### 22STCV10064

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8				
9	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA			
10	COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES			
		CASE NO.: 22STCV10064		
11	JANE DOE, an individual,	0.002.00.00.4		
12	71.1.100	COMPLAINT		
13	Plaintiff,	1. Sexual Harassment – Hostile Work		
14	V.	Environment in Violation of FEHA		
		2. Sexual Harassment – Quid Pro Quo in		
15	ACTIVISION BLIZZARD, INC., a California corporation;	Violation of FEHA 3. Failure to Prevent Harassment in		
16	BLIZZARD ENTERTAINMENT, INC.,	Violation of FEHA		
17	a California corporation;	4. Sexual Favoritism in Violation of FEHA		
18	MARK SKORUPA, an individual; DEREK INGALLS, an individual;	<ul><li>5. Retaliation in Violation of FEHA</li><li>6. Sexual Battery</li></ul>		
	BENJAMIN "BEN" KILGORE, an	7. Intentional Infliction of Emotional		
19	individual; SONAL PATEL, an individual;	Distress		
20	DANNY NGUYEN, an individual; and DOES 1 through 25, inclusive.			
21	DOES I through 25, inclusive.	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL		
22	Defendants.			
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Plaintiff JANE DOE ("Ms. Doe" or "Plaintiff") brings the instant action against Defendants ACTIVISION BLIZZARD, INC., BLIZZARD ENTERTAINMENT, INC. ("collectively ACTIVISION BLIZZARD"), MARK SKORUPA, DEREK INGALLS, BENJAMIN "BEN" KILGORE, SONAL PATEL, DANNY NGUYEN, and DOES 1 through 25 (all Defendants and Does 1-25 shall be referred collectively herein as "Defendants"), and alleges as follows:

## **INTRODUCTION**

- 1. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD is a massive video game company<sup>1</sup> with a massive sexual harassment problem. For years, ACTIVISION BLIZZARD's open "frat boy" environment fostered rampant sexism, harassment and discrimination with 700 reported incidents occurring under CEO Robert Kotick's watch.<sup>2</sup> Examples include excessive workplace drinking which fostered unwanted sexual advances to female employees, banter about male employees' sexual encounters, rape jokes, and groping of female employees' breasts and bodies. The sexual misconduct was often committed by executives and in the presence of HR.
- 2. In September 2018, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunities Commission ("EEOC") launched an investigation into allegations of sexual harassment at ACTIVISION BLIZZARD. As a result of the widespread sexual harassment and discrimination tolerated at the highest levels of the company, ACTIVISION BLIZZARD agreed to create an \$18 million fund to compensate eligible claimants who suffered from "sexual harassment, pregnancy discrimination and related retaliation" at ACTIVISION BLIZZARD. To date, the fund has yet to hear a single claim and not a dime has been distributed. Many sexual harassment victims of ACTIVISION BLIZZARD have yet to obtain justice.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In January 2022, Microsoft Corporation announced plans to acquire Activision Blizzard, Inc. for \$68.7 billion.

CEO Kotick remains one of the highest earning CEOs. Since 2007, he earned \$461 million. In 2020 alone, his pay package hit more than \$150 million as the company continued to lay off employees during the pandemic. After the Microsoft acquisition finalizes, he will earn nearly \$400 million.

- 3. In July 2021, the California Department of Fair Employment & Housing ("DFEH") filed a lawsuit against ACTIVISION BLIZZARD, alleging a pattern of workplace harassment and discrimination. The DFEH accused ACTIVISION BLIZZARD of, among other things, 1) fostering a pervasive "frat-boy" workplace culture that is a breeding ground for harassment and discrimination against women, 2) illegally withholding and suppressing evidence by shredding documents that it requested for its investigation, and 3) obtaining repressive, if not punitive, secret settlements of sexual harassment claims, non-disclosure agreements and non-disparagement agreements with severe penalties against employees.
- 4. As reported in a November 16, 2021, article in the *The Wall Street Journal*, <sup>3</sup> CEO Robert Kotick knew about allegations of employee misconduct in many parts of the company, including a rape of an employee in 2016 or 2017. Yet he played down many of the allegations of misconduct. The article further reports that after ACTIVISION BLIZZARD reached an out-of-court settlement with the rape victim, CEO Kotick did not inform the company's board of directors about the rape or the settlement. Many shareholders and employees have called for CEO Kotick's resignation. The SEC recently launched a wide-ranging investigation into ACTIVISION BLIZZARD, including how it handled employees' allegations of sexual misconduct and workplace discrimination.
- 5. On October 28, 2021, following the DFEH lawsuit, CEO Kotick acknowledged the company's failure to protect its many sexual harassment victims, writing in a letter to all employees: "The guardrails weren't in place everywhere to ensure that [ACTIVISION BLIZZARD's] values were being upheld." In this letter, ACTIVISION BLIZZARD announced one of its new policies to show respect to sexual harassment victims: the company would no longer require arbitration of sexual harassment and discrimination claims.
- 6. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD's failure to curb sexist and harassing conduct emboldened its leadership and others to touch Ms. Doe's breasts, thighs and other body parts, to comment on

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> https://www.wsj.com/articles/activision-videogames-bobby-kotick-sexual-misconduct-allegations-11637075680

her breasts, to invite her to a swinger party, to attempt to kiss her and to make numerous sexualized comments to her. After Ms. Doe complained to ACTIVISION BLIZZARD's HR on multiple occasions, ACTIVISION BLIZZARD retaliated against her by demoting her, by declining her applications for positions in other departments later offered to less-deserving employees, and by sending around a false email that she had been terminated.

## **PARTIES**

- 7. Plaintiff is an individual residing in the County of Riverside, California.
- 8. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant ACTIVISION BLIZZARD, INC. is a California corporation doing substantial business in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. In addition, at least one of the disputes in the instant action arose in the County of Los Angeles. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD, INC. employs more than five employees within the meaning of California Government Code § 12926 and are thus subject to suit under FEHA, Government Code section 12900, *et seq*.
- 9. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendant BLIZZARD ENTERTAINMENT, INC. ("BLIZZARD") is a California corporation doing substantial business in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. In addition, at least one of the disputes in the instant action arose in the County of Los Angeles. BLIZZARD ENTERTAINMENT, INC. employs more than five employees within the meaning of California Government Code § 12926 and are thus subject to suit under FEHA, Government Code section 12900, et seq.
- 10. Defendant MARK SKORUPA is an individual. His current county of residence is currently unknown to Plaintiff.
- 11. Defendant DEREK INGALLS is an individual. His current county of residence is currently unknown to Plaintiff.
- 12. Defendant BENJAMIN "BEN" KILGORE is an individual. His current county of residence is currently unknown to Plaintiff.

- 13. Defendant SONAL PATEL is an individual. Her current county of residence is currently unknown to Plaintiff.
- 14. Defendant DANNY NGUYEN is an individual. His current county of residence is currently unknown to Plaintiff.
- 15. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate or otherwise, of Defendants Does 1 through 25, inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiff at this time. Plaintiff therefore sues said defendants by such fictitious names. When the true names and capacities of said defendants are ascertained, Plaintiff will seek leave of court to amend this Complaint to allege their true names and capacities. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that each defendant designated herein as a Doe is responsible in some manner for each other defendant's acts, omissions, and for the resulting injuries and damages to Plaintiff, as alleged herein.

### **VENUE**

16. Venue is proper as Defendants conduct business in Los Angeles County. Plaintiff also provided services to ACTIVISION BLIZZARD in Los Angeles County and some of the tortious conduct alleged herein occurred in Los Angeles County.

## **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 17. On October 23, 2017, Ms. Doe commenced work at ACTIVISION BLIZZARD as a Senior Administrative Assistant to support Defendant SKORUPA and Senior Director Eric Kou in ACTIVISION BLIZZARD's IT department. Ms. Doe reported to Defendant PATEL (an Executive Administrative Assistant). She immediately began to experience harassment and gender discrimination, including but not limited to the incidents below.
- 18. On Ms. Doe's very first day, Defendant SKORUPA, Mr. Kou, Defendant PATEL, Defendant INGALLS and others from ACTIVISION BLIZZARD leadership took Ms. Doe out for an "initiation lunch" at a restaurant. During this lunch, leadership pressured Ms. Doe to drink many shots of tequila. And at this lunch, Defendant SKORUPA forced his hand on Ms. Doe's lap. After lunch, they all headed to another place for more drinks and leadership

pressured Ms. Doe to drink even more. On the car ride back to the office, ACTIVISION BLIZZARD leadership told Ms. Doe that, as part of the initiation, she needed to share an embarrassing secret to everyone. She complied and it made her extremely uncomfortable.

- 19. On Ms. Doe's second day of work, Defendant PATEL sent Ms. Doe and a prospective ACTIVISION BLIZZARD employee an email with a comment about "hookers and blow."
- 20. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD purchased alcohol for its employees to drink during work hours, offering it nearly everywhere, including kegs of beer throughout the offices and on campus. In this alcohol-sotted work environment, sexual harassment flourished. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD often pressured Ms. Doe and others to participate in office "cube crawls" where women would be subjected to sexual comments and groped.
- 21. Early in Ms. Doe's career at ACTIVISION BLIZZARD, Defendant SKORUPA and Defendant INGALLS repeatedly pressured her to stay late in Defendant INGALLS' office to play a game called "Jackbox" which required each individual to suggest creative answers to various questions. All the men present ensured that their answers were mostly sexual. At the start of one of the games, Defendant SKORUPA or Defendant INGALLS told Ms. Doe, "let's see how well you'll fit in with the group." Ms. Doe understood that they were testing her to see if she could be as sexually crude as the men.
- 22. On November 3, 2017, at BlizzCon (a popular convention held by ACTIVISION BLIZZARD), Ms. Doe was instructed to meet the leadership group in the hotel bar after her shift was over. Defendant PATEL and Defendant SKORUPA pressured Ms. Doe to drink with the team, causing Ms. Doe to become intoxicated. Defendant SKORUPA gave Ms. Doe the key to his hotel room and said that he was not using it that night. Ms. Doe later left the bar and went to Defendant SKORUPA's vacant hotel room to sleep. Since Blizzard pressured her to drink and caused her intoxication, Ms. Doe does not remember much else from that night other than waking up in the middle of the night in a state of shock as she was completely naked (something very unusual for her) and then driving home.

- 23. On December 11, 2017, Defendant PATEL told Ms. Doe that she and her boyfriend are polyamorous and that they had a lot of parties if Ms. Doe ever wanted to join. Ms. Doe declined Defendant PATEL's invitation for casual sex.
- 24. On March 6, 2018, Defendant SKORUPA came into Ms. Doe's office and gave her a very long, unwelcomed hug and rubbed her back.
- 25. Defendant SKORUPA often made sexual comments to Ms. Doe, such as commenting on the way that she dresses and how she physically looks.
- 26. In June 2018, at an administrative appreciation outing at Disneyland, Defendant SKORUPA repeatedly put his arm around Ms. Doe and repeatedly linked arms with Ms. Doe to enable him to rub his arm on the side of her breasts. At lunch, Defendant SKORUPA commented to Ms. Doe, "Wow, you can fit that big burger in your mouth, impressive!" The sexual innuendo was unwelcomed. When someone jumped in and mentioned that he can get in trouble for that, the other ACTIVISION BLIZZARD employees there laughed.
- 27. On July 18, 2018, Defendant SKORUPA drove with Ms. Doe ACTIVISION BLIZZARD's Burbank Arena in Burbank in a convertible. He told her that her breasts were going to get a nice tan. He said he wished that his wife kept herself up like Ms. Doe does. Defendant SKORUPA repeatedly linked his arms with Ms. Doe as they walked around the arena in order to brush up his arms against her breasts. Ms. Doe tried to distance herself from him.
- 28. Later that day, at Defendant INGALLS' dinner party, Defendant SKORUPA gave Ms. Doe another extended, unwelcomed hug. Later that evening, Defendant SKORUPA told her that Defendant KILGORE, BLIZZARD's Chief Technology Officer, wants to "come take care of you after [her] Lasik [surgery]." Defendant KILGORE later came up behind her, put his arms around her waist and hugged her tightly from behind. When she turned around, he handed her his phone number and said to call him if she needed to be "taken care of."

- 29. The following day, Ms. Doe complained to Defendant PATEL how uncomfortable she was about Defendant SKORUPA commenting on Defendant KILGORE wanting to come take care of her.
- 30. Beginning on or around July 22, 2018, Ms. Doe started to dress more conservatively so that she would not get sexually harassed. And she tried to distance herself from the offsite leadership dinners. Ms. Doe told BLIZZARD's IT Chief of Staff that she was not comfortable with all of the drinking and sexual advances.
- 31. In early August 2018, BLIZZARD terminated Defendant KILGORE after several women made credible sexual assault allegations against him. On August 16, 2018, ACTIVISION BLIZZARD held a meeting regarding Defendant KILGORE's departure. During this team meeting, ACTIVISION BLIZZARD leadership took a photo of all the men flipping off the camera in response to Defendant KILGORE's departure. Defendant INGALLS emailed this photo to leadership, including to Ms. Doe. This photo signaled to Ms. Doe that leadership thought Defendant KILGORE's departure for sexual misconduct was a joke.
- 32. In August 2018, despite a hiring freeze, ACTIVISION BLIZZARD rehired another employee as Defendant INGALLS' Executive Assistant on account of her close relationship with Defendant INGALLS and Defendant SKORUPA. In doing so, she took Defendant SKORUPA's calendar, previously assigned to Ms. Doe
- 33. On August 23, 2018, Ms. Doe told Ms. Madison that she intended to go to ACTIVISION BLIZZARD HR with complaints of sexual harassment and complaints regarding ACTIVISION BLIZZARD's removal of her from Defendant SKORUPA's calendar. Ms. Madison said there was no need to go to HR.
- 34. On August 29, 2018, ACTIVISION BLIZZARD retaliated against Ms. Doe by forcing her to move to a cubicle to make room for a new director. They were intending to remove a recruiter from her office as she only worked in the office two days a week, but they decided instead to remove Ms. Doe, who worked five days a week in the office, from her office

into a cubicle. This was illogical as Ms. Doe's office was in between the offices of Defendant SKORUPA and Mr. Kou, her two assigned directors.

- 35. That same day, Ms. Doe met with HR to complain that another employee was returning and would be taking Ms. Doe's calendar.
- 36. On August 30, 2018, Ms. Doe reported ACTIVISION BLIZZARD's hostile work environment to HR, who dismissed Ms. Doe's sexual misconduct complaints, saying that it was just her leadership being nice and trying to be friends with her. HR asked Ms. Doe to keep all of her issues, concerns, recordings, or emails to herself because they could be very damaging to ACTIVISION BLIZZARD.
- 37. Several days after Ms. Doe's HR complaint, Defendant SKORUPA loudly pronounced to Defendant PATEL that he "fucking despise[s] [Ms. Doe]," "It's like I broke up with her and now she's the psycho ex-girlfriend" and "poor [Ms. Doe] isn't getting all the attention and now she's mad." Defendant SKORUPA then said, "I wish I could be a total dick to [Ms. Doe] but I know I legally can't." Ms. Doe overheard all of the above comments as she was standing right outside his office.
- 38. On September 7, 2018, Ms. Doe met again with HR to beg for another position at ACTIVISION BLIZZARD, such as the Web & Mobile position. HR said they were not backfilling the Web & Mobile position. On September 24, 2018, ACTIVISION BLIZZARD hired a new employee for that position.
- 39. In September 2018, ACTIVISION BLIZZARD promoted Defendant PATEL and an employee similarly situated to Ms. Doe because they were in the clique, while it demoted Ms. Doe after she complained of sexual harassment.
- 40. After another meeting that month, when Ms. Doe was walking out of a meeting room, Defendant INGALLS said, "I hope there are no more pussies in the room."
- 41. On October 3, 2018, Ms. Doe attended a large ACTIVISION BLIZZARD staff meeting after an executive's departure, wherein Defendant INGALLS, now head of BLIZZARD IT, was asked why his former boss had left. Defendant INGALLS told a brief story that

concluded with the advice that employees shouldn't sleep with their executive assistants and that if they did, they shouldn't stop. He added that if they did stop, they better have deep pockets. In the room that day was a representative from human resources who stood silently by.

- 42. On October 4, 2018, Ms. Doe complained to HR about Defendant SKORUPA's sexual harassment. HR said that it was Defendant SKORUPA's way of complimenting her and that she should stop saying that it is sexual harassment. She also reported Defendant INGALLS' comments about sleeping with one's administrators and she played a recording of the comments. HR said to not let this get out because it could be very damaging and he would take care of it. He did not.
- 43. On October 8, 2018, Defendant INGALLS and Defendant SKORUPA removed Ms. Doe's access to their calendars. That Defendant PATEL still had access to everyone's calendars even though she was not an administrator anymore indicated that Defendant INGALLS' and Defendant SKORUPA's removal of Ms. Doe's access was retaliatory.
- 44. In October 2018, Ms. Doe found an opening in Blizzard's Classic Games department and applied for the position. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD HR said that the feedback from the interview was great and that she needed to wait until the following week for the final results. That Friday, Defendant INGALLS and Defendant SKORUPA spoke with Rob Bridenbecker, former Executive Producer and Vice President of Classic Games. The following Monday, ACTIVISION BLIZZARD hired a less-qualified receptionist. Ms. Doe complained about this retaliation to ACTIVISION BLIZZARD HR. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD HR warned her about jumping to conclusions. This employee was fired shortly after because she was not qualified for the position.
- 45. Later on, a position in BLIZZARD's Story & Franchise department opened up and Ms. Doe applied for and interviewed for that position. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD told her that it passed on her for that position too.
- 46. On November 5, 2018, Ms. Doe noticed that she was removed from the ACTIVISION BLIZZARD leadership offsite scheduled for November 9, while another

employee similarly situated to her was invited. Ms. Doe was also removed from all leadership
meetings that she previously attended and she was the only one not to receive team swag. Ms
Doe complained about this blatant retaliation to HR.

- 47. On November 12, 2018, Ms. Doe complained to HR about being isolated. HR acknowledged that leadership was retaliating against her and bullying her but it did not help her in any way.
- 48. On November 16, 2018, ACTIVISION BLIZZARD sent out an invitation for the leadership holiday dinner at Defendant INGALLS' home. Ms. Doe was not invited yet Defendant PATEL and an employee similarly situated to Ms. Doe were invited.
- 49. On December 17, 2018, Ms. Doe provided accurate information about her toxic experiences at BLIZZARD to an investigator hired by ACTIVIION BLIZZARD. The next day, Ms. Doe asked HR if she could go on medical leave until the investigation was over due to her mental breakdown. HR said she would need to use the rest of her vacation time if she was not comfortable coming into the office. HR also said that if she was not happy, there was always the option to find a job outside of ACTIVISION BLIZZARD.
- 50. On March 14, 2019 Ms. Doe complained in writing to BLIZZARD President J. Allen Brack about the sexual harassment and retaliation.
- 51. On April 1, 2019, only after Ms. Doe complained to Mr. Brack did ACTIVISION BLIZZARD offer her the Story & Franchise department position that it previously denied to her in order to shut her up. To escape the rampant sexism in the IT department, she accepted this demotion which came with a significant decrease in pay. Notably, since joining ACTIVISION BLIZZARD in 2017, Ms. Doe only received \$1.54 in total hourly raises (excluding the holiday bonus that was rolled into her base salary). She was also expected to receive large profit-sharing payouts but those kept diminishing.
- 52. On November 21, 2019, Defendant NGUYEN, BLIZZARD Senior IT manager, invited Ms. Doe to dinner when he told her that he heard Defendant INGALLS and Defendant SKORUPA talk about Ms. Doe in a sexually explicit manner. After dinner, Defendant

NGUYEN attempted to kiss Ms. Doe as she got in her car. Ms. Doe quickly drove away in fear with her car door open, leaving Defendant NGUYEN in the street.

- 53. In the Story & Franchise department, Ms. Doe's manager often set her up to fail. Ms. Doe complained to ACTIVISION BLIZZARD about this.
- 54. In December 2020, Ms. Doe received her first below-average review after receiving positive reviews in 2018 and 2019. Ms. Doe believes this was in retaliation for her prior sexual harassment complaints. This unwarranted negative 2020 review resulted in a lower salary increase (just a 36 cents raise), a loss of profit sharing and a loss of equity in the company.
- 55. In November 2021, Ms. Doe interviewed for an open Executive Assistant position. On December 8, 2021, Ms. Doe spoke at a press conference about the sexual harassment, discrimination, and retaliation she has endured at ACTIVISION BLIZZARD. A week later, in retaliation, ACTIVISION BLIZZARD rejected her application. On December 17, 2021, Ms. Doe sent an e-mail requesting feedback about the interview. She received no response.
- 56. To this day, ACTIVISION BLIZZARD has refused to promote Ms. Doe despite her exemplary work. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD also sent a preservation of evidence letter to some of its employees on January 10, 2022, falsely claiming that Ms. Doe was terminated. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD's relentless efforts to push her out continued on February 1, 2022, when it hired two new temporary employees to perform the exact duties Ms. Doe performed.

## **EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES**

- 57. On March 10, 2022, prior to the initiation of this lawsuit, Ms. Doe submitted to the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) information regarding Defendants denying her a work environment free of discrimination, harassment and retaliation based on her gender and other protected characteristics.
- 58. On March 10, 2022, the DFEH issued Ms. Doe a right-to-sue notice. See Exhibit A (redactions are applied to Ms. Doe's true name).

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## **LEGAL CLAIMS**

## FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

HOSTILE WORK ENVIRONMENT - SEXUAL HARASSMENT (GOV. CODE § 12940)
(AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS)

- 59. Plaintiff restates and incorporates by reference, as though fully set forth herein, the allegations contained in each of the paragraphs above.
- 60. Plaintiff is an "applicant" and a "person providing services pursuant to a contract" under California Government Code § 12940(j).
- 61. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD, INC., BLIZZARD ENTERTAINMENT INC. and DOES 1-25 (collectively, "Corporate Defendants") are "employers" and Defendant SKORUPA, Defendant INGALLS, Defendant KILGORE, Defendant PATEL and Defendant NGUYEN are each a "person" under California Government Code § 12940(j). Corporate Defendants, Defendant SKORUPA, Defendant INGALLS, Defendant KILGORE, Defendant PATEL and Defendant NGUYEN are collectively referred herein as "Defendants."
- 62. Plaintiff was subjected to unwanted harassing conduct on the basis of her gender in violation of the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, California Government Code § 12940 *et seq*. ("FEHA").
- 63. During the three years Plaintiff worked for ACTIVISION BLIZZARD from 2017 to 2020, Defendant SKORUPA, Defendant INGALLS and Defendant PATEL made unwelcome sexual comments towards her, while Defendant SKORUPA, Defendant KILGORE and Defendant NGUYEN made unwelcome sexual advances towards her.
- 64. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD participated in, assisted or encouraged the harassing conduct. Defendant SKORUPA, Defendant INGALLS, Defendant PATEL, Defendant KILGORE and Defendant NGUYEN are also personally liable for such harassment under Gov. Code § 12940(j).
- 65. The conduct of Defendants, as alleged in this Complaint, was so severe, widespread or persistent to alter the terms and conditions of employment and was sufficiently severe and/or pervasive such that it created a hostile and abusive work environment.

- 66. The conduct of the Defendants, as alleged in this Complaint, was so severe or pervasive that a reasonable person in Plaintiff's circumstances would have considered the work environment to be hostile or abusive.
- 67. Plaintiff perceived and considered the work environment to be hostile and abusive as a result of the conduct of Defendants, as alleged in this Complaint.
- 68. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD is liable and responsible for the acts of their agents, supervisors and employees under Government Code § 12940(j) because Corporate Defendants knew of or had constructive knowledge of said conduct and failed to take timely and appropriate corrective action.
- 69. Defendants created, fostered, tolerated, and condoned a work environment that was pervasively and/or severely hostile to Plaintiff on account of Plaintiff's gender.
- 70. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD ratified the conduct of Defendant SKORUPA, Defendant INGALLS, Defendant PATEL, Defendant KILGORE and Defendant NGUYEN in failing to take immediate and appropriate corrective action.
- 71. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD knew or should have known of the conduct but failed to take immediate and appropriate corrective action by failing and refusing to remedy the hostile work environment and by failing and refusing to take all reasonable steps to prevent harassment from occurring by permitting Defendant SKORUPA, Defendant INGALLS, Defendant PATEL, Defendant KILGORE and Defendant NGUYEN to continuously harass Plaintiff because of Plaintiff's gender.
- 72. Defendants committed their tortious and wrongful acts in the course and scope of their employment.
  - 73. The conduct of Defendants was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiff's harm.
- 74. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD is also liable for the discrimination and harassment of Plaintiff under principles of vicarious liability, including the doctrine of *respondeat superior*, and are responsible for damages caused by said conduct.

- 75. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' actions as herein alleged, Plaintiff has suffered and continue to suffer extreme physical and emotional distress, financial hardship, wage losses, humiliation, mental and physical pain, and other damages in an amount to be proven at trial.
- 76. The above referenced acts of Defendants were authorized or ratified by officers or managing agents of Defendants, and were done intentionally and with malice, entitling Plaintiff to an award of punitive damages in an amount appropriate to punish and make an example of said Defendants.
- 77. As a further direct and proximate result of Defendants' actions, as herein alleged, Plaintiff has incurred, and continues to incur, legal fees, costs, and other expenses in the prosecution of this matter.

## SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION QUID PRO QUO SEXUAL HARASSMENT (GOV. CODE § 12940) (AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS)

- 78. Plaintiff restates and incorporates by reference, as though fully set forth herein, the allegations contained in each of the paragraphs above.
- 79. The terms of Plaintiff's employment, job benefits and/or favorable working conditions were made contingent, by words and conduct, on Plaintiff's acceptance of the unwelcome sexual comments by Defendant SKORUPA, Defendant INGALLS and Defendant PATEL and acceptance of the sexual advances by Defendant SKORUPA, Defendant KILGORE and Defendant NGUYEN.
- 80. Defendant SKORUPA, Defendant INGALLS, Defendant PATEL, Defendant KILGORE and Defendant NGUYEN committed their tortious and wrongful acts in the course and scope of their employment and at the time of their conduct, they were each supervisors and/or managers for the Corporate Defendants.
  - 81. Plaintiff was harmed as a result of the aforementioned tortious conduct.
  - 82. The aforementioned conduct was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiff's harm.

- 83. Defendants created, fostered, tolerated, and condoned a work environment that was pervasively and/or severely hostile to Plaintiff on account of her gender.
- 84. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD participated in, assisted or encouraged the harassing conduct of Defendant SKORUPA, Defendant INGALLS, Defendant PATEL, Defendant KILGORE and Defendant NGUYEN.
- 85. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD ratified the conduct of Defendant SKORUPA, Defendant INGALLS, Defendant PATEL, Defendant KILGORE and Defendant NGUYEN in failing to take immediate and appropriate corrective action.
- 86. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD is liable and responsible for the acts of their agents, supervisors and employees under Government Code § 12940(j) because ACTIVISION BLIZZARD knew of or had constructive knowledge of said conduct and failed to take timely and appropriate corrective action by failing and refusing to remedy the hostile work environment and by failing and refusing to take all reasonable steps to prevent harassment from occurring by permitting Defendant SKORUPA, Defendant INGALLS, Defendant PATEL, Defendant KILGORE and Defendant NGUYEN to continuously harass Plaintiff because of her gender.
- 87. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD is also liable for the harassment of Plaintiff under principles of vicarious liability, including the doctrine of *respondeat superior*, and are responsible for damages caused by said conduct.
- 88. Defendant SKORUPA, Defendant INGALLS, Defendant PATEL, Defendant KILGORE and Defendant NGUYEN are also personally liable for such harassment under Gov. Code § 12940(j).
- 89. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' actions and inactions as herein alleged, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer extreme physical and emotional distress, financial hardship, wage losses, humiliation, mental and physical pain, and other damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

- 90. The above referenced acts of Defendant SKORUPA, Defendant INGALLS, Defendant PATEL, Defendant KILGORE and Defendant NGUYEN were authorized or ratified by officers or managing agents of Corporate Defendants, and were done intentionally and with malice, entitling Plaintiff to an award of punitive damages in an amount appropriate to punish and make an example of Defendants.
- 91. As a further direct and proximate result of Defendants' actions, as herein alleged, Plaintiff has incurred, and continues to incur, legal fees, costs, and other expenses in the prosecution of this matter.

## **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

FAILURE TO PREVENT HARASSMENT (GOV. CODE § 12940(k)) (AGAINST ACTIVISION BLIZZARD, INC., BLIZZARD ENTERTAINMENT, INC. and DOES 1-25)

- 92. Plaintiff restates and incorporates by reference, as though fully set forth herein, the allegations contained in each of the paragraphs above.
- 93. During Plaintiff's time as an applicant to ACTIVISION BLIZZARD and performing services for ACTIVISION BLIZZARD pursuant to a contract, ACTIVISION BLIZZARD failed to prevent discrimination and harassment against Plaintiff in violation of Government Code §12940(k). Plaintiff presented ACTIVISION BLIZZARD with multiple complaints and opportunities to address pervasively hostile conditions, sexual harassment and circumstances of discrimination on the basis of gender. Still, ACTIVISION BLIZZARD did nothing to address these complaints. Instead, Plaintiff was subjected to more severe conditions of hostile environment, sexual harassment and sexual discrimination.
- 94. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD has been on notice that Defendant SKORUPA sexually harassed and assaulted female employees. Women previously accused Defendant SKORUPA of abusing his position to sexually harass them, yet Corporate Defendants did nothing to stop his harassment.
- 95. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD has been on notice that Defendant INGALLS sexually harassed and assaulted female employees. Women previously accused Defendant INGALLS of

- 103. A reasonable person in Plaintiff's circumstances would have considered the work environment to be hostile or abusive because of the widespread sexual favoritism.
- 104. Plaintiff considered the work environment to be hostile or abusive because of the widespread sexual favoritism.
- 105. Through its actions and inaction as described above, ACTIVISION BLIZZARD participated in and encouraged the sexual favoritism.
- 106. Plaintiff was harmed and the aforementioned conduct was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiff's harm.

## FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION RETALIATION (GOV. CODE § 12940(h))

(AGAINST ACTIVISION BLIZZARD, INC., BLIZZARD ENTERTAINMENT, INC. and DOES 1-25 ONLY)

- 107. Plaintiff restates and incorporates by reference, as though fully set forth herein, the allegations contained in each of the paragraphs above.
- 108. On several occasions between 2017 and 2021, Plaintiff reported sexual harassment and retaliation to ACTIVISION BLIZZARD Human Resources.
- 109. After Plaintiff complained, ACTIVISION BLIZZARD retaliated against Plaintiff by, among other things, refusing to promote her within ACTIVISION BLIZZARD.
- 110. Plaintiff was, at all times material hereto, an employee who engaged in legally protected activities and within a protected class covered by the FEHA, prohibiting retaliation in employment predicated on sex/gender.
- 111. Plaintiff opposed Defendants' discriminatory and sexually harassing acts by rebuffing, rejecting and protesting the aforementioned offensive touchings and conduct.
- 112. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD denied Plaintiff certain employment and work opportunities in retaliation for her rejection of unwanted sexual behavior.
- 113. As a result of ACTIVISION BLIZZARD's retaliation against her, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer damages, in the form of lost wages and other employment benefits, and severe emotional and physical distress.

114. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD acted intentionally and with malice for the purpose of causing Plaintiff to suffer financial loss and severe emotional distress, entitling Plaintiff to an award of punitive damages in an amount appropriate to punish and make an example of said defendants.

## SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

## **SEXUAL BATTERY (CAL. CIVIL CODE § 1708.5)**

(AGAINST ACTIVISION BLIZZARD, INC., BLIZZARD ENTERTAINMENT, INC. and MARK SKORUPA)

- 115. Plaintiff restates and incorporates by reference, as though fully set forth herein, the allegations contained in each of the paragraphs above.
  - 116. Defendant SKORUPA is a "person" under California Civil Code § 1708.5.
- 117. In committing the acts described above, Defendant SKORUPA acted with the intent to make offensive contact with intimate parts of Plaintiff. He did, in fact, bring himself into offensive and unwelcome sexual contact with Plaintiff as described hereinabove.
- 118. As described more fully above, Defendant SKORUPA subjected Plaintiff to unconsented and intentional invasions of her right to be free from sexually offensive and harmful physical contact.
- 119. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant SKORUPA's actions, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer pain and suffering, extreme and severe mental anguish and emotional distress; and Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer a loss of earnings and other employment benefits and job opportunities.
- 120. The above referenced acts of Defendant SKORUPA were authorized or ratified by officers or managing agents of ACTIVISION BLIZZARD. ACTIVISION BLIZZARD is thus also liable for the aforementioned sexual battery of Plaintiff and responsible for damages caused by said conduct under principles of vicarious liability, including the doctrine of *respondeat superior*.
- 121. Defendant SKORUPA's conduct was malicious and oppressive, and done with a conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights. Because Defendant SKORUPA acted in his capacity as director, officer, manager and/or supervisor of ACTIVISION BLIZZARD, he abused and

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment and damages against each of the Defendants as follows:

- a. General damages in an amount to be determined by proof at trial;
- b. Past and future medical and related expenses in an amount to be determined by proof at trial;
- c. Past and future lost earnings in an amount to be determined by proof at trial;
- d. Impairment of earning capacity in an amount to be determined by proof at trial;
- e. Punitive damages pursuant to applicable law;
- f. Reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to applicable law;
- g. Prejudgment and post-judgment interest, including but not limited to, California Civil Code § 3288;
- h. An order requiring ACTIVISION BLIZZARD to waive all arbitration of sexual harassment and gender discrimination claims pursuant to its CEO Kotick's public statement on October 28, 2021, including in this case;
- i. An order requiring ACTIVISION BLIZZARD to implement a rotating Human Resources department to prevent conflicts of interest with management;
- j. An order requiring ACTIVISION BLIZZARD to retain an outside, truly neutral investigation firm or agency to impartially investigate all pending and future sexual harassment complaints at ACTIVISION BLIZZARD;
- k. An order requiring ACTIVISION BLIZZARD to implement an investigation policy requiring its Human Resources to interview all individual witnesses provided by the complaining employee;
- An order requiring ACTIVISION BLIZZARD to implement an anti-retaliation
  policy to specifically prohibit the "managing out strategy" that strips employees of
  their essential job duties;

## **EXHIBIT A**



## **DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT & HOUSING**

2218 Kausen Drive, Suite 100 I Elk Grove I CA I 95758 (800) 884-1684 (Voice) I (800) 700-2320 (TTY) | California's Relay Service at 711 http://www.dfeh.ca.gov I Email: contact.center@dfeh.ca.gov

Lisa Bloom 26565 Agora Road, Suite #200 Calabasas, CA 91302

**RE:** Notice to Complainant's Attorney

DFEH Matter Number: 202203-16335108

Right to Sue: / Activision Blizzard Inc. et al.

### Dear Lisa Bloom:

Attached is a copy of your **amended** complaint of discrimination filed with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) pursuant to the California Fair Employment and Housing Act, Government Code section 12900 et seq.

Pursuant to Government Code section 12962, DFEH will not serve these documents on the employer. You or your client must serve the complaint.

The amended complaint is deemed to have the same filing date of the original complaint. This is not a new Right to Sue letter. The original Notice of Case Closure and Right to Sue issued in this case remains the only such notice provided by the DFEH. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 10022.)

Be advised that the DFEH does not review or edit the complaint form to ensure that it meets procedural or statutory requirements.

Sincerely,

Department of Fair Employment and Housing

# COMPLAINT OF EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION BEFORE THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FAIR EMPLOYMENT AND HOUSING Under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act (Gov. Code, § 12900 et seq.)

In the Matter of the Complaint o

5	5   The Matter of the Complaint of	FEH No. 202203-16335108
6	Complainant,	
7	l ve	
8	Activision Blizzard Inc.	
9	3100 Ocean Park Blvd	
10 11	1 Blizzard Way	
12		
13		
14	Mark Skarupa	
15	Sonal Patel	
16		
17	Ben Kilgore	
18		
Danny Nguyen		
20	Respondents	
21		
22	1. Respondent <b>Activision Blizzard Inc.</b> is an <b>employer</b> subject to	scuit under the California Fair
23		
24		
25	Complainant is naming <b>Derek Ingalls</b> individual as Co-Responder Complainant is naming <b>Mark Skorupa</b> individual as Co-Responde	
26	-1-	
27	-1- Complaint – DFEH No. 202203-1633510	8
28	Date Filed: March 10, 2022	
		Form DEELI ENE 90 DC (Povigod 02/22)

1 2	Complainant is naming <b>Sonal Patel</b> individual as Co-Respondent(s). Complainant is naming <b>Ben Kilgore</b> individual as Co-Respondent(s). Complainant is naming <b>Danny Nguyen</b> individual as Co-Respondent(s).	
3	3. Complainant resides in the City of Indio, State of .	
4		
5	4. Complainant alleges that on or about <b>March 10, 2022</b> , respondent took the following adverse actions:	
6	Complainant was harassed because of complainant's race, sex/gender, sexual	
7	harassment- hostile environment, sexual harassment- quid pro quo.	
8	Complainant was discriminated against because of complainant's race, sex/gender,	
9	gender identity or expression, sexual harassment- hostile environment, sexual harassment- quid pro quo and as a result of the discrimination was denied hire or promotion, suspended,	
10	demoted, asked impermissible non-job-related questions, denied any employment benefit or privilege, denied work opportunities or assignments, denied or forced to transfer.	
11	Complainant experienced retaliation because complainant reported or resisted any form	
12	of discrimination or harassment, requested or used family care or medical leave (cfra) and as a result was denied hire or promotion, suspended, demoted, asked impermissible non-	
13	job-related questions, denied any employment benefit or privilege, denied work opportunities or assignments, denied or forced to transfer.	
14		
15	Additional Complaint Details:	
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25		
26	-2- Complaint – DFEH No. 202203-16335108	
27	·	
28	Date Filed: March 10, 2022	

1	VERIFICATION
2 3 4	I, am the <b>Complainant</b> in the above-entitled complaint. I have read the foregoing complaint and know the contents thereof. The same is true of my own knowledge, except as to those matters which are therein alleged on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe it to be true.
5	On March 10, 2022, I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of
6	California that the foregoing is true and correct.
7	Indio, California
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26	-3-
27	Complaint – DFEH No. 202203-16335108
28	Date Filed: March 10, 2022 Date Amended: March 10, 2022

Form DFEH-ENF 80 RS (Revised 02/22)