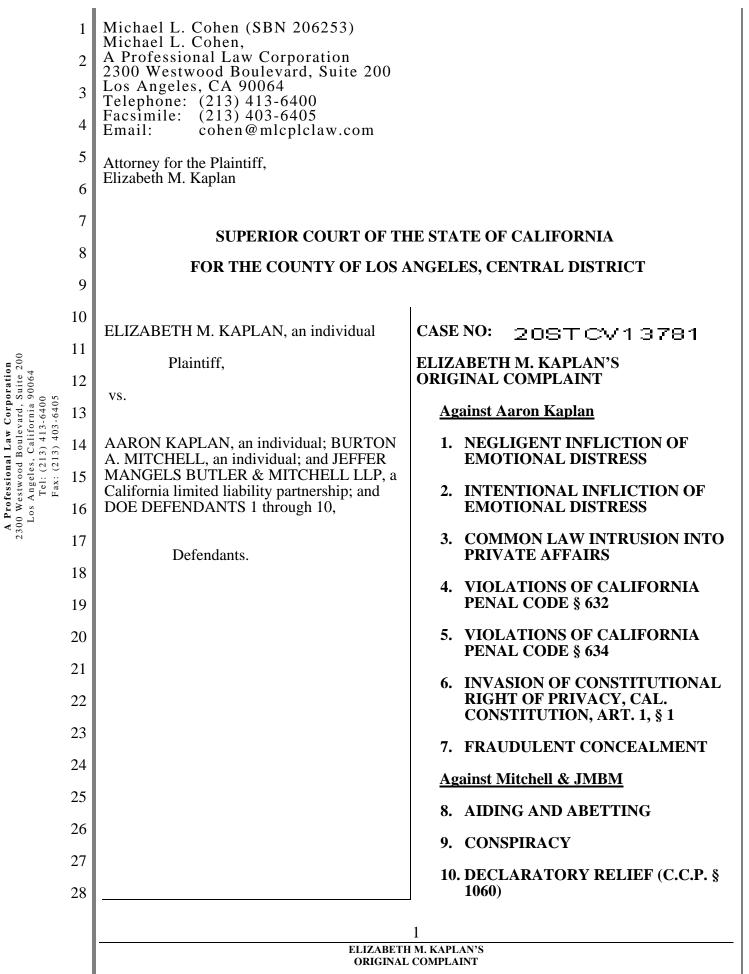
Electronically FILED by Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles on 04/08/2020 03:57 PM Sherri R. Carter, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court, by C. Monroe, Deputy Clerk 20STCV13781

Assigned for all purposes to: Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Judicial Officer: Dennis Landin



MICHAEL L. COHEN

	1	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED				
	2					
	3					
	4	ΙΝΤΡΟΡΙΟΤΙΟΝ				
	5	INTRODUCTION This is a case shout between The facts are set forth below				
	6	<ol> <li>This is a case about betrayal. The facts are set forth below.</li> <li>With this action Elizabeth seeks to recover damages and exemplary damages.</li> </ol>				
	7					
	8					
	9	investigation by her counsel, and on information and belief.				
	10	THE PARTIES				
	11	<u>The Plaintiff—Elizabeth M. Kaplan ("Elizabeth")</u>				
05	12	4. Elizabeth is the widowed mother of a ten-year-old son, Parker Kaplan ("Parker").				
Fax: (213) 403-6405	13	Elizabeth was married nearly 10 years to Joe Kaplan ("Joe") before he died on July 27, 2018.				
213) 4	14	Parker is Elizabeth's son by Joe.				
Fax: (	15	5. Elizabeth and Parker reside in Los Angeles County. They have resided in Los				
	16	Angeles County at all times relevant to this action.				
	17	<u>Defendant Aaron Kaplan ("Aaron")</u>				
	18	6. Aaron Kaplan is Joe Kaplan's younger brother. Aaron is a successful, long-time				
	19	television executive. He was the worldwide head of scripted television at William Morris				
	20	Agency before he left the agency to start Kapital Entertainment. Aaron was listed in Deadline's				
	21	"Overachievers List" for "Pilot Season 2020."				
	22	7. Upon information and belief, Aaron resides in Los Angeles and has resided in Los				
	23	Angeles at all times relevant to this action.				
	24	Defendant Burton A. Mitchell ("Mitchell")				
	25	8. Mitchell is an attorney licensed to practice law in California. His California State				
	26	Bar number is 79317. Mitchell has been certified by the State Bar of California as a specialist				
	27	in Taxation Law.				
	28	9. Mitchell is the "Mitchell" in Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell. As of April 07,				
		2				
		ELIZABETH M. KAPLAN'S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT				

2020, Mitchell was identified on JMBM's website as the firm's Assistant Managing Partner.
 Mitchell serves as the chair of JMB's Taxation and Trusts & Estates practice groups.

3 10. Mitchell may be served with process at Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP,
4 1900 Avenue of the Stars, 7th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90067.

### Defendant Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP ("JMBM")

11. JMBM is a law firm. Upon information and belief, JMBM is a limited liability
partnership organized under California law. According to the firm's website, JMBM is ranked in *American Lawyer*'s AmLaw 200 list.

12. JMBM's main office is located in Los Angeles, California.

10 13. JMBM may be served with process as follows: Bruce P. Jeffer, Managing Partner,
11 or Burton A. Mitchell, Assistant Managing Partner, Jeffer Mangels Butler & Mitchell LLP, 1900
12 Avenue of the Stars, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90067.

### Doe Defendants 1-10 (C.C.P. § 474)

14 14. Elizabeth does not know the true names and capacities—whether individual,
corporate, associate, or otherwise—of Doe Defendants 1 through 10, inclusive. These fictitious
defendants are sued pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 474. Upon information and
belief, each Doe Defendant was in some manner responsible for, participated in, or contributed
to the matters and things Elizabeth alleges in this complaint. Consequently, each Doe Defendant
bears legal responsibility. If and when Elizabeth learns the nature and identity of these Doe
Defendants, Elizabeth will seek leave to amend this complaint, if and as necessary.

15. To the extent contrary to the allegations contained in this complaint, and as an 21 alternative theory, Elizabeth is informed, believes, and thereon alleges, that at all times relevant 22 to this complaint each of the defendants was the agent or employee of the remaining defendants, 23 was at all times acting within the scope of such agency or employment, and actively participated 24 in, or subsequently ratified and adopted, or both, the acts and omissions alleged in this 25 complaint, with full knowledge of all the facts and circumstances, including but not limited to 26full knowledge of each and all of the violations of Elizabeth's rights. Any particular defendant's 27 liability might be based on principles of respondeat superior or some other theory of vicarious 28

MICHAEL L. COHEN A Professional Law Corporation 00 Westwood Boulevard, Suite 200 Los Angeles, California 90064 Tel: (213) 413-6400 Fax: (213) 403-6405 5

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2300 Westwood Boulevard, Suite 200 Los Angeles, California 90064 **Professional Law Corporation** 

3) 413-6400 (213) 403 - 6405

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Fax: Tel:

MICHAEL L. COHEN

#### **JURISDICTION & VENUE**

16. This Court may properly assert personal jurisdiction over these parties under Code 3 of Civil Procedure section 410.10. Elizabeth Kaplan, Aaron Kaplan, and Burt Mitchell reside in 4 Los Angeles, California and resided in Los Angeles, California at all times relevant to this 5 action. JMBM is a limited liability partnership organized under California law, and each of 6 JMBM's three offices is located in California. 7

17. This Court may properly assert subject-matter jurisdiction over this action.

Elizabeth is asserting claims under California law, and the amount in controversy exceeds this 9 Court's jurisdictional minimum. 10

18. Venue in this Court is proper under Code of Civil Procedure sections 395 and 395.5. Elizabeth Kaplan, Aaron Kaplan, and Burt Mitchell reside in Los Angeles County. JMBM's principal office is located in Los Angeles County. The injuries occurred in Los Angeles County, and each defendant's liability arose in Los Angeles County.

19. This action may not be properly removed to federal court because there is no basis 15 for federal jurisdiction. There is no federal question, and there is no diversity between Elizabeth 16 and any of the defendants. 17

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### FACTS

20. Elizabeth Kaplan (then Elizabeth McAdams) met Joe Kaplan in 2006. They began 19 living together in 2007. They were married on October 26, 2008. 20

Elizabeth and Joe have a son together-Parker. Parker is ten years old. 21.

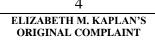
22. Joe died on July 27, 2018, while he and Elizabeth were on vacation in Bermuda.

23. Elizabeth returned home late in the evening on July 31, 2018.

24. The next day, August 1, 2018, Elizabeth's mother—Maria Cervini—joined

Elizabeth at Elizabeth and Parker's home in Malibu. Mrs. Cervini came to help her daughter and 25 her grandson deal with their grief and shock in the aftermath of Joe's death. 26

25. On or about August 15, 2018, Mrs. Cervini was in one of the closets in Elizabeth's 27 master bedroom suite. It was the closet that was primarily used by Joe before he died. Mrs. 28



Cervini noticed a small white object on a shelf above her head. She climbed on a stepladder to take the object off the shelf and see what it was. It was a tiny Arlo wireless recording device. 2

When Mrs. Cervini realized it was a camera, she screamed. She placed her finger 26. 3 over the lens and pried the battery from the device. 4

27. Minutes later, Elizabeth and her mother went back into the closet. There they 5 discovered a second Arlo wireless recording device. This one was tucked under the bill of a 6 baseball cap on the top shelf opposite the wall from the shelves where Mrs. Cervini found the 7 first device. 8

28. Upon information and belief, this second device was aimed in a way that it peered 9 directly into the other closet in Elizabeth's master bedroom suite. This other closet was the 10 closet primarily used by Elizabeth. It's where Elizabeth would dress and undress. It's where Elizabeth would pick out and put on her bra and her underwear. It's where Elizabeth would pick 12 out and put on her nightgown. 13

29. Upon information and belief, this second Arlo device was aimed in a way that it would capture activity in the narrow passageway between the master bedroom and the master bathroom. Elizabeth would walk in this passageway naked, or in her bra and underwear, or only partially clothed.

30. Elizabeth later found an Arlo wireless router attached to the communication cables 18 in her home. 19

31. Upon information and belief, these Arlo devices have motion sensors to initiate 20recording. These devices also are capable of recording images even in near-darkness. 21

32. Upon information and belief, these two hidden cameras were streaming images 22 and sounds to a device to which Aaron has access or had access, and on which he watched and 23 listened to the video and audio recorded and transmitted by these hidden devices. 24

33. Aaron has acknowledged in writing that he installed these hidden recording 25 devices or had them installed. Aaron also indicated that he installed these hidden recording 26devices upon advice from Mitchell of JMBM. 27

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34. Mitchell has confirmed his role in causing these hidden devices to be secretly



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installed in Elizabeth and Parker's home. In communications with Elizabeth's current probate
 counsel (not her counsel in this matter), Mitchell acknowledged telling Aaron that he could
 install these recording devices in Elizabeth's home.

35. In a May 13, 2019 e-mail to an attorney representing Aaron, Elizabeth's probate
counsel insisted that Aaron turn over "all original and copies of all audio and video recordings
taken inside the Malibu house in Aaron's possession, custody or control . . . ." Aaron's attorney
replied almost a month later, in a June 11, 2019 letter to Elizabeth's probate counsel. Aaron,
through his attorney, refused to turn over the unlawful recordings. Instead, Aaron, through his
attorney, doubled down on his unlawful conduct and threatened Elizabeth with "legal
proceedings."

36. Elizabeth did not consent to Aaron or anyone else installing hidden recording devices anywhere in her home, certainly not in a dressing closet in the master bedroom suite, and most certainly not a device that would peer into the passageway between her bedroom and her bathroom or into the closet where she dressed. Nor did Elizabeth consent to anyone entering her home for any unlawful purpose.

#### **EXHIBITS ATTACHED TO THIS COMPLAINT**

37. There are seven exhibits attached to this complaint.

18 38. Exhibit 1 contains two diagrams depicting where Elizabeth and her mother found
19 the hidden recording devices. These diagrams are not drawn to scale. They have been provided
20 to help the Court visualize and better understand the facts set forth above.

39. Exhibit 2 contains photographs of the Arlo recording devices described above.

Exhibit 3 is a photograph of the Arlo router and the electronics closet where

23 Elizabeth found the router.

40.

41. Exhibit 4 is a photo depicting the passageway between the master bedroom and the
master bathroom, viewed from the master bedroom. The two closets described above are on
either side of the narrow passageway leading to the master bathroom. The closet where Aaron
secretly installed the hidden devices is on the right. The closet where Elizabeth dresses is on the
left.

6 ELIZABETH M. KAPLAN'S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT

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42. Exhibit 5 is a photo taken inside the closet where the hidden devices were
 installed. It depicts the shelving unit where Elizabeth's mother found the first of the two hidden
 Arlo recording devices.

4 43. Exhibit 6 is a photo of the interior of the same closet taken from the passageway.
5 It depicts the shelving unit where Elizabeth and her mother discovered the second Arlo device.
6 The second device was tucked under a bill of a baseball cap on the top shelf of the unit.

7 44. Exhibit 7 is a photo taken from the approximate location of the second device.
8 The woman in the photo is Elizabeth. She is standing in the closet where she dresses and
9 undresses.

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#### ALLEGATIONS FOR EXEMPLARY DAMAGES

45. Each of the defendants acted with "malice," "oppression," or "fraud" as these terms are defined in California Civil Code section 3294.

46. Aaron is a sophisticated businessman with decades of experience in the 13 entertainment industry, an industry rife with scandal relating to illegal wiretapping and unlawful 14 secret surveillance. Aaron acknowledges that he secretly installed (or had installed) at least two 15 hidden electronic video and audio recording devices in one of the closets in Elizabeth's master 16 bedroom suite. One of these two devices was aimed to peer into Elizabeth's closet, where she 17 would dress and undress. In addition to knowingly trespassing into Elizabeth's home, Aaron 18 disregarded and violated Elizabeth's right to privacy under the California Constitution and 19 California common law. He also violated sections 632, 634, 647(j)(1), and 647(j)(3) of the 20California Penal Code and section 1708.85 of the California Civil Code. 21

47. As despicable as Aaron's actions were, Mitchell and JMBM's actions were just as egregious. Mitchell is an attorney and, as such, an officer of the court. He's a name partner of JMBM and serves as the firm's Assistant Managing Partner. Despite all this—and upon information and belief—Mitchell and JMBM advised Aaron that he could and should secretly install these hidden Arlo recording devices. It's despicable—and unlawful—for an attorney or a law firm to advise anyone to invade another individual's legally protected privacy and to break various California penal laws and civil law in doing so. It's even worse when the victim is a

1	client, as Elizabeth was a client of Mitchell and JMBM.				
2	THE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN AARON KAPLAN				
3	AND MITCHELL/JMBM ARE NOT PRIVILEGED				
4	4 48. The attorney-client privilege does not apply to Aaron's communications with				
5	Mitchell and JMBM because of the crime-fraud exception to the attorney-client privilege.				
6	Moreover, to the extent the privilege applies, Aaron waived this privilege by repeatedly and				
7	voluntarily disclosing that Mitchell and JMBM had advised Aaron to secretly install these hidden				
8	recording devices in Elizabeth's home.				
9	CAUSES OF ACTION				
10	49. To the extent any of the causes of action alleged below, or any of the allegations				
11	set forth below, are inconsistent or contradictory, Elizabeth alleges them in the alternative.				
12					
13	1 <sup>st</sup> CAUSE OF ACTION:				
14	NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS				
15	(Against Aaron Kaplan & Doe Defendants 1-10)				
16	50. Elizabeth incorporates here the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 1 through				
17	49.				
18	51. Aaron acted negligently in installing the hidden electronic recording devices in				
19	Elizabeth's home.				
20	52. Elizabeth suffered serious emotional distress.				
21	53. Aaron's negligence was a substantial factor in causing Elizabeth serious emotional				
22	distress.				
23	54. Elizabeth was harmed in an amount in excess of this court's minimum jurisdiction,				
24	in an amount to be determined at trial, according to proof.				
25	//				
26	//				
27	//				
28	//				
	8				
	ELIZABETH M. KAPLAN'S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT				

	1		2 <sup>nd</sup> CAUSE OF ACTION:				
	2		INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS				
	3	(Against Aaron Kaplan & Doe Defendants 1-10)					
	4	55.	Elizabeth incorporates here the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 1 through				
	5	49.					
	6	56.	Aaron's conduct was outrageous.				
	7	57.	Aaron intended to cause Elizabeth emotional distress. In the alternative, Aaron				
	8	8 acted with reckless disregard causing Elizabeth to suffer severe emotional distress whe					
	9	learned that he had spied on her in the intimate spaces of her master bedroom and dressing are					
	10	58.	Elizabeth suffered severe emotional distress.				
	11	59.	Aaron's conduct was a substantial factor in causing Elizabeth severe emotional				
0064	12	distress.					
ornia 9 :-6400 3-6405	13	60.	Aaron acted with "malice," "oppression," or "fraud" as Civil Code section 3294				
Calife (3) 413 (3) 403	14	defines these	e terms. Elizabeth therefore seeks an award of exemplary damages for Aaron's				
Los Angeles, California 90064 Tel: (213) 413-6400 Fax: (213) 403-6405	15	misconduct, in an amount to be determined at trial.					
Los Ar T F	16						
	17		3 <sup>rd</sup> CAUSE OF ACTION:				
	18	COMMON LAW INTRUSION INTO PRIVATE AFFAIRS					
	19		(Against Aaron Kaplan & Doe Defendants 1-10)				
	20	61.	Elizabeth incorporates here the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 1 through				
	21	49.					
	22	62.	Elizabeth had a reasonable expectation of privacy in her home's master bedroom				
	23	suite, which	includes her dressing closet and the closet in which Aaron Kaplan had installed the				
	24	hidden Arlo recording devices separated by a narrow passageway leading to the master					
	25	bathroom.					
	26	63.	Aaron intentionally intruded in Elizabeth's master bedroom suite				
	27	64.	Aaron's intrusion would be highly offensive to a reasonable person.				
	28	65.	Elizabeth was harmed, in an amount to be determined at trial.				
			9 ELIZABETH M. KAPLAN'S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT				

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	1	66. Aaron's conduct was a substantial factor in causing Elizabeth's harm.
	2	67. Aaron acted with "malice," "oppression," or "fraud" as Civil Code section 3294
	3	defines these terms. Elizabeth therefore seeks an award of exemplary damages for Aaron's
	4	misconduct, in an amount to be determined at trial.
	5	
	6	4 <sup>th</sup> CAUSE OF ACTION:
	7	<b>VIOLATIONS OF CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE § 632</b>
	8	(Against Aaron Kaplan & Doe Defendants 1-10)
	9	68. Elizabeth incorporates here the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 1 through
	10	49.
00	11	69. Aaron used electronic video and audio recording devices to eavesdrop upon and to
<b>Corporation</b> <b>Corporation</b> ard, Suite 200 inia 90064 -6400 -6405	12	record Elizabeth's confidential communications, which were made in a private setting.
L. COHEN aw Corpor alevard, Su lifornia 90 413-6400 403-6405	13	70. Elizabeth did not consent to being recorded, and she reasonably expected that her
Law Law oule Calif ( 41 ) 41	14	private communications, made in a private setting, would not be recorded.
MICHAEL Professional L ) Westwood Bo Jos Angeles, C Tel: (213) Fax: (213)	15	71. Aaron acted intentionally.
MICHAEL A Professional 2300 Westwood B Los Angeles, C Tel: (213 Fax: (213	16	72. Elizabeth seeks the greater of \$5,000 for each violation or three times her actual
<b>A</b> 230	17	damages, whichever is greater, under California Penal Code section 637.2.
	18	
	19	5 <sup>th</sup> CAUSE OF ACTION:
	20	<b>VIOLATIONS OF CALIFORNIA PENAL CODE § 634</b>
	21	(Against Aaron Kaplan & Doe Defendants 1-10)
	22	73. Elizabeth incorporates here the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 1 through
	23	49.
	24	74. Aaron trespassed into Elizabeth and Parker's home, including Elizabeth's master
	25	bedroom suite, for the purpose of committing acts, or attempting to commit acts, in violation of
	26	California Penal Code section 632.
	27	75. Elizabeth did not consent for Aaron or anyone else entering her and Parker's home
	28	for the purpose of committing acts, or attempting to commit acts, in violation of California Penal
		10
		ELIZABETH M. KAPLAN'S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT

	1	Code section 632.
	2	76. Elizabeth seeks the greater of \$5,000 for each violation or three times her actual
	3	damages, whichever is greater, under California Penal Code section 637.2.
	4	
	5	6 <sup>th</sup> CAUSE OF ACTION:
	6	INVASION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF PRIVACY
	7	<b>CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION, ART. 1, § 1</b>
	8	(Against Aaron Kaplan & Doe Defendants 1-10)
	9	77. Elizabeth incorporates here the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 1 through
	10	49.
00	11	78. Elizabeth had a legally protected privacy interest in the master bedroom suite of
<b>OHEN</b> <b>Corporation</b> ard, Suite 200 rnia 90064 -6400 -6405	12	her home, including the closets in her master bedroom.
L L. COHEN Law Corporatio Soulevard, Suite California 90064 3) 413-6400 3) 403-6405	13	79. Elizabeth had a reasonable expectation of privacy.
<b>3L L. (</b> <b>1 Law</b> Bouley Calif( 13) 413 13) 403	14	80. Aaron's secret, unauthorized installation of hidden electronic video and audio
MICHAEL L. COHE fessional Law Corpc estwood Boulevard, S Angeles, California 9 Tel: (213) 413-6400 Fax: (213) 403-6405	15	recording devices constitutes a serious invasion of Elizabeth's privacy.
M Profee 10 Wes 10 Wes T T F	16	81. Aaron's actions caused Elizabeth to suffer damages in an amount to be determined
A 23(	17	at trial.
	18	82. Aaron acted with "malice," "oppression," or "fraud" as Civil Code section 3294
	19	defines these terms. Elizabeth therefore seeks an award of exemplary damages for Aaron's
	20	actions, in an amount to be determined at trial, according to proof.
	21	
	22	7 <sup>th</sup> CAUSE OF ACTION:
	23	FRAUDULENT CONCEALMENT
	24	(Against Aaron Kaplan & Doe Defendants 1-10)
	25	83. Elizabeth incorporates here the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 1 through
	26	49.
	27	84. Aaron and Elizabeth were in a fiduciary relationship. Since Joe Kaplan's death,
	28	Aaron has been serving as the trustee of Joe Kaplan's separate property trust. Elizabeth is a
		11 ELIZABETH M. KAPLAN'S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT

beneficiary of this trust.

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85. Aaron intentionally failed to disclose to Elizabeth that he had secretly installed
hidden electronic audio-video recording devices in one of the closets in the master bedroom suite
of Elizabeth and Parker's home. Aaron also failed to disclose that one of these devices peered
into the passageway between the master bedroom and the master bathroom and into Elizabeth's
dressing closet.

7 86. Aaron also intended that Elizabeth would not and could not find these devices. He
8 hid them, or obscured them, or placed them where Elizabeth could not and would not find them.

9 87. Elizabeth did not know that Aaron had installed these hidden electronic audio10 video recording devices.

88. Aaron intended to deceive Elizabeth by concealing these facts.

89. Had Elizabeth known that Aaron had installed these devices, she would have behaved differently.

90. Elizabeth was harmed in an amount to be determined at trial, according to proof.

91. Aaron's concealment was a substantial factor in causing Elizabeth's harm.

16 92. Aaron acted with "malice," "oppression," or "fraud" as Civil Code section 3294
17 defines these terms. Elizabeth therefore seeks an award of exemplary damages for Aaron's
18 actions, in an amount to be determined at trial, according to proof.

8<sup>th</sup> CAUSE OF ACTION:

#### AIDING AND ABETTING

#### (Against Mitchell, JMBM & Doe Defendants 1-10)

93. Elizabeth incorporates here the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 1 through49.

94. Mitchell and JMBM knew that Aaron Kaplan was going to commit the torts set
forth above in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Causes of Action.

95. Mitchell and JMBM advised Aaron to commit the misconduct set forth above in
the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th Causes of Action. The allegations in those causes of

12 ELIZABETH M. KAPLAN'S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT

action are incorporated here. 1

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96. Mitchell and JMBM gave substantial assistance or encouragement to Aaron 2 Kaplan. 3

97. Mitchell and JMBM were a substantial factor in causing harm to Elizabeth.

Mitchell and JMBM acted with "malice," "oppression," or "fraud" as Civil Code 98. 5 section 3294 defines these terms. Elizabeth, therefore, seeks an award of exemplary damages for 6 Mitchell and JMBM's aiding and abetting, in an amount to be determined at trial. 7

#### 9th CAUSE OF ACTION:

#### CONSPIRACY

#### (Against Mitchell, JMBM & Doe Defendants 1-10)

99. Elizabeth incorporates here the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 1 through

Mitchell and JMBM knew that Aaron Kaplan (and perhaps others) intended to 100. 14 violate Elizabeth's rights of privacy under the California Constitution and California common 15 law by secretly installing hidden electronic recording devices in one of Elizabeth's master 16 bedroom closets. Mitchell and JMBM also knew that Aaron Kaplan and perhaps others intended 17 to violate the protections afforded to Elizabeth by California Penal Code sections 632, 634, 18 647(j)(1), and 647(j)(3) by secretly installing hidden electronic video and audio recording 19 devices in one of Elizabeth's master bedroom closets. 20

101. Mitchell and JMBM agreed with Aaron (and perhaps others) to commit these 21 unlawful acts. 22

Mitchell and JMBM acted with "malice," "oppression," or "fraud" as Civil Code 102. 23 section 3294 defines these terms. Elizabeth therefore seeks an award of exemplary damages, in 24 an amount to be determined at trial. 25

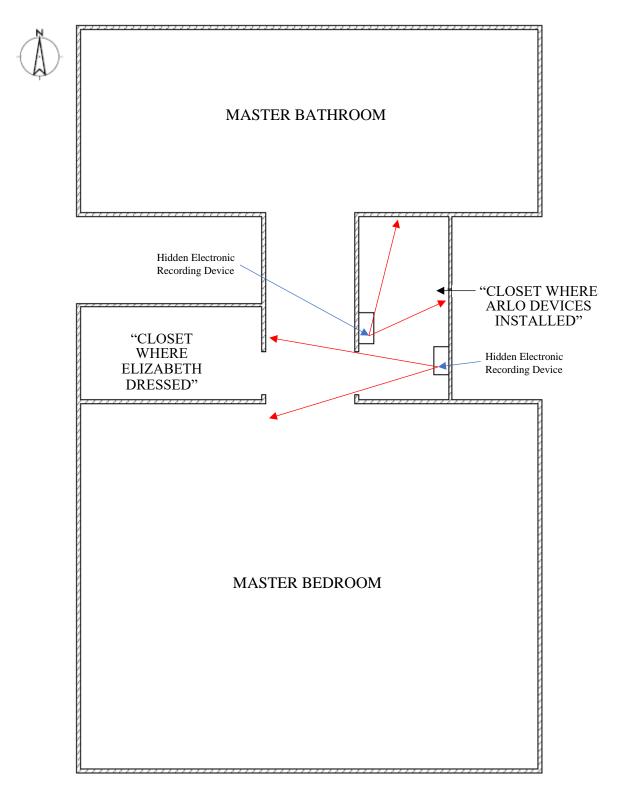
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	1	10 <sup>th</sup> CAUSE OF ACTION:				
	2	DECLARATORY RELIEF UNDER C.C.P. § 1060				
	3	(Against Mitchell, JMBM & Doe Defendants 1-10)				
	4	103. Elizabeth incorporates here the allegations set forth above in paragraphs 1 through				
	5	49.				
	6	104. Elizabeth entered into a written fee agreement with JMBM. This agreement is				
	7	dated June 29, 2009.				
	8	105. The agreement contains an arbitration clause.				
	9	106. An actual controversy exists between Elizabeth and Mitchell/JMBM. Mitchell and				
	10	JMBM have initiated an arbitration against Elizabeth (but not for the claims that Elizabeth				
	11	alleges against Mitchell and JMBM in this complaint).				
	12	107. Elizabeth seeks a declaration that her fee agreement with JMBM is unenforceable				
8-6405	13	because JMBM and Mitchell failed to disclose obvious and known conflicts. See Sheppard,				
Fax: (213) 403-6405	14	Mullin, Richter & Hampton, LLP v. J-M Mfg. Co., Inc. (2018) 6 Cal.5th 59.				
ax: (2)	15	108. In the alternative, Elizabeth seeks a declaration that grounds exist for the				
чц	16	revocation of the written fee agreement, the arbitration clause, or both. See C.C.P. § 1281.2(b).				
	17	109. In the alternative, Elizabeth seeks a declaration that the claims she has alleged				
	18	against Mitchell and JMBM in this complaint should not be subject to arbitration under Code of				
	19	Civil Procedure section 1281.2(c).				
	20					
	21	PRAYER FOR RELIEF				
	22	Declaratory Relief				
	23	Elizabeth prays that this Court issue an order declaring that the June 29, 2009 retainer				
	24	agreement between Elizabeth and JMBM is void and unenforceable. In the alternative, Elizabeth				
	25	prays that this Court issue an order declaring that grounds exist for the revocation of her written				
	26	fee agreement with JMBM, or for the revocation of the arbitration clause in that agreement, or				
	27	both (C.C.P. § 1281.2(b)). Elizabeth further prays, in the alternative, for a declaration that the				
	28	claims she has alleged against Mitchell and JMBM in this complaint should not be subject to				

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> 14 Elizabeth M. Kaplan's original complaint

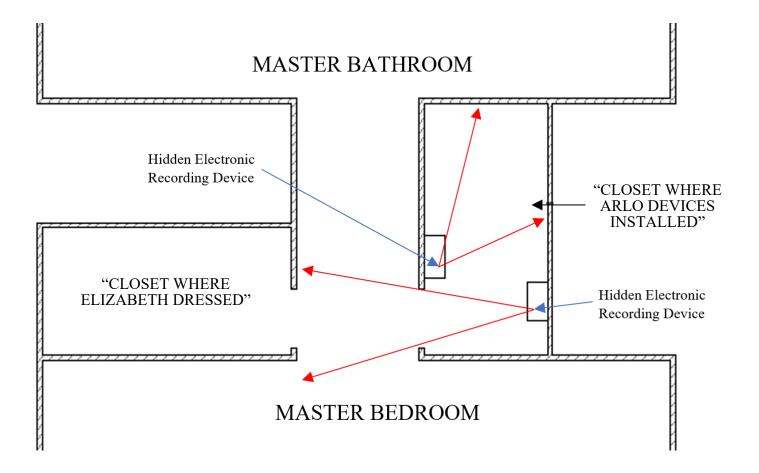
	1	arbitration under Code of Civil Procedure sections 1281.2(c).
	2	Damages & Other Relief
	3	Elizabeth prays that this Court enter judgment in her favor and against each of the
	4	defendants, jointly and severally, as follows:
	5	1. for the 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 6 <sup>th</sup> , 7 <sup>th</sup> , 8 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> Causes of Action alleged above, Elizabeth's
	6	actual damages, in an amount to be determined at trial
	7	2. for Aaron Kaplans's violations of the California Penal Code (4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup> Causes of
	8	Action alleged above), the maximum statutory penalty allowed or three times
	9	Elizabeth's actual damages, whichever is greater
	10	3. for those causes of action that permit the recovery of exemplary damages, an
00	11	award of exemplary damages, in an amount to be determined at trial
<b>OHEN</b> <b>Corporation</b> ard, Suite 200 rnia 90064 -6400 -6405	12	4. for pre- and post-judgment interest to the maximum extent California law allows
<b>L. COHEN</b> Law Corportoulevard, Su toulevard, Su california 90 () 413-6400 () 403-6405	13	5. for taxable costs
L L. L Law Boule Calif 3) 41	14	6. for all other relief, whether at law or in equity, to which Elizabeth is justly entitled.
MICHAEL Professional I N westwood Bc O.os Angeles, C Tel: (213) Fax: (213)	15	
MICHAJ A Professiona 2300 Westwood Los Angeles Tel: (2 Fax: (2	16	Dated: April 8, 2020 Michael L. Cohen, A Professional Law Corporation
A 23(	17	$l_{1} \wedge h_{1} \otimes h_{2} \otimes h_{2$
	18	BY: Michael L. Cohen
	19	Attorney for the Plaintiff,
	20	Elizabeth M. Kaplan
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		ELIZABETH M. KAPLAN'S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT



### **EXHIBIT 5A**

The Layout of Elizabeth Kaplan's Master Bedroom Suite & the Two Closets





### **EXHIBIT 5B**

The Layout of Elizabeth Kaplan's Master Bedroom Suite & the Two Closets













