### Fill in this information to identify the case:

Debtor 1 TEHUM CARE SERVICES, INC. FDBA CORIZON HEALTH SERVICES, INC.

Debtor 2 (Spouse, if filing)

United States Bankruptcy Court for the SOUTHERN District of Texas

Case number 23-90086

#### Official Form 410

**Proof of Claim** 

Read the instructions before filling out this form. This form is for making a claim for payment in a bankruptcy case. Do not use this form to make a request for payment of an administrative expense. Make such a request according to 11 U.S.C. § 503.

Filers must leave out or redact information that is entitled to privacy on this form or any attached documents. Attach redacted copies of any documents that support the claim, such as promissory notes, purchase orders, invoices, itemized statements of running accounts. contracts, judgments, mortgages, and security agreements. Do not send original documents; they may be destroyed after scanning. If the documents are not available, explain in an attachment.

A person who files a fraudulent claim could be fined up to \$500,000, imprisoned for up to 5 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 157, and 3571.

Fill in all the information about the claim as of the date the case was filed. That date is on the notice of bankruptcy (Form 309) that you received.

_Pa	rt 1: Identify the Clair	m		
1.	Who is the current creditor:	ANTHONY SABALA  Name of the current creditor (the person or entity to be paid for this claim)  Other names the creditor used with the debtor		
2.	Has this claim been acquired from someone else?	✓ No □ Yes. From whom?		
3.	Where should notices and payments to the creditor be sent?	Where should notices to the creditor be sent?  THE MEGWA LAW OFFICES, PLLC	Where should payments to the creditor be sent: (If different)  THE MEGWA LAW OFFICES, PLLC	
	Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure (FRBP) 2002(g)	6811 South Central Avenue Number Street Phoenix, Arizona 85042 City State Zip Code  Contact phone 602-243-6152  Contact email contact@megwalaw.com	6811 South Central Avenue Number Street Phoenix, Arizona 85042 City State Zip Code  Contact phone 602-243-6152  Contact email contact@megwalaw.com	
		napter 13 (if you use one):		
4.	Does this claim amend one already filed?	✓ No  ☐ Yes. Claim number on court claims registry (if kn	Filed on mown)	
		☑ No		

Official Form 410 2023-003773 jmw

**Proof of Claim** 

Page 1



Claim #665 Date Filed: 8/11/2023

Case 23-90086 Claim 160-1 Filed 08/11/23 Desc Main Document Page 2 of 5 DocuSign Envelope ID: 15A3D925-ECCD-4679-A43F-2366C8E93D9E

5.	Do you know if anyone else has filed a proof of claim for this claim?	☐ Yes. Who made the earlier filing?	
Pa	rt 2: Give Information	n About the Claim as of the Date the Case Was Filed	
6.	Do you have any number you use to identify the debtor	✓ No  ☐ Yes. Last 4 digits of the debtor's account or any number you use to identify the debtor XXXX	
7.	How much is the claim?	Does this amount include interest or other charges?  □ No □ Yes. Attach statement itemizing interest, fees, expenses, or other charges required by Bankruptcy Rule 3001(c)(2)(A).	
8.	What is the basis of the claim?	Examples: Goods sold, money loaned, lease, services performed, personal injury or wrongful death, or credit card. Attach redacted copies of any documents supporting the claim required by Bankruptcy Rule 3001(c).  Limit disclosing information that is entitled to privacy, such as health care information.  Personal Injury	
9.	Is all or part of the claim secured?	The state of the s	
10	. Is this claim based on a lease?	✓ No  ☐ Yes. Amount necessary to cure any default as of the date of the petition \$	

Official Form 410 2023-003773 jmw

Case 23-90086 Claim 160-1 Filed 08/11/23 Desc Main Document Page 3 of 5 DocuSign Envelope ID: 15A3D925-ECCD-4679-A43F-2366C8E93D9E

11. Is this claim subject to a	☑ No					
right of setoff?	☐ Yes. Identify th	e property:				
	•					
					·	
12. Is all or part of the	☑ No					
claim entitled to						
priority under 11	☐ Yes. Check one	<del>;</del> ;		A	antitled to mujerity	
U.S.C. § 507(a)?	Amount entitled to price					
	☐ Domestic su	pport obligations (including alimony and child su $ 507(a)(1)(A) $ or $ (a)(1)(B) $ .		d child support) under	port) under	
A claim may be partly				••	\$	
priority and partly						
nonpriority. For	□ I in to \$3.36	in* of denosits to	vard nurchase lease	or rental of property or		
example, in some	☐ Up to \$3,350* of deposits toward purchase, lease, or rental of property of services for personal, family, or household use. 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(7).			\$		
categories, the law	Services ic	or personal, family	, or mousemore use. I i	0.3.C. § 30/(a)(1).		
limits the amount	<b></b>			1 '41' 100 1		
entitled to priority.	☐ Wages, salaries, or commissions (up to \$15,150*) earned within 180 days before the bankruptcy petition is filed or the debtor's business ends,					
				\$		
	whichever	r is earlier. 11 U.S	.C. § 507(a)(4).			
					\$	
	☐ Taxes or pe	nalties owed to go	vernmental units. 11	U.S.C. § 507(a)(8).		
	•	•			\$	
	□ Contributio	ne to an amployee	benefit plan. 11 U.S.G	^ & 507(a)(5)		
	Contributio	iis to all ciliployed	beliefit plan. 11 0.5.	c. y 507(a)(5).	\$	
				\ !!		
,	☐ Other. Spec	city subsection of	11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(	) that applies		
		•	nt on 4/01/25 and every 3	3 years after that for cases	begun on or after the	
	date of adjustn	nent				
Part 3: Sign Below						
The person completing this	Check the appropr	iate box:				
proof of claim must sign and						
date it.	I am the creditor.					
FRBP 9001(b).	☐ I am the creditor's attorney or authorized agent.					
If you file this claim			•		7.	
electronically, FRBP	☐ I am a guarant	or, surety, endorse	er, or other codebtor. E	Bankruptcy Rule 3005.		
5005(a)(2) authorizes courts						
to establish local rules	I understand that an authorized signature on this Proof of Claim serves as an acknowledgment that					
specifying what a signature is.		hen calculating the amount of the claim, the creditor gave the debtor credit for any payments received				
	toward the debt.					
A person who files a						
		he information in this <i>Proof of Claim</i> and have a reasonable belief that the information				
fined up to \$500,000,	is true and correct.					
imprisoned for up to 5 years,						
or both.			t the foregoing is true	and correct.		
18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 157, and						
3571.	Executed on date _					
	DocuSigned by:					
	145-					
	EDE0B88G9F014A8					
	Signature					
	Print the name of the person who is completing and signing this claim:					
		Anthony		Sabala		
	Name		24142			
		First name	Middle name	Last name		
	TM					
	Title		··-		<del></del>	
I						

Official Form 410 2023-003773 jmw

**Proof of Claim** 

Page 3

Case 23-90086 Claim 160-1 Filed 08/11/23 Desc Main Document Page 4 of 5 DocuSign Envelope ID: 15A3D925-ECCD-4679-A43F-2366C8E93D9E

Company	Identify the corporate servicer as the company if the authorized agent i			
	Number	Street		
	Gilbert		AZ	85205
Contact phone	City 928-514-6218		State Email	ZIP Code sabalaa0ne@gmail.com

Official Form 410 2023-003773 jmw

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

DEBTOR TEHUM CARE SERVICES, INC. FDBA CORIZON HEALTH SERVICES, INC. 205 POWELL PLACE, SUITE 104 BRENTWOOD, TN 37027 DEBTORS' ATTORNEY
JASON S BROOKNER
GRAY REED & MCGRAW LLP
1601 ELM STREET
SUITE 4600
DALLAS, TX 75201

OFFICE OF THE U.S. TRUSTEE 515 RUSK AVE STE 3516 HOUSTON, TX 77002

Dominique Varner TBA #00791182/FIN 18805

Direct:/13-328-2818, dvarner@hwa.com;

Michael Weems TBA #24066273

Direct: 713-328-2822, mweems@hwa.com

**HUGHES, WATTERS & ASKANASE, L.L.P.** 

1201 Louisiana, 28th Floor Houston, Texas 77002 Telephone (713) 759-0818 Telecopier (713) 759-6834

Desc Exhibit Filed Complaint Court 23-90086 Claim 160-1 Part 2 Filed 08/11/23 Page 1 of 14 C. Cuellar, Deputy 1/4/2021 4:09:53 PM Filing ID 12389090

Uchechi M. Megwa | SBN: 034809

THE MEGWA LAW OFFICES, PLLC

6811 South Central Avenue

Phoenix, Arizona 85042

**P:** (602) 243-6152 | **F:** (602) 268-0144

E: Contact@megwalaw.com

Attorney for Plaintiff

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA

#### IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MARICOPA

**ANTHONY SABALA**, an individual,

CORIZON HEALTH, INC., a foreign

foreign corporation; CORIZON, LLC, a foreign limited liability company;

**BLACK CORPORATIONS I-X and** WHITE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP

Defendants.

Plaintiff,

corporation; CORIZON, INC., a

VS.

I-X,

Case No.: CV2021-000062

**COMPLAINT** 

(Medical Negligence)

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Plaintiff, ANTHONY SABALA (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff"), by and through undersigned counsel, for his Complaint against Defendants hereby alleges as follows:

#### I. PARTIES, JURISDICTION AND VENUE

At all times material to this action, Plaintiff was incarcerated in the custody 1. of the State of Arizona Department of Corrections (hereinafter as "ADC"), housed and confined at Arizona State Prison Complex-Lewis (hereinafter "ASPC-Lewis"). COMPLAINT(MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE) - 1



Notwithstanding this, Plaintiff was a resident of the State of Arizona, County of Maricopa prior to incarceration.

- 2. Defendant Corizon Health, Inc. is a foreign corporation with a reported domicile of Missouri. Defendant Corizon, Inc. is a foreign corporation with a reported domicile of Missouri. Defendant Corizon, LLC. is a foreign limited liability corporation with a reported domicile of Missouri.
- 3. Upon information and belief, Defendants Corizon Health, Inc., Corizon, Inc., and Corizon, LLC, are all related foreign corporations and/or limited liability companies who have, or may have, responsibility for health care for inmates with the ADC.
- 4. Upon information and belief, Corizon Health, Inc., Corizon, Inc., and Corizon, LLC, are alter egos of one another. All references to "Corizon" in this Complaint are intended to include Defendants Corizon Health, Inc., Corizon, Inc., and Corizon, LLC, collectively.
- 5. At all times material to this action, Corizon was doing business in Maricopa County, Arizona, rendering healthcare services, and was a "[l]icensed health care provider" as defined by the Arizona Medical Malpractice Act, A.R.S. § 12-561.
- 6. Effective March 4, 2013, Corizon contracted with ADC to provide full service medical, mental health, and dental care (collectively "health care") to the inmates housed at ASPC-Douglas, ASPC-Phoenix, ASPC-Eyman, ASPC-Safford, ASPC-COMPLAINT(MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE) 2

Florence, ASPC-Tucson, ASPC-Lewis, ASPC-Winslow, ASPC-Perryville, and ASPC-Yuma.

- 7. Upon information and belief, Corizon employs licensed health care providers to provide the health care required under the terms of its contact with ADC. Corizon is vicariously liable for the actions and/or inactions of the licensed health care providers in its employ.
- 8. Upon information and belief, Corizon may from time to time employ licensed health care providers, technicians, aides, administrators, and other health care professionals (collectively "Corizon health care staff") on a temporary basis or as locum tenans providers. Corizon is vicariously liable for the actions and/or inactions of the licensed health care providers and professionals it employs on a temporary basis or as locum tenans providers.
- 9. Upon information and belief, Corizon may from time to time employ licensed health care providers, technicians, aides, administrators, and other health care professionals (also collectively "Corizon health care staff") through contracts with staffing agencies. Corizon is vicariously liable for the actions and/or inactions of the licensed health care providers and professionals it employs through contracts with staffing agencies.
- 10. At all times material to this action, Corizon held itself and the licensed health care providers, technicians, aides, administrators, and other health care COMPLAINT(MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE) 3



professionals its employs and/or contracts with, out to the public as being competent in health care administration, medical condition monitoring, and coordination of care, and acted directly and through its staff, all of whom were acting within the course and scope of their employment relationship with Corizon, such that Corizon is vicariously liable for the negligent acts and omissions described below.

- 11. Both directly, through hospital corporate liability or negligent hiring/training practices, and vicariously, through principles of *respondeat superior*, ostensible agency apparent agency, nondelegable duty, joint venture, Corizon is liable and responsible for the act and omissions of the said staff who provided health care services to and for Plaintiff.
- 12. Defendants Black Corporations I-X and White Limited Partnerships I-X are corporations, partnerships, limited partnerships, limited liability companies, or other business entities, authorized to do business and doing business in Arizona, with responsibility for the events underlying this action, but whose identities are presently unknown to Plaintiff, and are therefore sued under an alias. Plaintiff will substitute the true names of Black Corporations I-X and White Limited Partnerships I-X when the same are learned.
- 13. The amount in controversy in this action exceeds the jurisdictional threshold the of Court.

COMPLAINT(MEDICAL NEGLI

14. The events that form the basis of this Complaint occurred at various prisons within ADC. Venue is proper in the Superior Court of Maricopa County.

### II. GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- 15. Plaintiff incorporates the previous and subsequent paragraphs by reference, as if fully rewritten herein.
- 16. Plaintiff was sentenced to serve a term of incarceration within the ADC.

  At all times material to this Complaint, Plaintiff was admitted to the Arizona Prison

  System on August 13, 2010 and release on or about December 31, 2020.
- 17. Prior to Plaintiff's incarceration, Plaintiff maintained employment primarily as a welder and tattoo artist.
- 18. As a provider of health care in Arizona, Corizon knew or should have known of the prevalence of Coccidomycosis, a type of fungal infection caused by the fungus Coccidiodides. The Coccidiodides fungus is known to live in the soil in the Southwestern United States and is endemic in Arizona. Common terms for Coccidiomycosis are "Valley Fever" and "Cocci."
- 19. Since March 4, 2013, when Corizon contracted with ADC to provide health care to inmates housed within ADC, Plaintiff accessed medical care through Corizon, which was the only medical provider available to Plaintiff.
- 20. Plaintiff's "Health Problems/Conditions" medical history list with the ADC, notes Plaintiff's history of hypertension and chronic hepatitis C virus infection COMPLAINT(MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE) 5

with a generalized anxiety disorder, while confined in ADC and while under Corizon's health care.

- 21. Prior to June 2018, Plaintiff's "Health Problems/Conditions" medical history list with the ADC, bears no indication of Plaintiff having a history of back pain.
- 22. Prior to June 2018, Plaintiff led a very active lifestyle under which he would work, exercise, and participate in recreational activities regularly.
- 23. On or about June 2, 2018, Plaintiff consulted Corizon health care staff with a chief complaint of severe back pain, after experiencing its onset 2 days prior.
- 24. Plaintiff had follow-up visits with a registered nurse on June 5, June 6, and June 7. Plaintiff underwent a lumbar spine x-ray on June 5, 2018. On June 7, 2018, Plaintiff complained of lower back pain radiating into his right leg, and pleaded to Corizon health care staff in regard to his severe back and leg pain, "I need help, medical needs to help me."
- 25. Plaintiff's June 5, 2018, lumbar spine x-ray examination revealed that Plaintiff's vertebral body alignment was good with maintained disc spaces except at the L4-L5 disc space which showed end plate degenerative changes. Plaintiff was then initially given pain medication.
- 26. On July 20, 2018, Plaintiff again consulted Corizon health care staff regarding his severe and debilitating back pain, with a newly noted 24-pound weight loss. Plaintiff's encounter note for said visit provides the Plaintiff complained, "I have COMPLAINT(MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE) 6





completed the medication you prescribed. I am still in constant pain. I have some physical damage done to my back as well. I still cannot walk or stand or even sit down without assistance. To live in this condition is inhumane. I respectfully request your assistance to discover the cause of this condition and your assistance to repair or fix my condition."

- 27. Plaintiff's condensed consultation request note dated July 31, 2018, provides that upon physical examination, Plaintiff exhibited positive findings in the Straight Leg and Crossed Straight Leg raise tests, amongst other limitations. This record also notes Plaintiff's recent significant weight loss, use of a wheelchair and back brace.
- 28. Given the results of Plaintiff's subjective complaints, and objective findings on physical and radiological exam, an MRI of Plaintiff's lumbar spine was ordered by his treating nurse practitioner on July 31, 2018.
- 29. On or about August 9, 2018, Corizon denied MRI approval, and instead recommended and authorized an alternative treatment program consisting of medications, physical therapy, hip x-ray, laboratory evaluation and clinical follow-up in 90 days.
- 30. On August 21, 2018, Coccidiomycosis serology lab tests were performed on Plaintiff to test for indications of Coccidiodies present within Plaintiff; on August 28, 2018, the lab test results revealed positive indication of the presence of

COMPLAINT(MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE) - 8

Coccidiomycosis consistent with an acute infection. Repeat testing was recommended within 10 to 14 days.

- 31. In or about November 2018, Plaintiff was re-evaluated following completion of his prescribed physical therapy; Plaintiff's encounter notes document no clinical subjective or objective improvement of Plaintiff's condition but indicates repeat lumbar spine x-rays and lab tests were ordered.
- 32. On January 30, 2019, Plaintiff again consulted Corizon health care staff with complaints of low back pain and on-going limitations; and a second MRI consultation was requested for Plaintiff.
- 33. On or about March 12, 2019, Corizon again denied MRI approval, and instead recommended and authorized an alternative treatment program prescribing a second round of physical therapy.
- 34. After being transferred from ASPC-Lewis to ASPC-Tucson in May 2019, and also after completion of his second course of physical therapy, on June 13, 2019, Plaintiff had continued complaints of severe and debilitating low back pain and limitation without improvement; another lumbar spine x-ray was ordered.
- 35. On June 20, 2019, Plaintiff received another x-ray of his lumbar spine which, when compared to his prior lumbar spine x-ray taken on June 5, 2018, revealed severe interval compression fractures of his L4 and L5 with loss of his intervertebral

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disc space since June 5, 2018; the reading radiologist further recommended an MRI or CT scan examination of Plaintiff's lumbar spine.

- 36. On or about June 28, 2019, Corizon for a third time, denied MRI approval, and instead recommended and authorized an alternative treatment program prescribing a third round of physical therapy.
- 37. Corizon's March 4, 2013, contract to provide health care services to inmates housed within ADC became effectively terminated on June 30, 2019, and effective July 1, 2019, new ADC health care provider Centurion, assumed responsibility for providing health care to ADC inmates.
- 38. On July 3, 2019, another request for an MRI examination of Plaintiff's lumbar spine was ordered; however, this request was approved and Plaintiff obtained an MRI of his lumbar spine on August 1, 2019.
- 39. The results of Plaintiff's August 1, 2019 lumbar spine MRI revealed L4-L5 discitis and osteomyelitis with extensive vertebral body erosion, phlegmon/abscess within the spinal canal, moderate canal stenosis, and severe foraminal stenosis.
- 40. On August 13, 2019, Plaintiff was immediately rushed to Banner University Hospital Emergency Room in Tucson, Arizona for emergency evaluation and treatment of his deteriorating spinal vertebrae.
- 41. After arrival at Banner University Emergency Room on August 13, 2019, Plaintiff obtained another MRI of his lumbar spine and later underwent a soft tissue CT COMPLAINT(MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE) 9

biopsy of Plaintiff's L4-L5 vertebrae. Coccidiomycosis serology lab tests were also performed.

- 42. Based upon Plaintiff's medical history, subjective complaints and objective findings upon physical exam, Plaintiff was diagnosed with spinal coccidiomycosis osteomyelitis-discitis.
- 43. Despite being recommended for a lumbar spine MRI in July 31, 2018, January 30, 2019, and June 24, 2019, Corizon failed to ever approve, refer, or otherwise provide for Plaintiff to receive an MRI examination.
- 44. Despite consistently voicing concerns and subjective complaints, exhibiting extreme weight loss, significant physical limitation and disability, debilitating and excruciating pain, each of Plaintiff's requests for an MRI of his lumbar spine were denied on the basis that Plaintiff did not demonstrate medical necessity to obtain the MRI.
- 45. Despite positive Coccidiomycosis serology lab results obtained on August 28, 2018, and orders for follow-up testing within 10 to 14 days thereafter, Plaintiff did not receive any follow-up Coccidiomycosis serology testing until after he became hospitalized a year later in August 2019.
- 46. From June 2, 2018 until through June 30, 2019, Plaintiff required ongoing monitoring and treatment for his coccidiomycosis and associated symptoms to manage the risk of long-term and/or permanent complications from the disease.

  COMPLAINT(MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE) 10

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manage the risk of long-term and/or permanent complications from the disease.

48. From June 2, 2018 until through June 30, 2019, Plaintiff did not receive the required ongoing monitoring and treatment for his coccidiomycosis and associated

symptoms, ultimately causing Plaintiff permanent disability, and severe and life altering

ongoing monitoring and treatment for his coccidiomycosis and associated symptoms to

From June 2, 2018 until through June 30, 2019, Plaintiff required

injuries, from which Plaintiff is not expected to cover.

## III. COUNT ONE- MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE

- 49. Plaintiff incorporates the previous and subsequent paragraphs by reference, as if fully rewritten herein.
- 50. At all times material to this action, a health-care provider/patient relationship existed between Corizon, Corizon health care staff, and Plaintiff.
- 51. Pursuant to that relationship, Corizon and Corizon health care staff owed a duty to exercise that degree of reasonable care, skill, and prudence possessed by other licensed health care providers under the same or similar circumstances devoid of any negligence, misconduct, errors or omissions, or breach of contract in rendering health care.
- 52. Corizon and Corizon health care staff had a duty to provide health care in accordance with the standard of care applicable to the particular licensed health care provider providing health care.



53. Corizon and its licensed health care providers breached that duty by failing
to exercise that degree of care, skill and learning expected of a reasonable, prudent health
care provider in the profession or class to which the provider belongs within the state
acting in the same or similar circumstances, as set forth more fully above.

- 54. Corizon and Corizon health care provider's breach includes, but is not limited to:
  - Failing to properly assess Plaintiff after he made his medical needs known;
  - Failing to establish proper policy, procedures, custom and practice for identifying inmates who require a higher level of care than can be provided at the prison complex;
  - Failing to provide appropriate personnel and to train that
     personnel in the recognition of conditions requiring a higher
     level of medical care than can be provided at the prison
     complex;
  - d. Failing to properly assess Plaintiff when his medical condition had obviously deteriorated;
  - e. Failing to investigate Plaintiff's declining medical condition and waiting until his medical condition was life-threatening before taking action;

f. Failing to ascertain the source of Plaintiff's complaints;

g. Failing to act on objective signs of an increasingly serious medical condition until it was too late for effective treatment.

51. As a direct and proximate result of Corizon and Corizon health care staff's above-mentioned breaches and failures, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer severe physical and emotional pain, mental anguish, permanent injury resulting in disability, diminished future earning capacity, discomfort, suffering, depression, loss of enjoyment of life, interruption in his normal lifestyle, financial hardship and other general damages, all in an amount to be proven at trial herein.

52. As a direct and proximate result of Corizon and Corizon health care staff's above-mentioned breaches and failures, Plaintiff has and will continue to incur special damages including past and future medical expenses and wage loss, expenses for travel to and from medical providers and other economic loss, all in an amount to be proven at trial herein.

# IV. RULE 26.2 DICOVERY TIER

53. The nature of Plaintiff's claims and damages are currently known to Plaintiff are such to qualify this action for designations as Tier 3, pursuant to *Ariz. R. Civ. Pro.* Rules 8(b)(2) and 26.2.

**THEREFORE,** Plaintiff, prays for judgment against Defendants, and each of them, as follows:

- A. For Plaintiff's general damages, in an amount to be proven at trial;
- B. For Plaintiff's special damages, in an amount to be proven at trial;
- C. For taxable costs and pre-judgment and post-judgment interest to the extent permitted by law;
  - D. For reasonable costs and attorneys' fees; and
- E. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper under the circumstances.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED** this \_4<sup>th</sup>\_\_\_ day of January, 2021.



Uchechi M. Megwa, Esq. 6811 South Central Avenue Phoenix, Arizona 85042 *Attorney for Plaintiff* 

