EIVED CCC #3 HIGHT DEPOSITORY 1 Alexander Kolodin (SBN 030826) ZUZU NOV 12 PM 7:21 Christopher Viskovic (SBN 035860) 2 KOLODIN LAW GROUP PLLC 3 Alexander.Kolodin@KolodinLaw.com FILED CViskovic@KolodinLaw.com BY J. CARDENAS, DEP 4 3443 N. Central Ave. Ste. 1009 Phoenix, AZ 85012 5 Telephone: (602) 730-2985 6 Facsimile: (602) 801-2539 7 Sue Becker (MO 64721)* 8 **Public Interest Legal Foundation** 32 E. Washington Street, Suite 1675 9 Indianapolis, IN 46204 Tel: (317) 203-5599 Fax: (888) 815-5641 10 sbecker@publicinterestlegal.org 11 *Pro hac motion forthcoming 12 Attorneys for Plaintiffs 13 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA 14 FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA 15 16 LAURIE AGUILERA, a registered voter in Case no.: Maricopa County, Arizona; DONOVAN 17 DROBINA, a registered voter in Maricopa County, Arizona; DOES 1-X; 18 CV2020-014562 19 Plaintiffs, VERIFIED COMPLAINT 20 V. (Expedited Election Matter) 21 ADRIAN FONTES, in his official capacity as 22 Maricopa County Recorder; CLINT (Order to Show Cause Requested) HICKMAN, **JACK** SELLERS, STEVE 23 CHUCRI, BILL GATES AND STEVE GALLARDO, in their official capacities as 24 members of the Maricopa County Board of 25 Supervisors: MARICOPA COUNTY, political subdivision of the State of Arizona; 26 27 Defendants.

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SECTION I

PREFATORY MATTERS

- Plaintiffs are two individuals who experienced difficulties voting on election day. 1.1.
- Plaintiff Laurie Aguilera showed up to the polls on election day and, despite 1.2. having the right to do so, was unable to cast a ballot.
- Plaintiff Drobina showed up to the polls on election day and did manage to cast a ballot. However, Defendants' tabulation machine was unable to automatically read and tabulate his ballot with perfect accuracy as the law required.
- 1.4. Plaintiffs are conscious of the passions that reports of election-day problems have stirred and the wider context of this litigation. However, Plaintiffs do not wish to have this case sensationalized. Rather, they wish to vindicate their rights as Arizona voters to cast a vote that is not only counted, but is counted according to the processes the law requires, in both this and future elections. Accordingly, they take the unusual step of pointing out, as a prefatory matter, what they are not alleging at this time:
- Plaintiffs are not alleging intentional misconduct on the part of a public A. official or government worker.
- B. Plaintiffs are not alleging that the difficulties they experienced disproportionately impacted any given candidate or party.
- C. Neither Plaintiff is alleging that poll-workers in their case "touched the green button," as is at issue in Trump v. Hobbs.

SECTION II

PARTIES, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE

- 2.1. Plaintiff Laurie Aguilera is a natural person registered to vote in Maricopa County.
- 2.2. 24 Plaintiff Laurie Aguilera is an Arizona citizen and a duly registered voter in 25 Maricopa County, Arizona. She is and was, at all times relevant hereto, a registered voter 26 in Maricopa County not on the early voting list.
 - 2.3. Plaintiff Donovan Drobina is an Arizona citizen and a duly registered voter in Maricopa County, Arizona.

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- 2.4. Does I-X are other individuals similarly impacted. When identified Plaintiffs will
 seek leave to amend this Complaint to add their true names.
 2.5. All "Arizona citizens and voters" have standing to challenge violations of election
 - 2.5. All "Arizona citizens and voters" have standing to challenge violations of election law by public officials. *Ariz. Pub. Integrity All. v. Fontes*, No. CV-20-0253-AP/EL, 2020 Ariz. LEXIS 309, at *6-7 (Nov. 5, 2020).
- 2.6. Defendant Adrian Fontes is the Maricopa County Recorder. He is being sued in
 his official capacity.
 - 2.7. Defendants Clint Hickman, Jack Sellers, Steve Chucri, Bill Gates, and Steve Gallardo are the members of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors. They are being sued in their official capacity.
 - 2.8. Maricopa County is a political subdivision of the State of Arizona.
 - 2.9. All or substantially all of the acts and occurrences giving rise to this Complaint occurred in Maricopa County, Arizona.
 - 2.10. Pursuant to A.R.S. § 12-401(16) an action against public officers shall be brought in the county in which the officer, or one of server officers holds office.

 2.11. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Article 6, § 14 of the Arizona Constitution, and A.R.S. §§ 12-1801, 12-1803, 12-1831, and 12-2021. Given the looming canvassing, certification, and electoral college deadlines, Plaintiffs seek an order to show cause.
 - 2.12. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Article 6, § 14 of the Arizona Constitution, and A.R.S. §§ 12-1801, 12-1803, 12-1831, and 12-2021.

SECTION III

FACTS

3.1. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the preceding allegations.

Applicable Deadlines

3.2. The Secretary of State (in the presence of the Governor, Attorney General, and Chief Justice) canvasses and certifies results for state and federal offices on the fourth Monday following the election, which is November 30, 2020. A.R.S. 16-642; 648; 650.

- 3.3. The Governor of Arizona has until December 8 to appoint a slate of presidential electors to the Electoral College. 3 U.S.C. § 5. Thus, the state has until December 8 to resolve controversies over the appointment of electors. *See also* www.archives.gov/electoral-college/state-offiiclas/so-key-dates.
- 3.4. On December 14, the electors cast their votes in the meeting of the Electoral College. 3 U.S.C. § 7.
- 7 3.5. On January 6, Congress receives and counts the votes from the Electoral College.
 8 3 U.S.C. § 15.
 - 3.6. Plaintiff Aguilera seeks to have her claim for injunctive relief to allow her vote to be cured adjudicated (with time for appeal) by November 30, 2020. Plaintiffs also seek to have their claim for injunctive relief for public observation of the electronic-adjudication process decided as expeditiously as possible in case there is any recount utilizing this process.
 - 3.7. Plaintiffs ideally seek to have their claims for declaratory relief adjudicated (with time for appeal) by the time that Congress receives and counts the votes from the electoral college to allow for the Court's findings to be considered by Congress. However, if this is not possible, there is still value in deciding these matters in advance of the next election.

How Voter Credits Were Awarded

- 3.8. In Maricopa County, when election-day voters showed up to the polls, they were checked in by poll-workers on tablet-style devices and their names were then logged into the county's electronic pollbook.
- 23 3.9. A ballot was then printed for the voter.
 - 3.10. Voters then completed their ballots and inserted their ballots into tabulation machines on site.
 - 3.11. When voters follow the instructions of elections officials, those tabulation machines are supposed to automatically scan and tabulate the ballots of election-day voters with perfect accuracy.

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- 3.12. However, upon information and belief, in Maricopa County there is no information on the ballots printed for election-day voters that indicate that specific ballot was given to that specific voter. Ex. A. [Declaration of former Maricopa County Recorder Helen Purcell].
- 3.13. Upon information and belief, any information that Maricopa County has regarding whose election-day ballots were accurately cast who had their votes "counted" is based solely on the county's record identifying which voters appeared in-person to vote on election day. Ex. A.
- 3.14. Therefore, upon information and belief, in Maricopa County, it would be impossible after election day to ascertain with any certainty whether a particular electionday voter's ballot was counted much less whether all votes contained on any given ballot were tabulated. Ex. A.

Violation of Plaintiff Aguilera's Right to Vote

- 3.15. Plaintiff Laurie Aguilera voted in person in Maricopa County on election day, November 3, 2020 alongside her husband Damian Aguilera.
- 3.16. Neither Plaintiff Aguilera nor her husband are on the early voting list or received ballots by mail. Ex. B. [Aguilera family ballot status information].
- 3.17. When election-day voters like Plaintiff Aguilera showed up to the polls, they were checked in by poll-workers on tablet-style devices and their names were then logged into the county's electronic pollbook.
- 21 3.18. Plaintiff Aguilera and her husband were checked-in to the polls by a poll-worker.
- 22 3.19. Plaintiff Aguilera completed her ballot according to the instructions provided by 23 Defendants.
- 3.20. Plaintiff Aguilera and her husband attempted to feed their ballots into the tabulator 24 25 as instructed.
 - 3.21. Upon information and belief, when a ballot is successfully read and inserted into a tabulator, the tabulator displays a confirmation that the ballot has been accepted on a small digital readout.

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- 3.22. However, while the tabulator seemingly accepted her husband's ballot without issue, the tabulator failed to display any such confirmation or, upon information and belief, to properly register Plaintiff Aguilera's ballot.
- 3.23. A poll worker monitoring the tabulator informed Plaintiff Aguilera that this was strange and not part of the normal course of events.
- 3.24. A poll-worker then canceled Plaintiff Aguilera's check-in on the touchpad at the entrance to the polling-place. The cancel button on the check-in pad is not the same thing as the "green button" at issue in Trump v. Hobbs.
 - 3.25. Plaintiff Aguilera then requested a new ballot but, upon information and belief, after consulting with the Maricopa County Recorder's Office, poll workers refused to provide her with one.
 - 3.26. As of November 11, 2020, the County's records indicate as follows with respect to Damian Aguilera: "You voted on Election Day Your ballot was counted." However, the County's records contain no such statement for Plaintiff Aguilera. Ex. B.
 - Violation of Plaintiff Drobina's Right to Have His Vote Counted by a Perfectly Accurate and Fully Automated Process
 - 3.27. Plaintiff Donovan Drobina voted in person in Maricopa County on election day, November 3, 2020.
- 3.28. Plaintiff Drobina was not on the early voting list and did not receive a ballot by mail. Ex. C. [Drobina ballot status information].
- 21 3.29. Plaintiff Drobina was checked-in to the polls by a poll-worker. Ex. C.
- 22 3.30. Plaintiff Drobina completed his ballot according to the instructions provided by 23 Defendants. Ex. D. [Drobina declaration].
- 24 3.31. Plaintiff Drobina then attempted to insert his ballot into the slot at the top of the 25 tabulator and it was rejected. Ex. D.
- 26 3.32. A poll worker had Plaintiff Drobina attempt to put the ballot in the slot at the top 27 of the tabulator twice, and, after it failed to scan both times, the poll worker instructed 28 him to put the ballot in a slot lower down on the tabulator (the "Lower Slot"). Ex. D.

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- 1 3.33. Maricopa County's records as of November 11, 2020, indicate as follows with 2 respect to Plaintiff Drobina: "You voted on Election Day. Your ballot was counted." Ex.
- C. 3
- 4 3.34. However, as discussed above, upon information and belief, this means only that
- 5 Plaintiff Drobina checked into the polls on election day and has no bearing on whether
- 6 Mr. Drobina's vote was automatically read and tabulated with perfect accuracy by
- 7 Defendants' tabulation machines.
- 3.35. Upon information and belief, the slot located on top of the tabulators reads and 8 9 tabulates a given voter's ballot on site.
 - 3.36. Upon information and belief, election-day ballots placed into the Lower Slot are not read and tabulated on site.
 - 3.37. Upon information and belief, election-day ballots placed into the Lower Slot are sent to Defendants' "MCTEC" facility.
 - 3.38. Upon information and belief, once they reach the MCTEC facility some or all of the ballots placed in the Lower Slot are subject to manual review by human beings to determine voter intent ("Adjudication").
 - 3.39. Upon information and belief, Defendants' position is that, after election-day ballots placed into the Lower Slot are taken to the MCTEC facility: (1) another attempt is first made there to run such ballots through tabulation machines, and (2) only those ballots that the tabulation machines at MCTEC are unable to automatically read and tabulate with perfect accuracy, in whole or in part, are subject to manual review by human beings to determine voter intent ("Human Adjudication").
 - 3.40. Regardless of the truth of Defendants' position, due to the lack of any information on an election-day ballot that could tie that ballot back to a given voter, it is impossible for any particular voter whose ballot has been placed in the Lower Slot to ever know whether their particular ballot was subject, in whole or in part, to Human Adjudication.
 - 3.41. Upon information and belief, Defendants' electronic voting system was also unable to both automatically and perfectly read and record the ballots of at least some

other election day voters who followed Defendants' instructions. Ex. E. [Additional declarations].

SECTION IV

<u>CAUSES OF ACTION</u>

4.1. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference the preceding allegations.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Failure to Maintain Statutorily Compliant Electronic Voting System)

- 4.2. Maricopa County utilizes an "electronic voting system" within the meaning of A.R.S. § 16-444(A)(4) wherein "votes are recorded on a paper ballot by means of marking, and such votes are subsequently counted and tabulated by vote tabulating equipment at one or more counting centers."
- 4.3. "Vote tabulating equipment" means "apparatus necessary to *automatically* examine and count votes as designated on ballots and tabulate the results." A.R.S. § 16-444(A)(7) (emphasis supplied).
- 4.4. By statute, the county's electronic voting system must, "When properly operated, record correctly and count accurately every vote cast." A.R.S. § 16-446(B)(6).
- 4.5. In other words, voters have a right to know with certainty that, when they follow the instructions of election officials, their votes will be counted <u>both</u> automatically and perfectly. The acts of Defendants have deprived them of that right.
- 4.6. Plaintiffs¹ properly operated Defendants' electronic voting system but, upon information and belief, it failed to <u>both</u> automatically and perfectly read and record some or all of their votes.
- 4.7. Even if Defendants could prove that the processes they followed ultimately resulted in the selections on Plaintiff Drobina's ballot being properly recorded, the law requires not just that proper result, but that the proper process be followed to get there.

¹ References to plaintiffs should also be taken to refer to those Maricopa County voters who experienced similar issues.

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4.8. Human Adjudication is a safeguard to be employed when a voter has made a mistake. A ballot cast by a voter who has followed Defendants' instructions should never be subject to human Adjudication.

WHEREFORE Plaintiffs pray:

A. For a declaration pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 12-1831, 41-1034, and other applicable law: That the conduct of Defendants complained of herein constitutes a violation of Plaintiffs' right under Arizona law to have their votes read and tabulated in a fully automated process by a perfectly accurate machine when Plaintiffs operate the Electronic Voting System as instructed.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Failure to Ensure Maximum Degree of Correctness, Impartiality, and Uniformity of Election Procedures)

- By statute Arizona elections are to be conducted so as to ensure the maximum degree of correctness, impartiality, and uniformity of procedures for voting and See e.g. ballots. tabulating A.R.S. 88 16-449(B), 16-452(A), etc. 4.10. Defendants conduct elections in Maricopa County.
- 4.11. The ballots of at least some election-day voters who had properly followed Defendants' instructions, like Plaintiff Aguilera, were rejected by Defendants' on-site tabulators and not counted, while other election-day voters did not experience this issue.
- 4.12. Upon information and belief, unlike Plaintiff Aguilera, some election-day voters whose ballots were rejected by Defendants' on-site tabulators were given new ballots by Defendants' poll-workers.
- 4.13. The ballots of at least some election-day voters who had properly followed Defendants' instructions, like Plaintiff Drobina, were rejected by Defendants' on-site tabulators, and instead taken to MCTEC for further processing while other election-day voters did not experience this issue.

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- 4.15. Every human being has biases, conscious or unconscious.
- 4.16. Upon information and belief, the ballots of at least some election-day voters who
- 4 had properly followed Defendants' instructions, like Plaintiff Drobina, were rejected by
- 5 Defendants' on-site tabulators, and instead subject to Human Adjudication, while other
- 6 election-day voters did not experience this issue.
- 7 4.17. Some, but not all, election-day voters were provided by Defendants with devices
- 8 for marking their ballots that blead through the ballot paper. Upon information and belief,
 - this is responsible for at least some of the difficulties described above.
- 10 4.18. Some, but not all, election-day voters were provided by Defendants with wide
 - tipped devices for marking their ballots, while other election day voters were provided
 - with narrow-tipped marking devices. Upon information and belief, this is responsible for
 - at least some of the difficulties described above
 - 4.19. Defendants could have avoided the issues described above by, among other things,
 - maintaining a statutorily compliant electronic voting system and providing Plaintiff
 - Aguilera with a new ballot.
- 4.20. Accordingly, Defendants, in conducting the 2020 general election, did not ensure 17
 - the maximum degree of correctness, impartiality, and uniformity of procedures for voting
 - and tabulating ballots.

WHEREFORE Plaintiffs pray:

- A. For a declaration pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 12-1831, 41-1034, and other applicable
- 23 law: That the conduct of Defendants complained of herein constitutes a
- 24 violation of Defendants' obligation under Arizona law to ensure the maximum
- 25 degree of correctness, impartiality, and uniformity of procedures for voting and
- 26 tabulating ballots.
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(A.R.S. Const. Art. II, § 21)

- 4.21. A.R.S. Const. Art. II, § 21 provides that "no power, civil or military, shall at any time interfere to prevent the free exercise of the right of suffrage."
- 4.22. Upon information and belief, Defendants interfered with and prevented Plaintiff Aguilera's free exercise of her right of suffrage in that they forced her to use an electronic voting system in which, through no fault of her own, Plaintiff's ballot was rendered unreadable by the voting system Defendants purchased and utilized.
- 4.23. Upon information and belief, Defendants interfered with and prevented Plaintiff's free exercise of her right of suffrage in that after Plaintiff opted to spoil her ballot following its rejection by the scanning tabulator, election workers refused to give Plaintiff a second ballot to mark, thereby denying her the opportunity to cure her ballot and denying her the right to vote.
- 4.24. In addition, Arizonans possess a right to a "free and equal election" under our state constitution. A.R.S. Const. Art. II, § 21. This right is "implicated when votes are not properly counted." Chavez v. Brewer, 222 Ariz. 309, 320, 214 P.3d 397, 408 (App. 2009) (citing A.R.S. § 16-446(B)(6)).
- 4.25. Plaintiff Aguilera was entitled to have her vote counted.
- 4.26. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff Aguilera's vote was not counted when it should have been.
- 21 4.27. Therefore, upon information and belief, Plaintiff Aguilera's vote was not properly counted. 22
- 4.28. Both Plaintiff Aguilera and Plaintiff Drobina were entitled to have their votes both 24 automatically and perfectly read and recorded.
- 25 4.29. Proper counting of their votes would have required that Plaintiffs' votes be read 26 and recorded in an automated fashion by a perfectly accurate machine.

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4.30. Upon information and belief, neither Plaintiff Aguilera's vote nor Plaintiff Drobina's vote were read and recorded in an automated fashion by a perfectly accurate machine.

WHEREFORE Plaintiffs pray:

- A. For a declaration pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 12-1831, 41-1034, and other applicable law: That the conduct of Defendants complained of herein constitutes violations of the rights to suffrage and the proper counting of votes protected by A.R.S. Const. Art. II, § 21.
- B. For injunctive relief allowing Plaintiff Aguilera to cast a new ballot prior to the certification deadline of November 30, 2020.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(A.R.S. Const. Art. II, § 13)

- 4.31. A.R.S. Const. Art. II, § 21 provides that "No law shall be enacted granting to any citizen, class of citizens, or corporation other than municipal, privileges or immunities which, upon the same terms, shall not equally belong to all citizens or corporations."
- 4.32. Accordingly, every election-day voter who fills out a ballot according to Defendants' instructions is entitled to have that ballot treated in the same way.
- 4.33. Because of the official acts of Defendants concerning the administration of the 2020 general election complained of herein, some voters, like Plaintiff Aguilera, did not have their ballots counted at all. Meanwhile, some voters, like Plaintiff Drobina, were deprived of the opportunity, afforded to other voters, to have their votes counted via a fully automated and perfect process.

WHEREFORE Plaintiffs pray:

For a declaration pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 12-1831, 41-1034, and other applicable A. law: That the conduct of Defendants complained of herein constitutes

violations of the rights to have their ballots treated the same as other, similarly situated, voters pursuant to A.R.S. Const. Art. II, \S 13.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Failure to Comply with the Election Procedures Manual – Failure to Provide

Appropriate Opportunities to Correct Mistakes)

- 4.34. By statute Arizona elections are to be conducted pursuant to the Election Procedures Manual ("EPM") which has the force of law. A.R.S. § 16-452.²
- 4.35. Pursuant to the EPM, the ballots and marking devices provided to voters must: "Allow the voter to vote for the candidate or ballot measure of choice, allow the voter to vote for or against as many candidates or ballot measures for which they are entitled to vote, and inform the voter if the number of vote choices exceeds the permitted amount or prevent the voter from selecting more than the permitted number of vote choices[.]" EPM Chapter 4(I)(A)(2)(b)(i)(3) at 79.
- 4.36. Upon information and belief, the ballot and marking device provided to Plaintiff Aguilera did not allow her to vote for or against any candidates or ballot measures.
- 4.37. Upon information and belief, the ballot and marking device provided to Plaintiff Drobina did not reveal to him that the tabulation equipment would read overvotes on some or all of the races on his completed ballot.
- 4.38. Pursuant to the EPM, the ballots and marking devices provided to voters must: "Provide the voter with an opportunity (in a private, secret, and independent manner) to correct any error before the ballot is cast and counted or cast a replacement ballot if the previous ballot is spoiled or unable to be changed or corrected." EPM Chapter 4(I)(A)(2)(b)(i)(3) at 80.
- 4.39. Plaintiff Aguilera was not provided with the opportunity to cast a replacement ballot after her previous ballot was spoiled.

²https://azsos.gov/sites/default/files/2019 ELECTIONS PROCEDURES MANUAL A PPROVED.pdf

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4.40. Upon information and belief, the ballot and marking device provided to Plaintiff Drobina did not reveal to him upon visual inspection that stray marks would cause one or more races on his ballot to be misread by the tabulation equipment. Hence, he was not afforded the opportunity to correct these errors nor was he afforded the opportunity to cast a replacement ballot that would have allowed his voters to be automatically read and tabulated on site.

WHEREFORE Plaintiffs pray:

A. For a declaration pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 12-1831, 41-1034, and other applicable law: That the conduct of Defendants complained of herein and by Plaintiffs constitutes a violation of their obligation under Arizona law to comply with Chapter 4(I)(A)(2)(b)(i)(3) of the EPM.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Failure to Comply with the Election Procedures Manual – Failure to Allow for Public Access)

- 4.41. In February of 2019, an Electronic Adjudication Addendum (the "Addendum") was added to the EPM 3
- 4.42. The Addendum provides in pertinent part as follows: "The electronic adjudication of votes must be performed in a secure location, preferably in the same location as the EMS system, but open to public viewing." Addendum(D)(1) at 3.
- 4.43. Defendants failed to open the location where electronic adjudication occurs to the public.

WHEREFORE Plaintiffs pray:

A. For a declaration pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 12-1831, 41-1034, and other applicable law: That the conduct of Defendants complained of herein and ³https://azsos.gov/sites/default/files/Electronic Adjudication Addendum to the 2019 E lections Procedures Manual.pdf

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by Plaintiffs constitutes a violation of their obligation to open the location where the electronic adjudication of votes is occurring to the public pursuant to Addendum(D)(1).

B. For injunctive relief requiring the opening the location where electronic adjudication is taking place to the public in further elections, as well as during any additional electronic adjudication that takes place this election (e.g. as a result of a recount).

ADDITIONALLY, Plaintiffs pray:

- A. For their attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to A.R.S. §§ 12-2030, 12-348, common law doctrine, and other applicable law.
- B. For such other relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted this 12th day of November, 2020

By /s/Alexander Kolodin
Alexander Kolodin
Kolodin Law Group PLLC
3443 N. Central Ave. Ste. 1009
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

I CERTIFY that a copy of the of the forgoing will be served on Defendants in conformity with the applicable rules of procedure.

By /s/Alexander Kolodin

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VERIFICATION

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. My knowledge of course being limited to the facts of my particular circumstances.

11/12/2020

DATE

OccuSigned by:

LAURIE AGUILERA

RELIBITION DE NOCKACYDOCKET, COM