BROCK & GONZALES, LLP 1 6701 CENTER DRIVE WEST, STE. 610 LOS ANGELES, CA 90045 2 Tel: (310) 294-9595 Fax: (310) 961-3673 3 D. AARON BROCK, STATE BAR NO. 241919 ab@brockgonzales.com 4 CHRISTINA R. KERNER, STATE BAR NO. 319474 ck@brockgonzales.com 5 **Attorneys for Plaintiff** 6 Jane Roe One 7 8 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 9 **COUNTY OF ORANGE – CENTRAL JUSTICE CENTER Assigned for All Purposes** 10 Judge David A. Hoffer 11 Case No.: JANE ROE ONE, an individual, 30-2022-01252436-CU-0E-C|C 12 Plaintiff, PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT FOR **DAMAGES FOR:** 13 VS. 14 1. HARASSMENT IN VIOLATION OF COUNTY OF ORANGE, a public entity; THE FEHA; 15 and DOES 1-50, inclusive, 2. DISCRIMINATION IN VIOLATION 16 Defendants. OF THE FEHA 17 3. RETALIATION IN VIOLATION OF 18 THE FEHA; and 19 4. FAILURE TO INVESTIGATE AND 20 PREVENT IN VIOLATION OF THE FEHA. 21 22 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL** 23 24 25 26 Plaintiff, JANE ROE ONE, hereby brings her employment complaint, demanding a trial 27 by jury, against the above-named Defendants and states and alleges as follows: 28 COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

SUMMARY OF THIS CASE

This is a harassment, discrimination, and retaliation case. The plaintiff is a district attorney with the Orange County District Attorney's Office ("OCDA"). She's not a politician. She's a hardworking employee, dedicated to protecting the citizens of Orange County.

The Orange County Board of Supervisors is the governing body of the defendant, County of Orange. The Board is solely responsible for overseeing the management of all County departments, including the OCDA. The five members who make up the Board are all elected politicians.

Todd Spitzer was elected Orange County District Attorney in 2018. Previously, Mr. Spitzer was on the Board of Supervisors. He recently told OCDA employees that because of his prior tenure on the Board, he has a close personal relationship with, and "access" to, all current Board members, intimating he can influence how they vote and how they govern.

Plaintiff is informed that during Mr. Spitzer's time on the Board of Supervisors, he made harassing comments about females in the OCDA. One career prosecutor targeted by Mr. Spitzer succinctly described him as having "no respect for women." In fact, Plaintiff is informed that The Orange County Attorneys Association – the union for all County attorneys – sent a "cease and desist" letter the Board to try and get them to curtail Mr. Spitzer's abusive conduct.

Upon being put in power as District Attorney, Mr. Spitzer began giving preferential treatment to his friends and allies in the OCDA. One of those individuals was Gary LoGalbo, Mr. Spitzer's "best friend" of 25 years. Despite warnings from OCDA managers, and despite having much more qualified candidates, Mr. Spitzer promoted Mr. LoGalbo into management positions three times in one year, ultimately placing him in charge of all branch court operations.

By all accounts, this was a disastrous decision, but with predictable results for someone who had earned the nickname "Scary Gary" during his time with the OCDA. Feeling invincible after being rapidly promoted, and believing he was protected by Mr. Spitzer (his former roommate), Mr. LoGalbo began subjecting numerous female employees, including Plaintiff, to sexually harassing conduct. One egregious example with Plaintiff occurred when Mr. LoGalbo grabbed Plaintiff's hair from behind and flipped it up and down like it a horse's reins.

Mr. Spitzer has taken no responsibility for putting Mr. LoGalbo into a position of power and has pled ignorance of Mr. LoGalbo's prior harassing conduct. That Mr. Spitzer now denies knowing Mr. LoGalbo – the best man in Mr. Spitzer's wedding, who told Plaintiff that he had a "seat in H.R. with [his] name on it" – was a danger to those he supervised is suspect. Not only did Mr. Spitzer admit to OCDA managers that he knew Mr. LoGalbo was a "pervert" in his personal life, but Mr. LoGalbo has unabashedly acknowledged in a text, "I am who I am. TODD knew that going in." Mr. LoGalbo further boasted that he was "not going to change."

Because of Mr. Spitzer's choices, Mr. LoGalbo was given unfettered access to harass OCDA employees for more than a year. Finally, in late 2020, the Board of Supervisors succumbed to pressure by The Orange County Attorneys Association and hired a third-party investigator to investigate Mr. LoGalbo's workplace conduct.

The investigator interviewed Plaintiff and detailed her experience in a 150 plus page "CONFIDENTIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT." The investigator ultimately concluded that Plaintiff, and other females in the OCDA, were unlawfully harassed and discriminated against by Mr. LoGalbo.

Despite this, Mr. LoGalbo was allowed to retire. At the same time, some politically motivated OCDA managers began minimizing the impact of his misconduct to protect the elected District Attorney. For instance, Shawn Nelson, Mr. Spitzer's second-in-command, declared to managers, in front of Mr. Spitzer, that "Gary doesn't have any real victims." Mr. Nelson also referred to Mr. LoGalbo's female victims as "chicken" for not coming forward earlier, even though everyone knew of Mr. Spitzer's close relationship with Mr. LoGalbo.

As for Mr. Spitzer, he has accused Mr. LoGalbo's victims of being "dishonest." He also chastised the employees who confirmed Mr. LoGalbo's unlawful conduct. He told one manager, "Take your little notes about me that end up in reports."

The situation got worse on Friday, May 7, 2021 – the day before Mother's Day weekend – when a copy of the Confidential Investigation Report was disseminated by Mr. Spitzer without any warning or notice. Plaintiff was shocked, humiliated, and concerned that the report was released in retaliation for participating in the investigation into Mr. LoGalbo. This concern has

now been confirmed by Mr. Spitzer, who admitted the dissemination of the report "absolutely" had a "chilling effect" on future victims of harassment.

Therefore, on May 24, 2021, Plaintiff made a complaint of retaliation. In response, the Board of Supervisors conducted another independent investigation.

Not surprisingly, the investigator concluded that Mr. Spitzer "flagrantly" violated County EEO and Abusive Conduct policies and acted with "malice" towards Plaintiff and the other victims of Mr. LoGalbo, which created a hostile and offensive work environment, and "caused unjustified embarrassment and indignity to [Plaintiff]."

In short, on two occasions, an independent investigator confirmed that female prosecutors were subjected to flagrant violations of County policies by the men at the very top of the OCDA. Despite this fact, as well as the Board of Supervisors' prior knowledge of Mr. Spitzer's abusive conduct towards women while he was on the Board, the Board has not taken a single corrective or preventative action towards Mr. Spitzer, their former colleague. The Board's inaction has sent a clear message to Plaintiff, to County employees, and to all citizens of Orange County that harassment, discrimination, and retaliation when engaged in by politically well-connected men will be tolerated by the current members of the Board of Supervisors.

The Board's inaction also has real work consequences to the employees in the OCDA. Some managers within OCDA, who now believe there are no consequences for their workplace behavior, have felt emboldened to publicly accuse Mr. LoGalbo's victims of lying about their experiences, despite the clear findings of a third-party investigator. In fact, employees who have spoken out against Mr. LoGalbo's victims are being treated more favorably by Mr. Spitzer and are being awarded for shaming innocent victims of sexual harassment.

Quite simply, the Board should have done more and should do more. It's apparent they won't. Therefore, Plaintiff must file this lawsuit to protect herself and other women who have bravely come forward, and to do what the Board should have done all along – ensure retaliation is not tolerated by *anyone* in the County.

27 | ///

28 |] ///

3 4

5

6 7

8

9

10

11

- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24 25
- 26
- 27 28

///

THE PARTIES

- 1. Defendant COUNTY OF ORANGE is a California public governmental entity. One of the departments that make up Defendant COUNTY OF ORANGE's government is the OCDA.
- 2. At all times mentioned herein, Plaintiff, JANE ROE ONE, was an individual and a resident of the State of California. At all times, Plaintiff was an employee of Defendant COUNTY OF ORANGE. Because Plaintiff is a victim of a sexual harassment of a sensitive and personal nature, her identity is protected in this public filing. In fact, Defendant labeled Plaintiff as "JANE ROE ONE" during the prelitigation claims process to protect her identity.
- 3. Plaintiff is unaware of the true names and capacities of Defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, and for that reason sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. Each of the Defendants designated herein as a DOE is negligently, intentionally, or otherwise legally responsible in some manner for the events and happenings herein referred to and caused injuries and damages proximately thereby to the Plaintiff, as herein alleged. Plaintiff will file and serve one or more amendments to this complaint upon learning the true names and capacities of said Defendants.
- 4. Plaintiff is informed and believes that each of the fictitiously named Defendants is responsible in some manner for, and proximately caused, the injuries and damages to Plaintiff hereinafter alleged.
- 5. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges, that each of the Defendants named herein acted as the employee, agent, servant, partner, alter-ego and/or joint ventures of one or more of the other Defendants named herein. In doing the acts and/or omissions alleged herein, each of said Defendants acted within the course and scope of his or her relationship with any other Defendant; and gave and received full consent, permission and ratification to the acts and/or omissions alleged herein.
- Hereinafter in this Complaint, unless otherwise noted, reference to a Defendant shall mean all Defendants, and each of them.

your little notes about me that end up in reports."

- 16. On or about December 15, 2020, Mr. Nelson sent an email to all attorneys within the OCDA: "After more than 30 years of public service, Senior Assistant District Attorney Gary LoGalbo has elected to retire." Mr. Nelson did not mention the reason why.
- 17. A few weeks later, on or about December 28, 2020, Defendant chartered an independent investigation into allegations against Mr. LoGalbo.
- 18. At the beginning of her investigative interview, Plaintiff was told that "[t]he County [was] ordering [them] to discuss this matter with the County appointed investigator" and warned that her "[f]ailure to fully cooperate in [the] investigation, or providing less than completely truthful answers, will be deemed insubordination and may result in administrative discipline, up to and including termination of [their] employment with the County of Orange.
- 19. During her interview, Plaintiff was assured by the County that her statement would be confidential. That was important to her as she was not only disclosing personal and sensitive information, but also reporting illegal conduct by a Senior Assistant District Attorney, her former supervisor, and the close friend of the District Attorney. The promise of confidentiality is also consistent with the County's proclamation in its "Anti-Harassment Policy and Procedure" that complaints be "kept as confidential as possible."
- 20. Ultimately, the confidential investigative report found that "[b]ased upon a preponderance of the evidence, the allegation that LoGalbo engaged in a pattern of sexual and gender harassment against multiple female employees who he directly supervised at the OCDA is sustained." The investigator further concluded that "[t]he preponderance of the evidence supports that LoGalbo's actions also constituted a hostile work environment for the women and men who worked under his supervision at North Court. Under the Policy, a hostile work environment exists when harassing conduct is severe or pervasive enough to alter the conditions of employment so as to create an abusive working environment."
- 21. Plaintiff was hopeful she could return to a work environment free from harassment, discrimination, and retaliation following the investigation. However, on or about Friday, May 7, 2021, the day before Mother's Day weekend, a copy of the "Confidential Investigation Report" was disseminated by Mr. Spitzer to all OCDA employees without notice or warning. Plaintiff

paragraphs 1 through 25 of this Complaint.

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

2

3

4

5

67

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

2

3

4

5

67

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

///

///

incur attorneys' fees and costs in connection therewith. Plaintiff is entitled to recover attorneys'

fees and costs under California Government Code § 12965(b).

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

FAILURE TO INVESTIGATE AND PREVENT IN VIOLATION OF THE FEHA

(Against ALL Defendants)

- 46. Plaintiff restates and incorporates by this reference as if fully set forth herein paragraphs 1 through 45 of this Complaint.
- 47. At all times mentioned herein, <u>California Government Code</u> Sections 12940, et seq., including but not limited to Sections 12940 (j) and (k), were in full force and effect and were binding upon Defendants and each of them. These sections impose on an employer a duty to take immediate and appropriate corrective action to end harassment, discrimination, and retaliation and take all reasonable steps necessary to prevent harassment, discrimination, and retaliation from occurring.
- 48. Defendants failed to take immediate and appropriate corrective action to end the harassment, discrimination, and retaliation. FEHA renders it an unlawful act for employers to fail to take all reasonable steps to protect their employees from harassment, discrimination, and retaliation.
- 49. In failing and/or refusing to take immediate and appropriate corrective action to end the discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, and in failing and/or refusing to take and or all reasonable steps necessary to prevent discrimination, harassment and retaliation from occurring, Defendants violated <u>California Government Code</u> § 12940 (j) and (k), causing Plaintiff to suffer damages as set forth above.
- 50. As a proximate result of the aforesaid acts of Defendants, and each of them, Plaintiff has suffered actual, consequential and incidental financial losses, including without limitation, loss of salary and benefits, and the intangible loss of employment related opportunities in her field and damage to her professional reputation, all in an amount subject to proof at the time of trial. Plaintiff claims such amounts as damages pursuant to <u>Civil Code</u> § 3287 and/or § 3288 and/or any other provision of law providing for prejudgment interest.
- 51. As a proximate result of the wrongful acts of Defendants, and each of them, Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer emotional distress, humiliation, mental anguish and

1	embarrassment, as well as the manifestation of physical symptoms. Plaintiff is informed and
2	believes and thereupon alleges that she will continue to experience said physical and emotional
3	suffering for a period in the future not presently ascertainable, all in an amount subject to proof
4	at the time of trial.
5	52. As a proximate result of the wrongful acts of Defendants, Plaintiff has been forced
6	to hire attorneys to prosecute her claims herein and has incurred and is expected to continue to
7	incur attorneys' fees and costs in connection therewith. Plaintiff is entitled to recover attorneys'
8	fees and costs under <u>California Government Code</u> § 12965(b).
9	
10	PRAYER FOR RELIEF
11	WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment as follows:
12	1. For general damages in an amount within the jurisdictional limits of this Court;
13	2. For special damages, according to proof;
14	3. For medical expenses and related items of expense, according to proof;
15	4. For loss of earnings, according to proof;
16	5. For attorneys' fees, according to proof;
17	6. For prejudgment interest, according to proof;
18	7. For costs of suit incurred herein;
19	8. For declaratory relief;
20	9. For injunctive relief; and
21	10. For such other relief and the Court may deem just and proper.
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	14
	COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury DATED: March 24, 2022 BROCK & GONZALES, LLP By: D. AARON BROCK Attorneys for Plaintiff COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES