, was grossly		
19	negligent, unconscionable, fraudulent, oppressive, malicious and done intentionally or in		
20	conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights and in order to protect themselves and further their		
21	own professional and financial self interest at Plaintiff's expense and to his detriment so as		
22	to justify an award of punitive damages.		
23	SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION		
24	(Fraud and Deceit)		
25	71. Plaintiff hereby repeats and realleges the factual allegations contained in		
26	paragraphs 1 through 70 above as though set forth in full herein.		
27	72. Defendants falsely and fraudulently made representations to Plaintiff. In		
28	particular, Defendants falsely and fraudulently represented, among other things:		

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- (a) That Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff and each of its attorneys would fully and properly protect Hyan's interests and truthfully advise him as to the proper course of action to compensate him for damages caused by the cessation of payments under the 1997 Separation Agreement;
- (b) That Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff and each of its attorneys would use its best efforts, inform Hyan of the truth, keep Hyan informed, and tell Hyan what was going to happen step by step;
- (c) That when Lowe and LEIM discontinued payments to Hyan in late 2006 or early 2007, that it was improper under the contract negotiated by Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff (instead of truthfully advising that the problem was with the contract itself that was handled and approved by Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff), and that the remedy was to sue TriPacific and related entities pursuant to the 1997 Separation Agreement, when in fact such a suit was frivolous and without basis;
- (d) That there was a legitimate basis for bringing a lawsuit and pursuing arbitration claims against TriPacific and related entities based on the argument that they were either successors or assigns under the 1997 Separation Agreement, when such an argument was frivolous and without any basis;
- (e) That a prominent law professor, who Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff had consulted in connection with the TriPacific arbitration, had reviewed the file and the briefs and advised Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff that their position was strong and their briefs were "right on", and that the only reason Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff was not calling him as a witness in the arbitration was due to scheduling conflicts, when in fact they were advised by an outside law professor that their position was troubling and without proper basis;
- (f) That the proper and ultimately successful approach after the Interim Award issued by the Arbitrator against Hyan in June 2008 was to

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continue briefing before the arbitrator and to file motions with the Los

Angeles Superior Court seeking to overturn the award and disqualify the
arbitrator, and that success was almost "guaranteed," when in fact the suit was
frivolous and without basis.

- 73. These representations, among others, made by Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff were in fact false. The true facts were:
  - (a) That Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff would not fully and properly protect Hyan's interests and truthfully advise him as to the proper course of action to compensate him for damages caused by the cessation of payments under the 1997 Separation Agreement, but instead would misdirect him to baseless and meritless litigation against TriPacific in order to hide and cover up Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff's original errors and mistakes and to protect the firm and its attorneys at Hyan's expense;
  - (b) That Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff would not use its best efforts, inform Hyan of the truth, keep Hyan informed, or tell Hyan what was going to happen step by step; but instead would misdirect him to baseless and meritless litigation against TriPacific in order to hide and cover up Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff's original errors and mistakes and to protect the firm and its attorneys at Hyan's expense;
  - (c) That when Lowe and LEIM discontinued payments to Hyan in late 2006 or early 2007, it was due to the problem with the language of the contract itself, that was handled and approved by Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff, and which provided no obligation for Lowe, LEIM or any other entity to continue payments to Hyan once the stream of income had been sold to a third party and Lowe/LEIM was no longer receiving fees from the LACERA program;
  - (d) That there was no legitimate basis for bringing a lawsuit and pursuing arbitration claims against TriPacific and related entities based on the

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argument that they were either successors or assigns under the 1997 Separation Agreement, when it was clear under straightforward California law that TriPacific could not be a successor because LEIM still existed, none of the tests for disregarding the standard rule of an asset purchase had been met, and there was no basis for the proposition that any obligation to pay Hyan had been assigned to TriPacific in the sale of LERA;

- Davidoff, after reviewing the file and the briefs, in fact told Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff that because LEIM still exists it therefore was not a successor, that it was not a successor because it sold a unit of the entity getting income stream; that he was uneasy with the matter given terms of the Separation Agreement Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff had obtained on Hyan's behalf, that he found the language "so long as company continues to receive it" troublesome, and that Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff had decided not to call him as a witness in the arbitration because of his opinions inconsistent with what Hyan was being told;
- (f) That the proper and ultimately successful approach after the Interim Award issued by the Arbitrator against Hyan in June 2008 was not, as advised, to continue briefing or filing motions in Los Angeles Superior Court seeking to overturn the award and disqualify the arbitrator, which course could only result in more damages to Hyan in the form of liability for attorneys' fees and costs of TriPacific.
- 74. When Defendants made the above representations, they knew or should have known them to be false, and they concealed the true facts as stated herein. Said false representations were made by Defendants with the intent to defraud and deceive Plaintiff and with the intent to induce Plaintiff to pursue the TriPacific litigation rather than look to Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff for the harm it had caused in the negotiation and approval of the 1997 Separation Agreement, which action by Plaintiff would further benefit Defendants

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financially and further harm Hyan on top of the harm already caused by the negligently drafted Separation Agreement, in an effort to save themselves from professional injury and harm, and to hide and cover up Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff's improper conduct.

- 75. In reasonable reliance on said false representations, among others, Plaintiff did authorize Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff to pursue and see through to conclusion litigation and arbitration against TriPacific and related entities. Had Plaintiff known the true facts, he would not have taken such actions and/or would have taken other actions. To wit, Plaintiff would not have pursued an action against TriPacific and instead would have pursued a claim against Rutter, Hobbs & Davidoff. Plaintiff's reliance on Defendant's representations was justified and reasonable.
- 76. As a proximate result of Defendant's fraud, deceit and misrepresentation of facts as herein alleged, Plaintiff acted upon Defendants' false representations and as a direct and proximate result of such fraud and deceit, Plaintiff has suffered damages as to items set forth in paragraphs 32-35 in the amount of \$5,958,000, together with prejudgment interest thereon at the legal rate, as well as additional damages, including but not limited to non-economic damages for severe emotional distress, attorneys' fees, costs, and expert fees, which amount is yet to be ascertained.
- 77. The conduct of Defendants, as alleged above, was unconscionable, fraudulent, oppressive, malicious and done intentionally or in conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights and in order to protect themselves and further their own professional and financial self interest at Plaintiff's expense and to his detriment so as to justify an award of punitive damages.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:

## ON THE FIRST, SECOND, FOURTH, FIFTH, SIXTH, AND SEVENTH CAUSES OF ACTION

1. For compensatory damages, according to proof;

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1		2.	For interest pursuant to, but not limited to, Cal. Civil Code Section
2	3287 for damages certain or capable of being made certain, and Sections 3288, 3289, and		
3	3291;		
4		3.	For an award of punitive damages in an amount necessary to
5	punish the De	efenda	nts, and each of them;
6		4.	For costs of suit, including attorneys' fees;
7		5.	For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just, equitable
8	and proper.		
9			ON THE THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION
10		6.	For compensatory damages, according to proof;
11		7.	For interest pursuant to, but not limited to, Cal. Civil Code Section
12	3287 for dam	ages c	ertain or capable of being made certain, and Sections 3288, 3289, and
13	3291;		
14		8.	For costs of suit, including attorneys' fees;
15	·	9.	For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just, equitable
16	and proper.		
17	Dated: January 19, 2010 HOWARTH & SMITH DON HOWARTH		
18 19			SUZELLE M. SMITH DARCY R. HARRIS
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21			By: Won Hou IM Don Howarth
22	•		Attorneys for Plaintiff
23	,		JP HYAN
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1	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL					
2	Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury.					
3	Dated: January 19, 2010 HOWARTH & SMITH					
4	DON HOWARTH					
5	SUZELLE M. SMITH DARCY R. HARRIS					
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7	By: Nontowall					
8	Don Howarth					
9	Attorneys for Plaintiff JP HYAN					
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