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9  
10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
11 **EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

12 HOWARD FAVICHIA,  
13 *individually and on behalf of*  
14 *all those similarly situated,*

15 Plaintiff,

16 vs.

17 WHALECO, INC. d/b/a TEMU,

18 Defendant.

19 Case No.:

20 **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT AND**  
21 **JURY DEMAND**

22 Plaintiff Howard Favichia (“Plaintiff”) brings this class action against Whaleco, Inc.  
23 d/b/a Temu (“Defendant”) and alleges as follows upon personal knowledge as to Plaintiff and  
24 Plaintiff’s own acts and experiences, and, as to all other matters, upon information and belief,  
25 including investigation conducted by Plaintiff’s attorneys.

26 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

27 1. This is a putative class action pursuant to the Telephone Consumer Protection  
28 Act, 47 U.S.C. §§ 227, et seq. (the “TCPA”).

1. To promote its goods, services, and/or properties, Defendant engages in  
unsolicited text messaging and continues to text message consumers after they have opted out

1 of Defendant's solicitations. Defendant also engages in telemarketing without the required  
2 policies and procedures, and training of its personnel engaged in telemarketing.

3 3. Through this action, Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief to halt Defendant's  
4 unlawful conduct, which has resulted in the intrusion upon seclusion, invasion of privacy,  
5 harassment, aggravation, and disruption of the daily life of Plaintiff and the Class members.  
6 Plaintiff also seeks statutory damages on behalf of Plaintiff and members of the Class, and  
7 any other available legal or equitable remedies.  
8

9  
10 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

11 4. This Court has federal question subject matter jurisdiction over this action  
12 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, as the action arises under the TCPA.

13 5. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant and venue is proper in this  
14 District because Defendant directs, markets, and provides its business activities to this  
15 District, and because Defendant's unauthorized marketing scheme was directed by Defendant  
16 to consumers in this District. Additionally, Plaintiff's telephone number has an area code that  
17 specifically coincides with locations in Florida.  
18

19 **PARTIES**

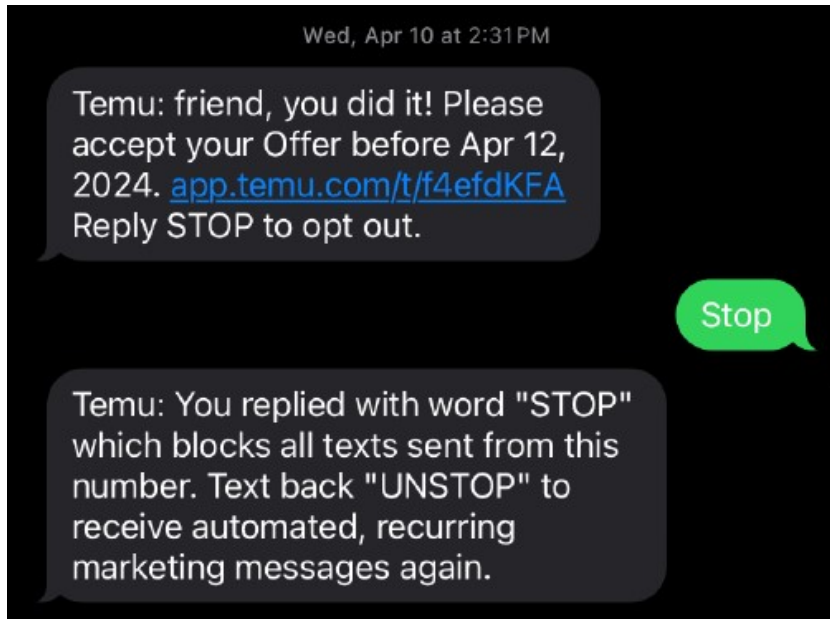
20 6. Plaintiff is a natural person entitled to bring this action under the TCPA, and a  
21 citizen and resident of Sacramento County, California.  
22

23 7. Defendant is a Delaware Corporation with its headquarters located in Boston,  
24 Massachusetts.

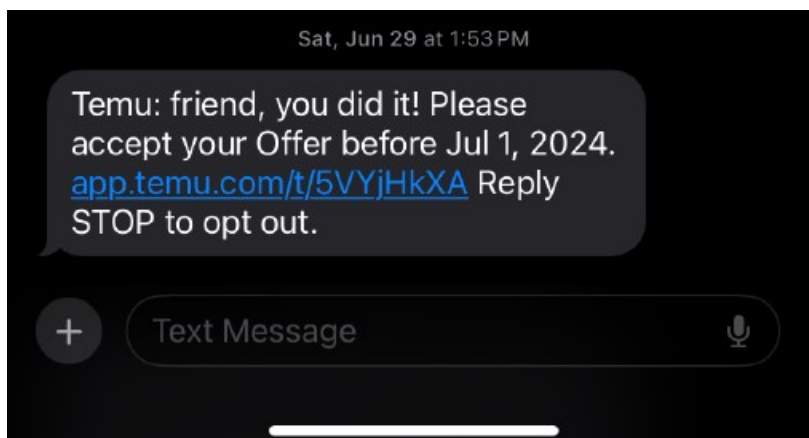
25 8. Unless otherwise indicated, the use of Defendant's name in this Complaint  
26 includes all agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns,  
27 principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, vendors, and insurers of Defendant.  
28

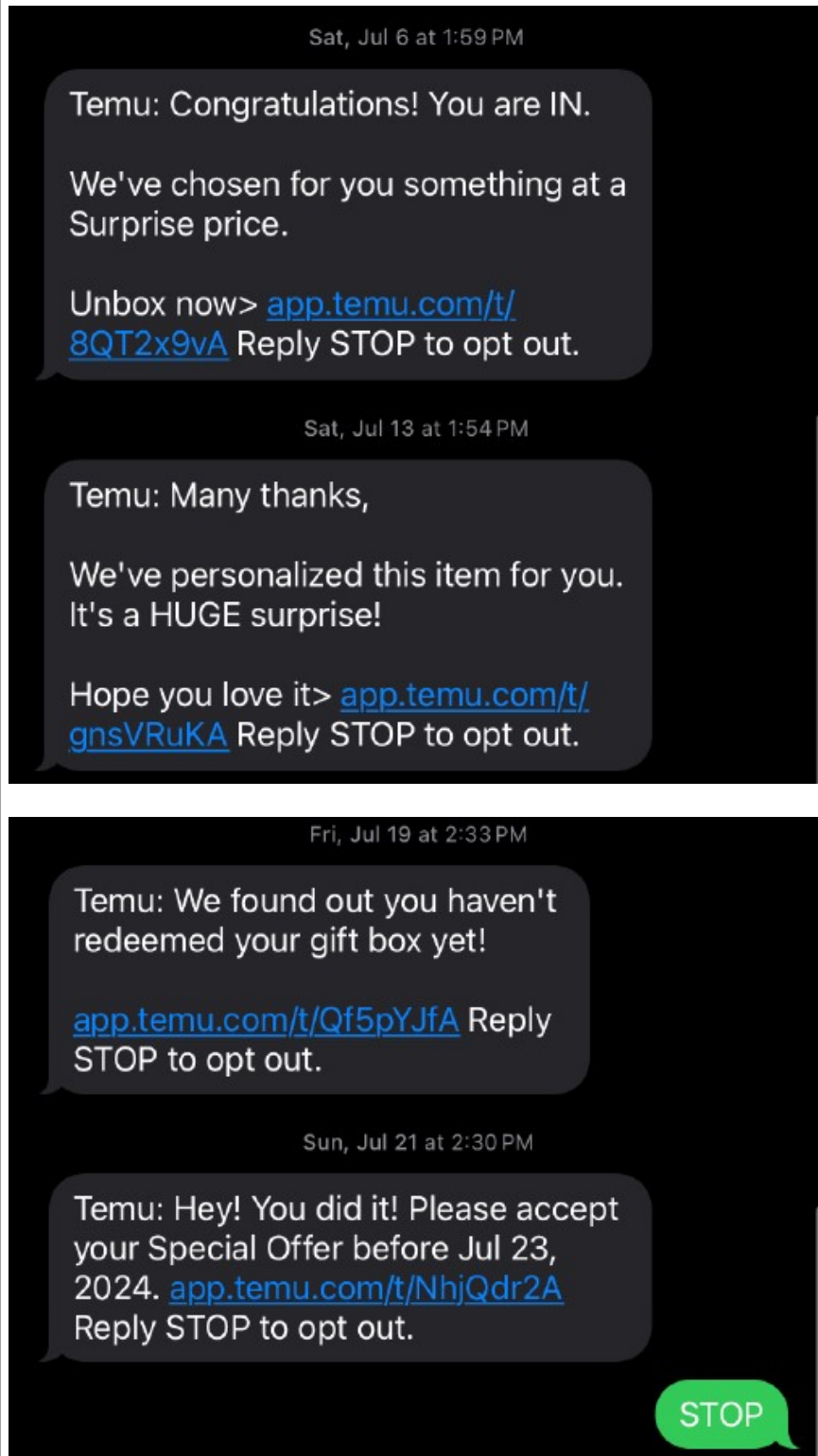
**FACTS**

1  
2 9. On or about April 10, 2024, Plaintiff requested to opt-out of Defendant’s text  
3 messages by replying with a stop instruction as reflected by the following screenshot:  
4



15 10. Defendant ignored Plaintiff’s request and continued text messaging Plaintiff, as  
16 demonstrated by the above screenshot and the following screenshots:  
17





11. Overall, Defendant sent Plaintiff 5 marketing text messages after Plaintiff's initial stop request.

1           12. As demonstrated by the above screenshots, the purpose of Defendant's text  
2 messages was to solicit the sale of consumer goods, services, and/or properties.

3           13. As demonstrated by the above screenshots, the purpose of Defendant's text  
4 messages was to advertise, promote, and/or market Defendant's goods, services, and/or  
5 properties.  
6

7           14. As demonstrated by the above screenshots, Defendant does not honor  
8 consumer requests to opt-out of text message solicitations. Indeed, Plaintiff attempted to opt-  
9 out of Defendant's text message solicitations twice by telling Defendant not to contact him  
10 anymore, but Defendant continued to text message Plaintiff.  
11

12           15. Defendant's refusal to honor Plaintiff's opt-out requests demonstrates that  
13 Defendant has not instituted procedures for maintaining a list of persons who request not to  
14 receive text messages from Defendant. The precise details regarding its lack of requisite  
15 policies and procedures are solely within Defendant's knowledge and control.  
16

17           16. Defendant's refusal to honor Plaintiff's opt-out requests demonstrates that  
18 Defendant does not provide training to its personnel engaged in telemarketing. The precise  
19 details regarding its lack of training are solely within Defendant's knowledge and control.  
20

21           17. Defendant's refusal to honor Plaintiff's opt-out requests demonstrates that  
22 Defendant does not maintain a standalone do-not-call list. The precise details regarding its  
23 lack of training are solely within Defendant's knowledge and control.

24           18. Defendant did not maintain the required procedures for handling and  
25 processing opt-out requests prior to the initiation of the violative text messages it sent to  
26 Plaintiff as reflected by the fact that Plaintiff made repeated opt-out requests and those  
27  
28

1 requests were never processed; they were ignored by Defendant and its employees and  
2 Defendant continued to send text messages.

3 19. Defendant sent at least two solicitations after Plaintiff's first opt-out request.

4 20. Plaintiff is the regular user of the telephone number that received the above  
5 text message solicitations.  
6

7 21. Plaintiff utilizes the cellular telephone that received Defendant's texts  
8 messages for personal purposes and the number is Plaintiff's residential telephone line.

9 22. Upon information and belief, Defendant has access to outbound transmission  
10 reports for all text messages sent advertising/promoting its services and goods. These reports  
11 show the dates, times, target telephone numbers, and content of each message sent to Plaintiff  
12 and the Class members. Defendant also has access to text message logs showing Plaintiff's  
13 and the Class members' inbound opt-out requests.  
14

15 23. Defendant's text messages caused Plaintiff and the Class members harm,  
16 including statutory damages, inconvenience, invasion of privacy, aggravation, annoyance, and  
17 violation of their statutory privacy rights.  
18

### 19 CLASS ALLEGATIONS

#### 20 Proposed Class

21 24. Plaintiff brings this case as a class action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23, on  
22 behalf of Plaintiff and all others similarly situated.  
23

24 25. Plaintiff brings this case on behalf of the Class defined as follows:

25 **All persons within the United States who, within the four**  
26 **years prior to the filing of this lawsuit through the date of**  
27 **class certification, received two or more text messages within**  
28 **any 12-month period, from or on behalf of Defendant,**  
**regarding Defendant's goods, services, or properties, to said**  
**person's residential cellular telephone number, after**

1           **communicating to Defendant that they did not wish to receive**  
2           **text messages by replying to the messages with a “stop” or**  
3           **similar opt-out instruction.**

4           26. Plaintiff reserves the right to modify the Class definitions as warranted as facts  
5 are learned in further investigation and discovery.

6           27. Defendant and its employees or agents are excluded from the Class.

7           **Numerosity**

8           28. Plaintiff does not know the exact number of members of the Class but is  
9 informed and believes that there are at least 50 individuals that fall within the class definition  
10 given Defendant’s use of automated robotexts to solicit consumers and refusal to honor stop  
11 requests. The members of the Class, therefore, are believed to be so numerous that joinder of  
12 all members is impracticable.

13           29. The exact number and identities of the members of the Class are unknown at  
14 this time and can only be ascertained through discovery. Identification of the Class members  
15 is a matter capable of ministerial determination from Defendant’s call records.

16           **Common Questions of Law and Fact**

17           30. There are numerous questions of law and fact common to members of the  
18 Class which predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the Class.

19           Among the questions of law and fact common to the members of the Class are:

- 20           a. Whether Defendant sent text messages to Plaintiff and the Class members;  
21           b. Whether Defendant continued to send text message solicitations after opt-  
22           out requests;  
23           c. Whether Defendant failed to honor Plaintiff’s and the Class members’ opt-  
24           out requests;  
25           d. Whether Defendant implemented the requisite training of personnel under  
26           section 64.1200;  
27  
28

- e. Whether Defendant maintains an internal do-not-call list and instructs its employees on how to use the list;
- f. Whether Defendant maintains the required policies and procedures under section 64.1200; and
- g. Whether Defendant is liable for damages, and the amount of such damages.

31. The common questions in this case are capable of having common answers, and Plaintiff and the Class members will have identical claims capable of being efficiently adjudicated and administered in this case.

**Typicality**

32. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class members, as they are all based on the same factual and legal theories.

**Protecting the Interests of the Class Members**

33. Plaintiff is a representative who will fully and adequately assert and protect the interests of the Class, and has retained competent counsel. Accordingly, Plaintiff is an adequate representative and will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class.

**Proceeding Via Class Action is Superior and Advisable**

34. A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this lawsuit, because individual litigation of the claims of all members of the Class is economically unfeasible and procedurally impracticable. While the aggregate damages sustained by the Class are in the millions of dollars, the individual damages incurred by each member of the Class resulting from Defendant's wrongful conduct are too small to warrant the expense of individual lawsuits. The likelihood of individual Class members prosecuting their own separate claims is remote, and, even if every member of the



1 Class could afford individual litigation, the court system would be unduly burdened by  
2 individual litigation of such cases.

3 35. The prosecution of separate actions by members of the Class would create a  
4 risk of establishing inconsistent rulings and/or incompatible standards of conduct for  
5 Defendant. For example, one court might enjoin Defendant from performing the challenged  
6 acts, whereas another may not. Additionally, individual actions may be dispositive of the  
7 interests of the Class, although certain class members are not parties to such actions.  
8

9  
10 **COUNT I**  
**VIOLATION OF 47 U.S.C. § 227(c) and 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d)**  
**(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Class)**

11 36. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates the foregoing allegations set forth in  
12 paragraphs 1 through 35 as if fully set forth herein.

13  
14 37. In pertinent part, 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d) provides:

15 No person or entity shall initiate any call for telemarketing  
16 purposes to a residential telephone subscriber unless such person  
17 or entity has instituted procedures for maintaining a list of persons  
18 who request not to receive telemarketing calls made by or on  
behalf of that person or entity. The procedures instituted must meet  
the following minimum standards:

19 (1) *Written policy.* Persons or entities making calls for  
20 telemarketing purposes must have a written policy, available  
upon demand, for maintaining a do-not-call list.

21 (2) *Training of personnel engaged in telemarketing.* Personnel  
22 engaged in any aspect of telemarketing must be informed and  
trained in the existence and use of the do-not-call list.

23  
24 (3) *Recording, disclosure of do-not-call requests.* If a person or  
25 entity making a call for telemarketing purposes (or on whose  
26 behalf such a call is made) receives a request from a residential  
27 telephone subscriber not to receive calls from that person or entity,  
28 the person or entity must record the request and place the  
subscriber's name, if provided, and telephone number on the do-  
not-call list at the time the request is made. Persons or entities  
making calls for telemarketing purposes (or on whose behalf such  
calls are made) must honor a residential subscriber's do-not-call

1 request within a reasonable time from the date such request is  
2 made. This period may not exceed thirty days from the date of  
3 such request. If such requests are recorded or maintained by a party  
4 other than the person or entity on whose behalf the telemarketing  
5 call is made, the person or entity on whose behalf the telemarketing  
6 call is made will be liable for any failures to honor  
7 the do-not-call request. A person or entity making a call for  
8 telemarketing purposes must obtain a consumer's prior express  
9 permission to share or forward the consumer's request not to be  
10 called to a party other than the person or entity on whose behalf a  
11 telemarketing call is made or an affiliated entity.

12 38. Under 47 C.F.R § 64.1200(e), the rules set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d) are  
13 applicable to any person or entity making telephone solicitations or telemarketing calls to  
14 wireless telephone numbers.

15 39. Plaintiff and the Class Members are residential telephone subscribers who  
16 received more than one text message made for purposes of telemarketing or solicitation  
17 purposes from Defendant, who has failed to implement the requisite procedures and personnel  
18 training as demonstrated by its repeated failure to honor opt-out requests.

19 40. Plaintiff and the Class members made requests to Defendant not to receive  
20 texts from Defendant.

21 41. Plaintiff and the Class Members revoked any consent they may have provided  
22 Defendant by responding with “stop” or similar opt-out instructions.

23 42. Defendant continued to text message Plaintiff and the Class Members to harass  
24 them into making purchases from Defendant.

25 43. Defendant failed to honor Plaintiff’s and the Class members’ opt-out requests.

26 44. Defendant’s refusal to honor opt-out requests is indicative of Defendant’s  
27 failure to implement a written policy for maintaining a do-not-call list and to train its  
28 personnel engaged in telemarketing on the existence and use of the do-not-call-list.

1 45. Plaintiff and the Class members are informed and believe that Defendant has  
2 not instituted procedures for maintaining a list of persons who request not to receive  
3 telemarketing calls or text messages.

4 46. Plaintiff and the Class members are informed and believe that Defendant does  
5 not have a written policy, available upon demand, for maintaining a do-not-call list.  
6

7 47. Plaintiff and the Class members are informed and believe that Defendant does  
8 not train its personnel engaged in any aspect of telemarketing in the existence and use of the  
9 do-not-call list.  
10

11 48. The details and specific facts regarding Defendant's failure to maintain the  
12 required policies and procedures, as well as personnel training, are solely within Defendant's  
13 knowledge and possession.

14 49. Defendant has violated 47 C.F.R. § 64.1200(d) by failing to honor opt-out  
15 requests, failing to maintain the required policies and procedures, and failing to train its  
16 personnel engaged in telemarketing.  
17

18 50. Pursuant to section 227(c)(5) of the TCPA, Plaintiff and the Class members are  
19 entitled to an award of \$500.00 in statutory damages, for each and every negligent violation.  
20

21 51. As a result of Defendant's knowing or willful conduct, Plaintiff and the Class  
22 members are entitled to an award of \$1,500.00 in statutory damages per violation.

23 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

24 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the Class, prays for the  
25 following relief:

- 26 a) An order certifying this case as a class action on behalf of the Class as  
27 defined above, and appointing Plaintiff as the representative of the Class  
28 and Plaintiff's counsel as Class Counsel;

