1 ROBERT S. BREWER, JR. United States Attorney ERNEST CORDERO, JR. Assistant United States Attorney California State Bar No. 131865 E-mail: Ernest.Cordero@usdoj.gov MICHAEL A. GARABED Assistant United States Attorney California State Bar No. 223511 E-mail: Michael.Garabed@usdoj.gov 6 Office of the United States Attorney 880 Front Street, Room 6293 San Diego, CA 92101 Tel: (619) 557-5610 8 Fax: (619) 546-7751 9 Attorneys for the Federal Defendants 10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 11 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 12 **13** Case No.: 19-CV-1255 LAB KSC KAJI DOUSA, 14 **ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S** Plaintiff, **COMPLAINT** 15 **16** v. **17** U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, et al. 18 Honorable Larry A. Burns 19 Defendants. 20 21 22 23 24 25 **26** 27

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The United States Department of Homeland Security, United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, United States Customs and Border Protection, Chad Wolf, in his official capacity as Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Matthew Albence, in his official capacity as Acting Director of ICE, Mark Morgan, in his official capacity as Acting Commissioner of CBP, and Peter Flores, in his official capacity as Director of Field Operations of CBP ("Defendants") answer the Complaint filed by Kaji Dousa ("Plaintiff") as follows:

#### INTRODUCTION

- Defendants admit that Plaintiff is a Christian minister. The remaining 1. allegations contained in Paragraph 1 of the Complaint are legal conclusions and/or arguments to which no response is required. To the extent such allegations contain alleged facts, Defendants deny said allegations.
- Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 2 of the 2. Complaint.
- 3. Defendants admit that Plaintiff is a Senior Pastor and CEO of the Park Avenue Christian Church in New York. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 3 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 4. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the allegations regarding Plaintiff's religious "calling," and on that basis deny the allegation. The remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 4 of the Complaint also are arguments to which no response is required. To the extent the paragraph alleges facts, Defendants deny said allegations.
- 5. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the allegations regarding Plaintiff's preaching and warnings to her congregation, and on that basis deny the allegations. The remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 5 of the Complaint are arguments to which no response is required. To the extent the paragraph contains

alleged facts, Defendants deny said allegations.

- 6. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 6 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 7. Defendants admit Plaintiff has traveled to the Southern Border with Mexico. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 7 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 8. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 8 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 9. Defendants admit that Plaintiff travelled from the United States to Mexico and back multiple times within the last two years. The remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 9 of the Complaint are legal conclusions and/or arguments to which no response is required. To the extent such allegations contain alleged facts, Defendants deny said allegations.
- 10. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 10 of the Complaint.
- 11. The allegations in Paragraph 11 constitute argument to which no answer is required. On this basis, Defendants deny the allegations.
- 12. Defendants admit that in January 2019, Plaintiff was interviewed upon her return to the United States regarding some of her activities, which delayed her entry for approximately 43 minutes. Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 12 of the Complaint.
- 13. Defendants admit that Plaintiff's image appears in a document containing pictures and information on individuals with potential knowledge of illegal activity. Defendants also admit that CBP possesses in a database information regarding Plaintiff. Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 13 of the Complaint.

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14. The allegations in Paragraph 14 constitute argument to which no answer is

required. On this basis, Defendants deny the allegations.

- 15. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 15 of the Complaint.
- 16. The allegations contained in Paragraph 16 of the Complaint are legal conclusions and/or arguments to which no response is required. To the extent such allegations contain alleged facts, Defendants deny said allegations.
- 17. The allegations contained in Paragraph 17 of the Complaint are legal conclusions and/or arguments to which no response is required. To the extent such allegations contain alleged facts, Defendants deny said allegations.
- 18. The allegations contained in Paragraph 18 of the Complaint are legal conclusions and/or arguments to which no response is required. To the extent such allegations contain alleged facts, Defendants deny said allegations.

### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 19. Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 19 of the Complaint.
- 20. Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 20 of the Complaint.
- 21. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 21 of the Complaint.

## <u>PARTIES</u>

- 22. Defendants admit that Plaintiff, a U.S. Citizen, is a Senior Pastor and CEO of the Park Avenue Christian Church located in New York City. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 22 of the Complaint and on that basis deny them.
- 23. Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 23 of the Complaint.

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24. Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 24 of the

Complaint.

- 25. Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 25 of the Complaint.
- 26. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 26 of the Complaint.
- 27. Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 27 of the Complaint.
- 28. Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 28 of the Complaint.
- 29. Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 29 of the Complaint.

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 30. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 30 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 31. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 31 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 32. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 32 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 33. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 33 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 34. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 34 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 35. The allegations contained in Paragraph 35 of the Complaint are legal conclusions and/or arguments to which no response is required. To the extent such allegations contain alleged facts, Defendants deny said allegations.
- 36. The allegations contained in Paragraph 36 of the Complaint are legal conclusions and/or arguments to which no response is required. To the extent such

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allegations contain alleged facts, Defendants deny said allegations.

- 37. The allegations contained in Paragraph 37 of the Complaint are legal conclusions and/or arguments to which no response is required. To the extent such allegations contain alleged facts, Defendants deny said allegations.
- 38. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 38 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 39. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 39 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 40. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 40 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 41. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 41 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 42. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 42 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 43. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 43 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 44. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 44 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 45. Defendants admit that Plaintiff travelled from the United States to Mexico multiple times within the last two years. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 45 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 46. Defendants admit that a group of migrants attempted to illegally cross the border between Mexico and the United States on January 1, 2019, leading in some instances to confrontations with federal law enforcement agents. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 46 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.

- Defendants admit that Plaintiff travelled to Mexico on January 2, 2019. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 47 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 48. Defendants admit that on January 2, 2019, Plaintiff was interviewed upon her return to the United States, which delayed her entry for approximately 43 minutes. The interview was conducted in the secondary inspection area. Defendants further admit that Plaintiff has a valid Global Entry card and had not been sent to secondary during recent prior crossings. The remaining allegations constitute argument or legal conclusions to which no answer is required. To the extent an answer is required, Defendants deny the allegations.
- 49. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 49 and on that basis deny them.
- 50. Defendants admit that Plaintiff was allowed to use a government phone while waiting to be interviewed. Defendants deny Plaintiff remained in the waiting area for several hours. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 50 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 51. Defendants admit that Plaintiff was asked identifying questions and interviewed regarding her contact with migrants, including allegations that she participated in fraudulent marriages. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 51 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 52. Defendants admit that Plaintiff was asked identifying questions and interviewed regarding her contact with migrants, including allegations that she participated in fraudulent marriages. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 52 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.

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- 53. Defendants admit that Plaintiff was asked about her activities in Tijuana. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 53 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 54. Defendants admit that the officers conducting Plaintiff's interview identified themselves and returned Plaintiff's Global Entry card at the conclusion of the interview. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 54 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 55. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 55 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 56. Defendants admit that in March 2019, the media published certain documents created by CBP as part of its law enforcement mission. The remainder of the allegations constitute argument to which no answer is required, and on that basis deny the allegations.
- 57. The allegations in Paragraph 57 constitute argument to which no answer is required, and on that basis Defendants deny the allegations. Defendants also lack sufficient information to form a belief as to all of the unspecified documents referenced in the allegations, and on that basis deny the allegations.
- 58. Defendants admit that the documents published in March 2019 contain information regarding both citizens and non-citizens of the United States with potential knowledge of illegal activity. Defendants further admit that some information related to those individuals is maintained in a computer system. Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 58 of the Complaint.
- 59. Defendants admit that the documents published in March 2019 contain information and photographs pulled from various sources regarding 59 individuals, both citizens and non-citizens of the United States, with potential knowledge of illegal activity. Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 59 of the

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Complaint.

- 60. Defendants admit that the documents published in March 2019 contain some photographs with a color-coded "X" that purports to have an alleged significance. Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 60 of the Complaint.
- 61. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 61 of the Complaint.
- 62. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 62 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 63. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 63 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 64. Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 64 of the Complaint.
- 65. Defendants admit that Plaintiff has a valid Global Entry pass and that she has used that pass on several occasions to reenter the United States from Mexico without incident. Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 65 of the Complaint.
- 66. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 66 of the Complaint.
- 67. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 67 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 68. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 68 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 69. Defendants deny that Plaintiff was illegally surveilled. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 69 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 70. Defendants deny that Plaintiff was illegally surveilled. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in

Paragraph 70 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.

- 71. Defendants deny that Plaintiff was illegally surveilled. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 71 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 72. Defendants admit that CBP utilizes various sources of information to identify people involved in potential illegal activity and may occasionally inconvenience law-abiding persons in its efforts to detect, deter, and mitigate threats. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 72 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 73. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 73 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 74. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 74 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 75. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 75 of the Complaint.
- 76. Defendants deny that they have burdened or will continue to burden Plaintiff's exercise of her rights. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 76 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 77. Defendants deny that they have burdened or will continue to burden Plaintiff's exercise of her rights. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 77 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 78. Defendants deny that they have burdened or will continue to burden Plaintiff's exercise of her rights. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 78 of the Complaint.

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79. Defendants deny that they have burdened or will continue to burden

- 80. Defendants deny that they have burdened or will continue to burden Plaintiff's exercise of her rights. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 80 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 81. Defendants deny that they have burdened or will continue to burden Plaintiff's exercise of her rights. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 81 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 82. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 82 of the Complaint.
- 83. Defendants deny that they have burdened or will continue to burden Plaintiff's exercise of her rights. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 83 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 84. Defendants deny that they have burdened or will continue to burden Plaintiff's exercise of her rights. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 84 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 85. Defendants assert that the allegations contained in Paragraph 85 constitute argument to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, the allegations are denied.
- 86. Defendants deny that they have burdened or will continue to burden Plaintiff's exercise of her rights. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 86 of the Complaint, and on that

basis deny them.

- 87. Defendants deny that they have burdened or will continue to burden Plaintiff's exercise of her rights. Defendants lack information sufficient to form a belief as to the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 87 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 88. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 88 of the Complaint.
- 89. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 89 of the Complaint.
- 90. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 90 of the Complaint.
- 91. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 91 of the Complaint.
- 92. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 92 of the Complaint.
- 93. Defendants admit that Jean Montrevil was deported in 2018. Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 93 of the Complaint.
- 94. Defendants admit that a meeting occurred on January 5, 2018. Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 94 of the Complaint.
- 95. Defendants admit that a meeting occurred on January 5, 2018. Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 95 of the Complaint.
- 96. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 96 of the Complaint.
- 97. Defendants admit that Ravidath Ragbir was detained on January 11, 2018 and subsequently processed in accordance with applicable ICE procedures. Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 97 of the Complaint.

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98. Defendants admit the allegations contained in Paragraph 98 of the

Complaint.

- 99. Defendants admit that Ragbir filed an action to block his deportation and that the Second Circuit vacated a district court order denying Ravidath Ragbir's motion for a preliminary injunction and dismissing certain claims. Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 99 of the Complaint.
- 100. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 100 of the Complaint.
- 101. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 101 of the Complaint.
- 102. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 102 of the Complaint.
- 103. Defendants admit that CBP utilizes various sources of information to identify people involved in potential illegal activity and may occasionally inconvenience law-abiding persons in its efforts to detect, deter, and mitigate threats. Defendants have insufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations concerning the claims of journalists and those individuals mentioned, and on that basis deny the allegations. Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 103 of the Complaint.
- 104. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 104 of the Complaint.
- 105. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 105 of the Complaint.
- 106. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 106 of the Complaint.
- 107. Defendants admit that Nicole Ramos is a United States citizen and that Plaintiff is her pastor. Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 107 of the Complaint.

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- 108. Defendants admit that some asylum seeks have been required to wait in Mexico. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 108 of the Complaint.
- 109. Defendants admit that Pueblo Sin Fronteras holds itself out as an immigration rights group that advocates for open borders and the abolition of ICE. Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 109 of the Complaint.
- 110. Defendants admit that Alex Mensing is a United States citizen who holds himself out as a member of Pueblo Sin Fronteras. Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 110 of the Complaint.
- 111. Defendants admit that Jeff Valenzuela holds himself out as a member of Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in Pueblo Sin Fronteras. Paragraph 111 of the Complaint.
- 112. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 112, and on that basis deny the allegations.
- 113. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 113, and on that basis deny the allegations.
- 114. Defendants admit that Ariana Drehsler is a U.S. citizen who holds herself out as a photojournalist. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 114 of the Complaint.
- 115. Defendants admit that CBP utilizes various sources of information to identify people involved in potential illegal activity and may occasionally inconvenience law-abiding persons in its efforts to detect, deter, and mitigate threats. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the remaining allegations of Paragraph 115, and on that basis deny the allegations.
- 116. Defendants admit the Kitra Cahana hold herself out as a photojournalist. Defendants have insufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 116 and on that basis deny them.

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- 117. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 117 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 118. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 118 of the Complaint.
- 119. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 119 of the Complaint.

### FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

#### (Retaliation in Violation of the First Amendment)

- 120. Defendants incorporate each of their prior responses.
- 121. Defendants are not required to respond to the legal conclusions contained in Paragraph 121 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 122. Defendants lack sufficient information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations contained in Paragraph 122 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
- 123. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 123 of the Complaint.
- 124. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 124 of the Complaint.
- 125. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 125 of the Complaint.

# **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

## (Violation of the First Amendment's Free Exercise Clause)

- 126. Defendants incorporate each of their prior responses.
- 127. Defendants are not required to respond to the legal conclusions contained in Paragraph 127 of the Complaint, and on that basis deny them.
  - 128. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 128 of the

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Complaint.

Complaint. 2 129. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 129 of the Complaint. 3 THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF 4 (Hybrid First Amendment Rights Claim) 5 130. Defendants are not required to respond because this claim has been 6 dismissed with prejudice. 8 131. Defendants are not required to respond because this claim has been dismissed with prejudice. 132. Defendants are not required to respond because this claim has been dismissed with prejudice. 133. Defendants are not required to respond because this claim has been dismissed with prejudice. 134. Defendants are not required to respond because this claim has been dismissed with prejudice. **15 FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF 16** (Violation of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act) **17** 135. Defendants incorporate each of their prior responses. 18 Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 136 of the 136. Complaint. 137. Defendants are not required to respond to the legal conclusions contained 22 in Paragraph 137 of the Complaint. 138. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 138 of the 23 Complaint.

140. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 140 of the

139. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 139 of the

Complaint. 1 2 141. Defendants assert they have a compelling interest in border security. Defendants deny the remaining allegations contained in Paragraph 141 of the 3 Complaint. 4 142. Defendants deny the allegations contained in Paragraph 142 of the 5 Complaint. 6 7 AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES Defendants assert the following affirmative defenses: 8 1. Plaintiff has failed to state a claim upon which relief may be granted. 9 2. Plaintiff's claims are not justiciable. 10 3. Plaintiff has suffered no legally cognizable harm. 11 4. Plaintiff's requested relief is impermissibly vague and/or unenforceable. 12 5. Plaintiff's claims are barred by the doctrine of unclean hands. 13 Defendants' actions were lawful and/or in furtherance of a compelling 6. 14 15 government interest. PRAYER FOR RELIEF 16 WHEREFORE, Defendants prays that (1) Plaintiff takes nothing on her **17** Complaint; (2) judgment be rendered in favor of Defendants in this action; (3) 18 Defendants be awarded costs of suit; and (4) for such other relief as the Court may deem 19 20 proper. 21 February 11, 2020 22 DATED: Respectfully submitted, 23 ROBERT S. BREWER, JR. United States Attorney 24 s/ Ernest Cordero, Jr. 25 ERNEST CORDERO, JR. 26 MICHAEL A. GARABED 27 **Assistant United States Attorneys** 

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