#### 22STCV35370

Assigned for all purposes to: Spring Street Courthouse, Judicial Officer:

Electronically FILED by Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles on 11/07/2022 04:46 PM Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court, by G. Carini, Deputy Clerk Micha Star Liberty (SBN 215687) 1 Micha@LibertyLaw.com LIBERTY LAW 2 1999 Harrison, Suite 1800 3 Oakland, California 94612 Telephone: (510) 645-1000 4 Fax: (888) 645-2008 5 Amanda M. Karl (SBN 301088) 6 amk@classlawgroup.com Steve Lopez (SBN 300540) 7 sal@classlawgroup.com 8 GIBBS LAW GROUP LLP 1111 Broadway, Suite 2100 9 Oakland, California 94607 Telephone: (510) 350-9700 10 Fax: (510) 350-9701 11 Counsel for Plaintiff 12 13 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA 14 **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES** 15 C.D., Case No. 228TCV35370 16 Plaintiff, **COMPLAINT** 17 18 1. Sexual Assault ERIC WEINBERG and DOES 1-10, 2. Sexual Battery 19 3. Sexual Harassment 4. Gender Violence 20 Defendants. 5. Assault 21 6. Battery 7. Intentional Infliction of 22 **Emotional Distress** 23 8. Negligence 24 **Jury Trial Demanded** 25 26 27 Eric Weinberg Sexual Assault Lawsuit 28 1

**COMPLAINT** 

### INTRODUCTION

- 1. In February 2019, Defendant Eric Weinberg lured Plaintiff C.D. to his home where he sexually assaulted her. Weinberg had offered to help C.D. start a modeling career and booked her for a photo shoot, but once he had her alone on his property, he touched her breasts, demanded sexual poses, forcibly inserted his fingers into her anus, performed oral sex on her, and demanded her to perform oral sex on him.
- 2. This was not an isolated incident for Weinberg, a Hollywood producer who has been criminally charged for sexually assaulting multiple women after luring them to his home. As Judge Victoria B. Wilson found at a recent bail revocation hearing, the allegations against Weinberg indicate "that he cannot stop and will not stop his sexual assaults on women; and, therefore, he poses a danger to the safety of women."
- 3. Plaintiff C.D. suffered physical, emotional, and economic harm as a result of Weinberg's assault and brings this action for sexual assault, sexual battery, sexual harassment, gender violence, assault, battery, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and negligence.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 4. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to Article VI, section 10 of the California Constitution and section 410.10 of the California Code of Civil Procedure.
- 5. Venue is proper in this Court under Code of Civil Procedure section 395 because Eric Weinberg resides in Los Angeles County. In addition, a substantial part of the conduct and omissions giving rise to the violations of law alleged herein occurred in Los Angeles County.

### **PARTIES**

6. Plaintiff C.D. is a citizen and resident of Los Angeles, California. Plaintiff is using a pseudonym in this litigation to protect her privacy and, if required by the Court, will seek permission to proceed under this pseudonym.

- 7. Defendant Eric Weinberg is a citizen and resident of Los Angeles, California. He was an executive producer and writer known for such hit TV shows as *Scrubs, Californication, Veronica's Closet*, and *Anger Management*, among others.
- 8. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, partnership, joint venture, or otherwise of Defendants DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiff who thus sues them by such fictitious names. When the true names and capacities of Does 1 through 10 are ascertained, Plaintiff will amend this complaint by inserting their true names and capacities herein.
- 9. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that the named Defendant and each of the fictitiously named Defendants are legally responsible in some manner for the occurrences alleged in this complaint, and that the injuries alleged herein were proximately and legally caused by the acts and/or omissions of the Defendants.
- 10. Plaintiff is further informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that each Defendant acted as an agent, servant, employee, co-conspirator, alter-ego and/or joint venturer of the other Defendants, and in doing the things alleged herein acted within the course and scope of such agency, employment, alter-ego and/or in furtherance of the joint venture. Each of the Defendant's acts alleged herein was done with the permission and consent of each of the other Defendants.

### **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

- A. Weinberg sexually assaulted C.D. in February 2019 after luring her to his house for a photo shoot.
- 11. One of the ways Weinberg targets women to sexually assault is by introducing himself as a successful television producer and offering them the opportunity for a photo shoot.
- 12. Weinberg approached Plaintiff C.D. in a grocery store parking lot in February 2019 and introduced himself as the executive producer of *Scrubs*.

- 13. C.D. is a neurodivergent young woman who has been diagnosed with ADHD, which makes her less attuned to social cues and particularly vulnerable to a sexual predator like Weinberg.<sup>1</sup>
- 14. When Weinberg first approached C.D., and in their subsequent text messages, he presented himself as a safe and respectful Hollywood figure that she could trust. He showed her examples of prior photo shoots on his phone, as well as photos of his wife and three children in an attempt to build credibility.
- 15. Weinberg told C.D. he had done photo shoots for a lot of Disney stars and offered her the opportunity to participate in a photo shoot as well.
- 16. When Weinberg followed up with C.D. about the photoshoot via text message, he told her that she could make money modeling and respectfully discussed with her the types of photos that she would want to shoot. C.D. emphasized that her main interest was in candid shots and shots featuring costumes or artistic lighting. She sent examples of the types of photos she was comfortable with.
- 17. Weinberg assured her that he would only take pictures of her that she felt proud of, and emphasized that his more provocative photos were what those models wanted to shoot and not what he was telling them to shoot.
- 18. C.D. told Weinberg she would like to try a photo shoot as long as there was no erotica. Weinberg booked her for a 12:00 p.m. photo shoot, sent her the shooting address, and later reminded her of the appointment.
- 19. On February 22, 2019, C.D. arrived at the address Weinberg had given her for her photo shoot: Weinberg's house in Los Feliz. Once he had lured her to his home, he disregarded his prior assurances. He led C.D. to his daughter's bedroom and directed C.D. to take off her shirt and pose on his child's bed. He then "positioned" her breasts.

See, e.g., Brian Wymbs & Christine Gidycz, Examining Link Between Childhood ADHD and Sexual Assault Victimization, 11 J. of Attention Disorders 1612 (2020), available at https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/32468904/.

- 20. C.D. responded as many victims of sexual assault respond: she recognized the situation was odd and unexpected, but avoided making a scene and rationalized to herself that this was her first photo shoot and Weinberg must know what he was doing given his experience in Hollywood and as a photographer. C.D. was undergoing a trauma response where an overload of stress chemicals alters brain functioning: survival reflexes and passivity habits often take over, and the victim avoids creating a scene or bruising the sexual offender's ego in order to ensure survival.<sup>2</sup>
- 21. When Weinberg took C.D. outside and instructed her to engage in sexual poses, she attempted to passively diffuse the situation by striking funny poses. But Weinberg became angry and yelled at her to shut up and do what he instructed. C.D. complied out of fear of being harmed.
- 22. Weinberg next positioned C.D. in a hallway, told her to stick her butt out, and without warning or consent forcefully inserted his fingers into her anus. C.D. went numb with fear and survived the experience largely by dissociating—a common response to severe trauma.<sup>3</sup>
- 23. C.D. again attempted to diffuse the situation without inciting Weinberg's anger, telling Weinberg that she was asexual and not interested in sex with him or anyone else. But Weinberg continued his assault by forcibly performing oral sex on C.D. and aggressively demanded she perform oral sex on him.
- 24. After Weinberg had finished assaulting C.D., he stood between her and the door and demanded assurance that she would not tell the police he had raped her. C.D. assured Weinberg she would not, and he let her leave.
- 25. As a result of Weinberg's assault, C.D. suffered, and continues to suffer, physical, emotional, and economic injuries.

Jim Hopper, *Important Things to Get Right About the "Neurobiology of Trauma." Part 2: Victim Responses During Sexual Assault*, 2020 End Violence Against Women Int'l 6, *available at* <a href="https://evawintl.org/wp-content/uploads/TB-Trauma-Informed-Combined-1-3.pdf">https://evawintl.org/wp-content/uploads/TB-Trauma-Informed-Combined-1-3.pdf</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> *Id*.

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Weinberg's sexual assault of C.D. was not an isolated incident and was not a misunderstanding. Weinberg has recently been publicly exposed as a sexual predator who has repeatedly lured women to his home with the intent to sexually assault them.4

- 27. On July 14, 2022, authorities arrested Weinberg on multiple allegations of sexual assault, including rape, between 2012 and 2019.<sup>5</sup> And on October 4, 2022, authorities arrested Weinberg again, this time for 18 felony counts related to sexual crimes involving five different victims dating back to 2014.6 The charges include six counts of sexual penetration by use of force, four counts of oral copulation, three counts of forcible rape, two counts of sexual battery by restraint, and one count each of assault by means of force likely to cause great bodily injury, attempted sexual penetration by use of force, and false imprisonment by violence.<sup>7</sup>
- 28. Weinberg was previously arrested in 2014 as well, after he allegedly raped a woman after luring her to his home for a photo shoot, but the L.A. District Attorney's office declined to prosecute.<sup>8</sup> Even after a second woman reported sexual misconduct during a photo shoot with Weinberg later that same year, the District Attorney's office still declined to prosecute.9

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Richard Winton, TV producer Eric Weinberg Arrested, Accused of Sexual Assault on Multiple Women, L.A. Times, (July 14, 2022, 6:08 PM),

https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-07-14/hollywood-producer-ericweinberg-maker-of-scrubs-arrested-by-lapd-on-suspicion-of-serial-sexual-assault. <sup>5</sup> *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Press Release, L.A. Dist. Attorney's Office, TV Producer Eric Weinberg Charged with Forcible Rape, Assault (Oct. 5, 2022), https://da.lacounty.gov/media/news/tvproducer-eric-weinberg-charged-forcible-rape-assault. <sup>7</sup> *Id*.

<sup>8</sup> Samuel Braslow, Is Eric Weinberg Hollywood's Most Prolific Predator?, Hollywood Rep., (Sept. 1, 2022), https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/news/general-news/ericweinberg-alleged-victims-speak-out-sexual-assault-1235209912/. <sup>9</sup> *Id*.

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Since Weinberg's July 2022 arrest, however, prosecutors say dozens more

Weinberg is now being held without bail after Judge Victoria B. Wilson

The criminal allegations against Weinberg and accounts from several of

Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that Weinberg

potential victims have come forward about their encounters with Weinberg. 10 At last

found that Weinberg "has engaged in a pattern of violence for over six years" and that

"his behavior is predatory." [H]e targets women doing everyday things," lures them

to his home, and once "he gets them into his private nest of his home ... he commits the

sexual assaults."13 The allegations against Weinberg indicate that he is a serial rapist,

Weinberg's victims indicate that Weinberg habitually pursued women in everyday

settings, used predatory techniques to gain their trust, and lured them to his property

regularly lured and attempted to lure victims by offering women the opportunity to

example, The Hollywood Reporter reports having interviewed more than two dozen

women who say Weinberg approached them in Los Angeles-area parking lots, in

grocery stores, at cafes and on sidewalks, commenting on their appearance before

listing his Hollywood credits and showing them examples of his photography.<sup>15</sup>

participate in a photo shoot set up by a Hollywood producer – as he did with C.D. For

"that he cannot stop and will not stop his sexual assaults on women; and, therefore, he

report, the LAPD had received over 70 tips about Weinberg. 11

poses a danger to the safety of women."14

with the intent to sexually assault them.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Press Release, *supra* note 6.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Transcript of Record at 6, *People v. Weinberg*, No. BA509407 (Cal. Super. Ct., Los Angeles Cnty. Oct. 25, 2022).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> *Id.* at 18-19, 22.

<sup>27 | 13</sup> *Id.* at 19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> *Id.* at 19.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Braslow, *supra* note 8.

**COMPLAINT** 

- 39. Weinberg's actions identified in this complaint were his attempts to commit the crimes delineated in the above-referenced sections of the California Penal Code.
- 40. Weinberg's conduct as described in this complaint was done with oppression, fraud, and/or malice.

### SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

# Sexual Battery (Cal. Civ. Code § 1708.5)

- 41. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 42. Plaintiff brings this claim for sexual battery under California Civil Code § 1708.5 against Weinberg in his individual capacity.
- 43. Weinberg willfully violated Plaintiff's statutory right to be free from sexual battery, including by touching her breasts, inserting his fingers into her anus, performing oral sex on her, and demanding her to perform oral sex on him, all without her consent.
- 44. Weinberg's sexual assault of Plaintiff was deeply offensive to her personal dignity and would offend a person of ordinary sensitivity.
- 45. Given the deeply offensive nature of the sexual assault, Plaintiff's explicit assertions of her boundaries before and during their encounter, and Weinberg's longstanding history of sexual assault and rape, Weinberg committed these acts with intent to cause harmful or offensive contact with Plaintiff's person.
- 46. By intentionally subjecting Plaintiff to sexual assault, Weinberg acted maliciously and in a manner that is deeply offensive to human dignity.
- 47. As a direct, proximate, and foreseeable result of Weinberg's unlawful conduct, Plaintiff has suffered severe humiliation, mental anguish, emotional distress, embarrassment, anger, loss of enjoyment of life, and has been injured in mind and body, the precise amount of which will be proven at trial.

- 48. As a direct, proximate, and foreseeable result of Weinberg's unlawful conduct, Plaintiff has incurred special and general damages, the precise amount of which will be proven at trial.
- 49. Weinberg acted maliciously and oppressively, and his conduct constitutes conscious disregard for Plaintiff's rights and safety, entitling her to punitive damages.

### THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

# Sexual Harassment (Cal. Civ. Code § 51.9)

- 50. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 51. Plaintiff was in a business, service, or professional relationship with Weinberg as, among other things, he offered her his services as a photographer and offered to help her start a modeling career.
- 52. In the course of their photography session at Weinberg's home, Weinberg made several sexual advances, solicitations, and demands of C.D., including touching her breasts, demanding sexual poses, inserting his fingers into her anus, performing oral sex on her, and demanding that she perform oral sex on him.
- 53. Weinberg engaged in verbal, visual, and physical conduct of a sexual and hostile nature based on Plaintiff's gender, including touching her breasts, demanding sexual poses, inserting his fingers into her anus, performing oral sex on her, and demanding her to perform oral sex on him.
  - 54. Weinberg's conduct was unwelcome, severe and pervasive.
- 55. Plaintiff has suffered, and will continue to suffer, severe physical, psychological, and emotional harm, humiliation, embarrassment, anger, and loss of enjoyment of life as a result of Weinberg's conduct. She has also lost her professional footing and has suffered economically as a result of Weinberg's actions, as well. The precise amount of her damages will be proven at trial.
- 56. In addition to damages, Plaintiff seeks exemplary damages and attorneys' fees.

### FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

# Gender Violence (Cal. Civ. Code § 52.4)

- 57. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 58. Plaintiff brings this claim for gender violence under California Civil Code § 52.4 against Weinberg in his individual capacity.
- 59. Under California statute, any person subjected to gender violence may bring a civil action for damages against a responsible party. Gender violence is a form of sex discrimination that includes a physical intrusion or invasion of a sexual nature under coercive conditions.
- 60. Weinberg discriminated against Plaintiff on the basis of her female gender when he sexually assaulted her, including by touching her breasts, inserting his fingers into her anus, performing oral sex on her, and demanding her to perform oral sex on him, all without her consent.
- 61. By subjecting Plaintiff to sexual assault, Weinberg caused her to suffer physical, mental, and emotional injuries as well as injuries to her personal dignity.
- 62. As a direct, proximate, and foreseeable result of Weinberg's unlawful conduct, Plaintiff has suffered mental anguish, emotional distress, embarrassment, anger, and loss of enjoyment of life, and has been injured in mind and body, the precise amount of which will be proven at trial.
- 63. As a direct, proximate, and foreseeable result of Weinberg's unlawful conduct, Plaintiff has incurred special and general damages, the precise amount of which will be proven at trial.
- 64. Weinberg acted maliciously and oppressively. His conduct constitutes conscious disregard for Plaintiff's rights and safety, entitling her to punitive damages.
  - 65. Plaintiff seeks attorneys' fees and costs, as expressly authorized by statute.

### FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION 1 Assault 2 66. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations contained in the preceding 3 paragraphs as though fully set forth herein. 4 67. 5 Weinberg intended to cause harmful or offensive contact. 68. Plaintiff reasonably believed she was about to be touched in a harmful or 6 offensive manner, or that Weinberg threatened to touch Plaintiff in a harmful or 7 offensive manner. 8 69. It reasonably appeared to Plaintiff that Weinberg was about to carry out 9 the threat. 10 Plaintiff did not consent to Weinberg's conduct. 70. 11 71. Plaintiff was harmed. 12 72. Weinberg's conduct was a substantial factor in causing her harm. 13 73. As a direct and proximate result of Weinberg's conduct, Plaintiff has 14 suffered injuries, damages, and losses – including, without limitation, severe emotional 15 distress, humiliation, economic loss, and other consequential damages. 16 74. Weinberg's behavior as alleged herein was willful, wanton, and malicious, 17 and was intended to oppress and cause injury to Plaintiff, entitling Plaintiff to an award 18 of punitive damages. 19 SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION 20 **Battery** 21 75. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations contained in the preceding 22 23 paragraphs as though fully set forth herein. 76. 24 Weinberg touched Plaintiff with the intent to harm or offend her, including by touching her breasts, inserting his fingers into her anus, performing oral 25 sex on her, and demanding her to perform oral sex on him, all without her consent. 26 77. Plaintiff did not consent to any of this touching. 27

Plaintiff was harmed or offended by Weinberg's conduct.

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- 79. A reasonable person in Plaintiff's situation would have been harmed or offended by the touching.
- 80. As a direct and proximate result of Weinberg's conduct, Plaintiff has suffered injuries, damages, and losses—including, without limitation, severe emotional distress, humiliation, economic loss, and other consequential damages.
- 81. Weinberg's behavior as alleged herein was willful, wanton, and malicious and was intended to oppress and cause injury to Plaintiff, entitling Plaintiff to an award of punitive damages.

### SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

### **Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress**

- 82. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 83. Weinberg's actions, including sexually assaulting and battering Plaintiff, constitute intentionally causing Plaintiff, or recklessly disregarding causing her, to experience severe mental anguish and suffering.
- 84. Weinberg's conduct and actions in assaulting Plaintiff went beyond all possible bounds of decency and was shocking, atrocious, and utterly intolerable in a civilized society.
- 85. Weinberg's conduct was extreme and outrageous and caused Plaintiff to suffer severe mental anguish and suffering, including post-traumatic stress, loss of sleep, flashbacks, severe anxiety, fear of repeat sexual violence, an unfounded sense of shame, and depression, all of which have occasioned and may continue to require psychological and other counseling.
- 86. As the direct and proximate result of Weinberg's intentional or reckless infliction of emotional distress, Plaintiff has suffered injuries, damages, and losses—including, without limitation, past and future emotional and mental distress, pain and suffering, impaired earnings capacity, past and future, and past and future losses of the enjoyment of life.

- 87. As the direct and proximate result of Weinberg's conduct, Plaintiff has suffered injuries, damages, and losses—including, without limitation, severe emotional distress, humiliation, economic loss, and other consequential damages.
- 88. Weinberg's behavior as alleged herein was willful, wanton, and malicious and was intended to oppress and cause injury to Plaintiff, entitling her to an award of punitive damages.

### **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

# Negligence

- 89. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 90. Weinberg owed Plaintiff a duty to exercise ordinary care in photographing her and not to make sexual contact without her consent.
- 91. Weinberg breached that duty when he made sexual contact she did not consent to, including by touching her breasts, inserting his fingers into her anus, performing oral sex on her, and demanding her to perform oral sex on him, all without her consent.
- 92. Weinberg also owed Plaintiff a duty of reasonable care to give adequate warning of anything that could reasonably be expected to harm her on his property.
- 93. Weinberg breached that duty by failing to warn her of his intentions of sexually assaulting her, and photographing her while doing so, which he did to many other women in his home before her, which he likely intended to do to her, and which would likely cause her serious harm.
- 94. Weinberg's breach of one or both of these duties was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiff's harm.
- 95. As the direct and proximate result of Weinberg's conduct, Plaintiff has suffered injuries, damages, and losses—including, without limitation, severe emotional distress, humiliation, economic loss, and other consequential damages.

1	96.	Weinberg's behavior as alleged herein was willful, wanton, and malicious,	
2	and was intended to oppress and cause injury to Plaintiff, entitling her to an award of		
3	punitive dar	nages.	
4	97.	Plaintiff's requests for relief are set forth below.	
5		PRAYER FOR RELIEF	
6	WHE	REFORE, Plaintiff requests that the Court enter a judgment awarding the	
7	following relief:		
8	(1)	General damages according to proof;	
9	(2)	Special damages, including but not limited to medical and incidental	
10		expenses according to proof;	
11	(3)	Punitive damages, as permitted by law;	
12	(4)	Attorneys' fees, as permitted by law;	
13	(5)	Costs of suit;	
14	(6)	Prejudgment interest as permitted by law; and	
15	(7)	Such other relief as the Court deems proper.	
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17	November 7	, 2022 Respectfully submitted,	
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19		By:	
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COMPLAINT

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	COMPLAINT

# **JURY DEMAND** 1 Plaintiff demands a trial by jury for all issues so triable under the law. 2 3 Respectfully submitted, November 7, 2022 4 5 6 7 Micha Star Liberty (SBN 215687) 8 Micha@LibertyLaw.com LIBERTY LAW 9 1999 Harrison, Suite 1800 10 Oakland, California 94612 Telephone: (510) 645-1000 11 Fax: (888) 645-2008 12 Amanda M. Karl (SBN 301088) 13 amk@classlawgroup.com Steve Lopez (SBN 300540) 14 sal@classlawgroup.com GIBBS LAW GROUP LLP 15 1111 Broadway, Suite 2100 16 Oakland, California 94607 Telephone: (510) 350-9700 17 Fax: (510) 350-9701 18 19 Attorneys for Plaintiff 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28