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SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BY: *VA*

DEPUTY

**PINNOCK & WAKEFIELD**

A Professional Corporation  
Theodore A. Pinnock, Esq.  
David C. Wakefield, Esq.  
Michelle L. Wakefield, Esq.  
3033 Fifth Avenue, Suite 410  
San Diego, CA 92103  
Telephone: 619.858.3671  
Facsimile: 619.858.3646

Bar #: 153434  
Bar #: 185736  
Bar #: 200424

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

**TRIPPLE AAA ASSOCIATION FOR  
CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH  
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

**Plaintiffs,**

**v.**

**LA POPULAR TORTILLERIA, LLC; 2194  
NATIONAL AVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92113-  
2209  
; And DOES 1 THROUGH 10, Inclusive**

**Defendants.**

Case No.: **06CV 2786 IEG CAB**

**CLASS ACTION**

**CIVIL COMPLAINT:  
DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES IN  
PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

**[42 U.S.C. 12182(a) ET. SEQ; CIVIL CODE  
51, 52, 54, 54.1]**

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL  
[F.R.Civ.P. rule 38(b)]**

**INTRODUCTION**

Plaintiffs herein complain, by filing this Civil Complaint in accordance with rule 8 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in the Judicial District of the United States District Court of the Southern District of California, that Defendants have in the past, and presently are, engaging in discriminatory practices against individuals with disabilities, specifically including minorities with disabilities. Plaintiffs allege this civil action and others substantial similar thereto are necessary to compel access compliance because empirical research on the effectiveness of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act indicates this Title has failed to achieve full and equal access simply by the executive branch of the Federal Government

1 funding and promoting voluntary compliance efforts. Further, empirical research shows when individuals  
2 with disabilities give actual notice of potential access problems to places of public accommodation without  
3 a federal civil rights action, the public accommodations do not remove the access barriers. Therefore,  
4 Plaintiffs make the following allegations in this federal civil rights action:

5 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

6 1. The federal jurisdiction of this action is based on the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 United  
7 States Code 12101-12102, 12181-12183 and 12201, et seq. Venue in the Judicial District of the United  
8 States District Court of the Southern District of California is in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)  
9 because a substantial part of Plaintiffs' claims arose within the Judicial District of the United States District  
10 Court of the Southern District of California.

11 **SUPPLEMENTAL JURISDICTION**

12 2. The Judicial District of the United States District Court of the Southern District of California has  
13 supplemental jurisdiction over the state claims as alleged in this Complaint pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a).  
14 The reason supplemental jurisdiction is proper in this action is because all the causes of action or claims  
15 derived from federal law and those arising under state law, as herein alleged, arose from common nucleus  
16 of operative facts. The common nucleus of operative facts, include, but are not limited to, the incidents  
17 where Plaintiffs were denied full and equal access to Defendants' facilities, goods, and/or services in  
18 violation of both federal and state laws when they attempted to enter, use, and/or exit Defendants' facilities  
19 as described below within this Complaint. Further, due to this denial of full and equal access, TRIPPLE  
20 AAA ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES and other persons  
21 with disabilities were injured. Based upon the said allegations, the state actions, as stated herein, are so  
22 related to the federal actions that they form part of the same case or controversy and the actions would  
23 ordinarily be expected to be tried in one judicial proceeding.

24 **NAMED DEFENDANTS AND NAMED PLAINTIFF**

25 3. Defendants are, and, at all times mentioned herein, were, a business or corporation or franchise  
26 organized and existing and/or doing business under the laws of the State of California. Plaintiffs are further  
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1 informed and believe and thereon allege that Defendants **LA POPULAR TORTILLERIA, LLC; 2194**  
2 **NATIONAL AVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92113-2209**

3 are the owners, operators, and/or lessors of the real property, as well as the business operated thereon. As  
4 to Defendants and the property the public record reveals:

5  
6 **COMPANY NAME: LA POPULAR TORTILLERIA, LLC**

7  
8 **BUSINESS ADDRESS:**

9 **2194 NATIONAL AVENUE**  
10 **NATIONAL CITY, CA 92113**

11  
12  
13 **MAILING ADDRESS:**

14 **2194 NATIONAL AVENUE**  
15 **NATIONAL CITY, CA 92113**

16  
17  
18 **TYPE: DOMESTIC FILING**

19  
20 **STATUS: ACTIVE**

21  
22 **FILING DATE: 3/19/2001**

23  
24 **STATE OR COUNTRY OF INCORPORATION: CALIFORNIA**

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26 **BUSINESS DESCRIPTION: CORN FLOUR TORTILLA FACTORY**

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REGISTERED AGENT: ANITA CASTILLO

REGISTERED OFFICE:

2194 NATIONAL AVENUE

NATIONAL CITY, CA 92113

OWNER: LA POPULAR TORTILLERIA LLC (COMPANY/CORPORATION)

MAILING ADDRESS: 2194 NATIONAL AVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92113

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 2194 NATIONAL AVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92113

\*\*\*\*\* ASSESSMENT INFORMATION \*\*\*\*\*

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER: 538-560-16

4. The words "Plaintiffs" and "Plaintiff's Member" as used herein specifically include the organization and TRIPPLE AAA ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES and persons associated with its Members who accompanied Members to Defendants' facilities. Defendants Does 1 through 10, were at all times relevant herein subsidiaries, employers, employees, agents, of **LA POPULAR TORTILLERIA, LLC; 2194 NATIONAL AVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92113-2209**

. Plaintiffs are ignorant of the true names and capacities of Defendants sued herein as Does 1 through 10, inclusive, and therefore sues these Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiffs will pray leave of the court to amend this complaint to allege the true names and capacities of the Does when ascertained.

5. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that Defendants and each of them herein were, at all times relevant to the action, the owner, lessor, lessee, franchiser, franchisee, general partner, limited partner, agent, employee, representing partner, or joint venturer of the remaining Defendants and were acting within the course and scope of that relationship. Plaintiffs are further informed and believe,

1 and thereon allege, that each of the Defendants herein gave consent to, ratified, and/or authorized the acts  
2 alleged herein to each of the remaining Defendants.

3 **STATEWIDE CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS UNDER FED.R.CIV.P. 23(b) AS TO ALL**  
4 **DEFENDANTS**

5 6. Plaintiffs are members of a group within the State of California composed of persons with a wide  
6 range of disabilities, limited to persons who use wheelchairs for mobility, who must be able to access retail  
7 merchandise establishments, like Defendants' establishments located within the facility in which **LA**  
8 **POPULAR TORTILLERIA, LLC; 2194 NATIONAL AVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92113-2209**  
9 is located. Plaintiffs are precluded from equal access to Defendants' establishment so meaningfully  
10 because the establishment fails to provide access for members of the disability community who use a  
11 wheelchair for mobility to disabled parking facilities, exterior path of travel facilities, entrance facilities,  
12 interior path of travel facilities, and display facilities. The Supreme Court of the United States has held as  
13 long as the class representative provides adequate representation for the class' interests, the court has the  
14 power to adjudicate the rights and obligations of all class members – even those who would otherwise be  
15 beyond the reach of its personal jurisdiction. Phillips Petroleum Co. v. Shutts, 472 US 797 (1985). This  
16 case stands for the proposition that minimum contacts are not required with nonresident members of a  
17 plaintiff class because, “the burdens placed by a State upon absent class action plaintiff are not of the same  
18 order or magnitude as those it places on an absent defendant.” Id. Plaintiffs allege they will insure class  
19 members shall receive adequate notice of the proceedings and the opportunity to “opt out,” if required.  
20 Defendants have conducted themselves such as to establish a pattern and practice of architectural  
21 discrimination. Plaintiffs allege that Defendants have control over each and every facility, establishment,  
22 and/or business located within the Defendant Landlords' facilities in which Defendant **LA POPULAR**  
23 **TORTILLERIA, LLC; 2194 NATIONAL AVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92113-2209**  
24 is located. Accordingly, Plaintiffs allege Defendants are responsible for removing architectural barriers at  
25 Defendants' facilities and the establishment/business contained therein. For the aforementioned reasons,  
26 Plaintiffs allege they are proper class representatives for members of the disability community who use a  
27 wheelchair for mobility because the members of the disability community who use a wheelchair for  
28 mobility are so numerous that joinder is impracticable due to the fact more than one hundred (100) persons

1 fall within the membership description. Also, the questions of law or fact are so common because the  
2 members of the disability community who use a wheelchair for mobility are being denied their civil rights  
3 under federal and state laws – that is, each member of the disability community who use a wheelchair for  
4 mobility suffered substantially similar violations relating to exterior path of travel facilities, entrance  
5 facilities, restrooms, interior path of travel facilities, and display facilities. Further, the claims or defenses  
6 of the representative parties are typical – Plaintiffs have the right to access facilities, establishments, and  
7 businesses like those within the facility in which Defendant **LA POPULAR TORTILLERIA, LLC; 2194**  
8 **NATIONAL AVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92113-2209**

9 is located for many reasons such as the purchase of retail merchandise. Defendants’ facilities are open to  
10 the general public and Plaintiffs have been denied access because of violations, as outlined above and  
11 specifically addressed elsewhere within this Complaint. Additionally, Plaintiffs, as the named  
12 representatives, will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the class because Plaintiffs and the  
13 members of the disability community in the State of California who use a wheelchair for mobility have  
14 suffered substantially similar violations. Finally, a pattern and practice exists on the part of Defendants,  
15 and each of them, of architectural discrimination at their public facilities located within the State of  
16 California. On information and good faith belief, Plaintiffs thereon allege that Defendants, prior to the  
17 passing of the Americans With Disabilities Act in 1992, conceived, commissioned, designed, and  
18 implemented among other things, a design for their public facilities, including, but not limited to disabled  
19 parking facilities, exterior path of travel facilities, restroom, entrance facilities, interior path of travel  
20 facilities, and display facilities, which do not meet the minimal standards outlined under the federal  
21 regulations known as the Americans With Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (“ADAAG”) and state  
22 regulations, also known as Title 24 of the California Building Code, and to which non-compliant plan they  
23 continue to utilize to the injury of the members of the class. For these reasons and the facts as stated  
24 herein, Plaintiffs have the right to maintain this statewide class action pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P. Rule 23(b).

25  
26 **CONCISE SET OF FACTS**

27 7. In 2006, Plaintiff’s Member went to the **LA POPULAR TORTILLERIA, LLC; 2194**  
28 **NATIONAL AVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92113-2209**

1 . As Said Member is unable to walk Plaintiff's Member uses a wheelchair. Plaintiff's Member experienced  
2 architectural barriers at the place at which impeded his access. Plaintiff can prove these barriers as Plaintiff  
3 conducted a survey of Defendants' facility and Plaintiff's counsel will provide it to competent defense  
4 counsel. Plaintiff's Members allege its visually and hearing impaired members desire to go to Defendants'  
5 facility but cannot because of lack of auxiliary aids. Plaintiffs specifically allege that Defendants knew, to a  
6 substantial certainty, that the architectural barriers precluded wheelchair access. First, Plaintiffs will prove  
7 that Defendants had actual knowledge that the architectural barriers precluded wheelchair access - that it  
8 would be hard to believe that noncompliance with ADAAG as to accessible entrances could be other than  
9 intentional. Second, due to the abundance of ADA information and constant news covers of ADA lawsuits,  
10 Defendants had actual knowledge of the ADA and decided deliberately not to remove architectural barriers.  
11 Third, Defendants have no plans to remodel. Fourth, it would be hard to believe that Defendants did not  
12 have actual knowledge of ADA given all the ADA public awareness campaigns, the abundance of free  
13 ADA information and the media's constant ADA coverage. Fifth, a human being acting for the defendants  
14 made a conscious decision as to how to proceed given the presence of the architectural barriers. Plaintiffs  
15 allege any alternative methods preclude integration of wheelchair patrons, as it requires them to use a  
16 second-class entrance. Also, expert testimony will show the facility contained inaccessible features.  
17 Plaintiffs allege businesses often state that they have few customers with disabilities. Plaintiffs allege such  
18 customers avoid patronizing inaccessible business and are deterred from patronizing such businesses. The  
19 courts have recognized deterrence-based damage claims under Civil Code 54.3 and 52. Since California  
20 courts have held that the California disability access laws manifest an intent on the part of the legislature  
21 that they be interpreted in a manner that maximizes incentives for compliance, (see Donald, 266 Cal. Rptr.  
22 at 808-11) the courts conclude that application of this canon of construction requires that 54.1 and 51, and  
23 their respective damages provisions, 54.3 and 52, be interpreted as extending to claims based on incidents  
24 of deterrence. The courts therefore hold that where a plaintiff can prove that violations of applicable  
25 California disability access standards deterred her on a particular occasion from attempting to attend a place  
26 of public accommodation, that plaintiff states a claim for relief under California Civil Code 54.1 and 51  
27 and, in particular, for damages, under 54.3 and 52. Plaintiffs allege people with disabilities still face  
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1 systemic discrimination each and every day. One of the most debilitating forms of discrimination is  
2 segregation imposed by others. Discrimination also includes exclusion, or denial of benefits, services, or  
3 other opportunities that are as effective and meaningful as those provided to others. Discrimination results  
4 from actions or inactions that discriminate by effect as well as by intent or design. Discrimination also  
5 includes harms resulting from the construction of transportation, architectural, and communication barriers  
6 and the adoption or application of standards and criteria and practices and procedures based on  
7 thoughtlessness or indifference-of benign neglect. Discrimination also includes harms affecting individuals  
8 with a history of disability, and those regarded by others as having a disability as well as persons associated  
9 with such individuals that are based on false presumptions, generalizations, misperceptions, patronizing  
10 attitudes, ignorance, irrational fears, and pernicious mythologies. Discrimination also includes the effects a  
11 person's disability may have on others. The ADA aim is: (1) To provide a clear and comprehensive  
12 national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against individuals with disabilities; [and] (2) to  
13 provide clear, strong, consistent, enforceable standards addressing discrimination against individuals with  
14 disabilities. (42 U.S.C. § 12101(b)(1), (2) (Supp. II 1990)) Plaintiffs allege the legislative history of the Act,  
15 which reflects congressional concerns over the deleterious effects of discrimination against people with  
16 disabilities. As a result, Congress incorporated within Title II of the ADA the remedial provision in Section  
17 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. (As amended 29 U.S.C. § 794a)(42 U.S.C. § 12133)(See *Smith v.*  
18 *Barton*, 914 F.2d 1330, 1336 (9th Cir. 1990), cert. denied, 111 S.Ct. 2825 (1991)) Much has been written  
19 recently about the ADA and its mechanisms of enforcement. (See e.g., *Doran v. Del Taco, Inc.*, ---  
20 F.Supp.2d ---- (C.D. Cal. June 9, 2005); *Molski*, 347 F.Supp.2d at 862-63; *Parr v. L & L Drive-Inn*  
21 *Restaurant*, 96 F.Supp.2d 1065, 1070-71 (D.Haw.2000)) For purposes of this suit, it is sufficient to note  
22 that the statute creates a private right of action through which a litigant may seek injunctive relief as well as  
23 attorneys' fees and costs. (42 U.S.C. § 2188(a)) Plaintiffs allege that it cannot be said that because an  
24 attorney has chosen to specialize in an area, which provides statutory attorneys fees his practice is  
25 necessarily suspect. Class actions, antitrust, and consumer protection statutes are just some of the examples  
26 where the legislature has made a determination that society will benefit from private attorneys general. The  
27 ADA is but another example. Plaintiff TRIPPLE AAA ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN WITH  
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1 DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES is an organization that advocates on the behalf of children and others  
2 with disabilities specifically including adults who use wheelchairs when their civil rights and liberties have  
3 been violated. Plaintiff's Member visited the place in 2006 and plans on returning to the place and he  
4 encountered architectural barriers there. Association standing requires that (1) its members would otherwise  
5 have standing to sue in their own right, (2) the interests the association seeks to protect are germane to the  
6 organization's purpose and (3) neither the claim asserted nor the relief requested requires the participation  
7 of individual members. *Hunt v. Washington Apple Advertising Commission*, 432 U.S. 333, 343; *Greater*  
8 *Los Angeles Council On Deafness, Inc. v. Baldrige*, 827 F.2d 1353, 1358 (9th Cir. 1987). Plaintiffs have  
9 standing to bring this action. Plaintiff Association has at least four members who use wheelchairs as they  
10 cannot walk at all. The purpose of the Association is to fight to remove access and architectural barriers.

11 8. Plaintiff's Member has a physical impairment and due to this impairment he has learned to  
12 successfully operate a wheelchair. Plaintiff's Member and Plaintiff(s) has physical impairments because her  
13 conditions affect one or more of the following body systems: neurological, musculoskeletal, special sense  
14 organs, and/or cardiovascular. Further, Plaintiff's Member and Plaintiff(s) said physical impairments  
15 substantially limits one or more of the following major life activities: walking. In addition, Plaintiff's  
16 Member and Plaintiff(s) cannot perform one or more of the said major life activities in the manner, speed,  
17 and duration when compared to the average person. Moreover, Plaintiff's Member and Plaintiff(s) has a  
18 history of or has been classified as having a physical impairment as required by 42 U.S.C. § 12102(2)(A).

19 9. Plaintiff's Members expressly intend to patronize the establishment and the property that is the  
20 subject of this Complaint in the immediate future.

21 10. When Plaintiff's Member researched Defendants' facilities, he discovered he would be unable to  
22 use the public accommodations' at Defendants' business establishment because they failed to comply with  
23 ADA Access Guidelines For Buildings and Facilities (hereafter referred to as "ADAAG") and/or  
24 California's Title 24 Building Code Requirements as specified herein. Defendants failed to remove access  
25 barriers within the parking, exterior path of travel and entrance public accommodations of Defendants'  
26 establishment. Plaintiff's Member was deterred from patronizing the facility because he experienced  
27 difficulty using the parking, exterior path of travel and entrance access barriers at Defendants' facility.  
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1 11. The architectural regulations or "design standards" implemented by the federal ADA are often  
2 referred to in the literature as "ADAAGs," which is an acronym for "ADA Architectural Guidelines." (See  
3 *Independent Living I*, 982 F. Supp. at pp. 707-708 ["The guidelines issued by the Access Board are  
4 denominated the 'ADA Accessibility Guidelines' ('ADAAG.'). The design standards enacted by the Attorney  
5 General are identical to the ADAAGs, but are denominated as 'Standards.' Despite the technical distinction,  
6 the two terms are often used interchangeably."]; *Access Now, Inc. v. Ambulatory Surgery Center Group,*  
7 *Ltd. (S.D. Fla. 2001) 146 F. Supp. 2d 1334, 1336* ["These guidelines are called ... ("ADAAG") ... ."].) The  
8 "ADAAGs" are found in Appendix A to Part 36 of title 28 of the Code of Federal Regulations. The  
9 ADAAG violations alleged here are basically so intuitive that it would be hard to believe that  
10 noncompliance with them could be other than intentional.

11 12. Plaintiff(s) was deterred from patronizing the facility due to the alleged ADA violations and/or  
12 alleged architectural barriers outlined in Paragraphs 10 through 11 above.

13 13. While Plaintiff's Member expressly wants to patronize Defendant's establishment and the property  
14 that is the subject of this Complaint in the immediate future, Plaintiff and Plaintiff's Member is expressly  
15 deterred from returning to the establishment and the property that is the subject of this Complaint due to the  
16 existence of the architectural barriers outlined above in Paragraphs 10 through 11.

17 14. Pursuant to federal and state law, Defendants are required to remove barriers to their existing  
18 facilities. Further, Defendants had actual knowledge of their barrier removal duties under the Americans  
19 with Disabilities Act and the Civil Code before January 26, 1992. Also, Defendants should have known  
20 that individuals with disabilities are not required to give notice to a governmental agency before filing suit  
21 alleging Defendants failed to remove architectural barriers.

22 15. Plaintiffs believe and herein allege Defendants' facilities have access violations not directly  
23 known by Plaintiff which preclude or limit access by other members of Plaintiff organization or other  
24 persons with disabilities, including but not limited to violations relating to Space Allowance and Reach  
25 Ranges, Accessible Route, Protruding Objects, Ground and Floor Surfaces, Parking and Passenger Loading  
26 Zones, Curb Ramps, Ramps, Stairs, Elevators, Platform Lifts (Wheelchair Lifts), Windows, Doors,  
27 Entrances, Drinking Fountains and Water Coolers, Water Closets, Toilet Stalls, Urinals, Lavatories and  
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1 Mirrors, Sinks, Storage, Handrails, Grab Bars, and Controls and Operating Mechanisms, Alarms,  
2 Detectable Warnings, Signage, and Telephones. Accordingly, Plaintiffs allege Defendants are required to  
3 remove all architectural barriers, known or unknown. Also, Plaintiffs allege Defendants are required to  
4 utilize the ADA checklist for Readily Achievable Barrier Removal approved by the United States  
5 Department of Justice and created by Adaptive Environments.

6 16. Based on these facts, Plaintiffs allege Plaintiff's Member and Plaintiff(s) were discriminated  
7 against each time he patronized Defendants' establishment. Plaintiff's Member was extremely upset due to  
8 Defendants' conduct.

9 **NOTICE**

10 17. Plaintiffs are not required to provide notice to the defendants prior to filing a complaint. (See  
11 *Botosan v. Paul McNally Realty*, 216 F.3d 827, 832 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir 2000))

12  
13 **WHAT CLAIMS ARE PLAINTIFFS ALLEGING AGAINST EACH NAMED DEFENDANT**

14 18. **LA POPULAR TORTILLERIA, LLC; 2194 NATIONAL AVE, SAN DIEGO, CA 92113-2209**  
15 ; and Does 1 through 10 will be referred to collectively hereinafter as "Defendants."

16 19. Plaintiffs aver that the Defendants are liable for the following claims as alleged below:

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18 **DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES IN PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

19 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS- Claims Under The Americans With**  
20 **Disabilities Act Of 1990**

21 **Claim I**

22 19. Based on the facts stated above, Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs on the basis of  
23 disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or  
24 accommodations of any place of public accommodation as Defendants own, lease (or lease to), or operate  
25 a place of public accommodation in violation of 42 U.S.C. §12182.

26 **Claim II**

27 20. Based on the facts stated above, Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs directly, or through  
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1 contractual, licensing, or other arrangements, to a denial of the opportunity of the individual or class to  
2 participate in or benefit from the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of  
3 an entity in violation of 42 U.S.C. §12182.

4 Claim III

5 21. Based on the facts stated above, Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs as it is discriminatory  
6 to afford an individual or class of individuals, on the basis of a disability or disabilities of such individual  
7 or class, directly, or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements with the opportunity to  
8 participate in or benefit from a good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation that is not  
9 equal to that afforded to other individuals in violation of 42 U.S.C. §12182.

10 Claim IV

11 22. Based on the facts stated above, Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs as it is discriminatory  
12 to provide an individual or class of individuals, on the basis of a disability or disabilities of such individual  
13 or class, directly, or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements with a good, service, facility,  
14 privilege, advantage, or accommodation that is different or separate from that provided to other individuals.

15 Claim V

16 23. Based on the facts stated above, Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs as Defendants failed to  
17 afforded to an individual with a disability in the most integrated setting appropriate to the needs of the  
18 individual in violation of 42 U.S.C. §12182.

19 Claim VI

20 24. Based on the facts stated above, Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs as Defendants utilized  
21 standards or criteria or methods of administration that have the effect of discriminating on the basis of  
22 disability; or that perpetuate the discrimination of others who are subject to common administrative control  
23 in violation of 42 U.S.C. §12182.

24 Claim VII

25 25. Based on the facts stated above, Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs as it is discriminatory  
26 to exclude or otherwise deny equal goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, accommodations, or  
27 other opportunities to an individual or entity because of the known disability of an individual with whom  
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1 the individual or entity is known to have a relationship or association in violation of 42 U.S.C. §12182. See  
2 Niece v. Fitzner 922 F. Supp. 1208 (1996)

3 Claim VIII

4 26. Based on the facts stated above, Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs as Defendants engaged  
5 in the following specific prohibitions: (i) the imposition or application of eligibility criteria that screen out  
6 or tend to screen out an individual with a disability or any class of individuals with disabilities from fully  
7 and equally enjoying any goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations, unless such  
8 criteria can be shown to be necessary for the provision of the goods, services, facilities, privileges,  
9 advantages, or accommodations being offered; (ii) a failure to make reasonable modifications in policies,  
10 practices, or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford such goods, services, facilities,  
11 privileges, advantages, or accommodations to individuals with disabilities;

12 27. (iii) a failure to take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is  
13 excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the  
14 absence of auxiliary aids and services; (iv) a failure to remove architectural barriers, and communication  
15 barriers that are structural in nature, in existing facilities in violation of 42 U.S.C. §12182.

16 Claim IX

17 28. Based on the facts stated above, Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs as Defendant failed to  
18 demonstrate that the removal of a barrier is not readily achievable, and made such goods, services,  
19 facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations available through alternative methods in a segregated  
20 manner in violation of 42 U.S.C. §12182.

21 Claim X

22 29. Based on the facts stated above, Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs as Defendants altered  
23 the use of their establishment in a manner that affected or could have affected the usability of the facility or  
24 part thereof and failed to make alterations in such a manner that, to the maximum extent feasible, the  
25 altered portions of the facility are readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, including  
26 individuals who use wheelchairs in violation of 42 U.S.C. §12183.

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30. WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment and relief as hereinafter set forth.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS - CLAIMS UNDER CALIFORNIA ACCESSIBILITY LAWS

CLAIM I: Denial Of Full And Equal Access

31. Based on the facts plead at ¶¶ 6-16 above and elsewhere in this complaint, Plaintiff's Member and Plaintiff(s) was denied full and equal access to Defendants' goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations within a public accommodation owned, leased, and/or operated by Defendants as required by Civil Code Sections 54 and 54.1. Defendants' facility violated California's Title 24 Accessible Building Code by failing to provide access to Defendants' facilities due to violations pertaining to the Space Allowance and Reach Ranges, Accessible Route, Protruding Objects, Ground and Floor Surfaces, Parking and Passenger Loading Zones, Curb Ramps, Ramps, Stairs, Elevators, Platform Lifts (Wheelchair Lifts), Windows, Doors, Entrances, Drinking Fountains and Water Coolers, Water Closets, Toilet Stalls, Urinals, Lavatories and Mirrors, Sinks, Storage, Handrails, Grab Bars, and Controls and Operating Mechanisms, Alarms, Detectable Warnings, Signage, and Telephones. These violations denied Plaintiff's Member and Plaintiff(s) full and equal access to Defendants' facility. Thus, Plaintiff's Member and Plaintiff(s) was subjected to discrimination pursuant to Civil Code §§ 51, 52, and 54.1 because Plaintiff's Member and Plaintiff(s) was denied full, equal and safe access to Defendants' facility, causing severe emotional distress. The Disabled Persons Act is found in *sections 54* of the Civil Code, and has been around in some form on the statute books since the late 1960's--more than 20 years before the federal ADA. (See Stats. 1968, ch. 461.) The Disabled Persons Act begins with the statement in *subdivision (a) of section 54* that "Individuals with disabilities or medical conditions have the same right as the general public to the full and free use of ... public facilities, and other public places." (*β 54, subd. (a).*) *Section 54* is immediately followed by *section 54.1, subdivision (a)(3)* of which--in contrast to the more spartan reference to the ADA in *section 51*--specifically incorporates ADA regulations. The enforcement of *section 54* is to be found in *section 54.3. Subdivision (a)(3) of section 54.1* provides: " 'Full and equal access,' for purposes of this section in its application to transportation, means access that meets the standards of Titles II and III of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-336) and federal regulations adopted pursuant

1 thereto, except that, if the laws of this state prescribe higher standards, it shall mean access that meets those  
2 higher standards." *Subdivision (a) of section 54.3* provides in its entirety: "Any person or persons, firm or  
3 corporation who denies or interferes with admittance to or enjoyment of the public facilities as specified in  
4 *Sections 54 and 54.1* or otherwise interferes with the rights of an individual with a disability under *Section*  
5 *54, 54.1, and 54.2* is liable for each offense for the actual damages and any amount as may be determined  
6 by a jury, or the court sitting without a jury, up to a maximum of three times the amount of actual damages  
7 but in no case less than one thousand dollars (\$ 1,000), and attorney's fees as may be determined by the  
8 court in addition thereto, suffered by any person denied any of the rights provided in *Sections 54, 54.1, and*  
9 *54.2*. 'Interfere' for purposes of this section, includes, but is not limited to, preventing or causing the  
10 prevention of a guide dog, signal dog, or service dog from carrying out its functions in assisting a disabled  
11 person." *Section 54.3* was construed in the 1990 *Cafe Royale* decision as providing for strict liability--that  
12 is, liability without any need for intentional conduct--prior to the 1992 legislation which added both  
13 *subdivision (f) to section 51 and subdivision (c) of section 54* (back then in the context of the minimum  
14 penalty under *section 54.3* which was \$ 250; now it is \$ 1,000). *Cafe Royale* was a case decided prior to the  
15 enactment of the ADA, and contains not a word about federal law. It was also decided exclusively under  
16 *Civil Code section 54 et seq.*, and contains not one word on the Unruh Act. In *Cafe Royale*, a wheelchair  
17 user (a former deputy Attorney General and member of the Attorney General's task force on disability)  
18 discovered that he could not reach the main dining area of a tiered restaurant on his own, though the  
19 restaurant offered to lift him up the stairs. He declined an offer of help because it would attract attention  
20 and because he might be dropped in the process of being bodily picked up and moved. He sued the  
21 restaurant under *section 54.3* because of the absence of ramps or elevators to the second-tiered area. The  
22 restaurant thought that it had complied with the law because its architect thought, based on an informal  
23 conversation with an employee of the San Francisco building department, that a certain number of  
24 handicapped seating places was "all that was needed for compliance." (See *id. at. p. 174.*) The building  
25 department employee, however, gave the restaurant architect erroneous advice. In fact, the State Building  
26 Standards Code (required by *Government Code section 4450 et seq*) provided that all floors of a restaurant  
27 be on a common level or else accessible by either ramps or elevators. While a hardship exemption might be  
28



1 obtained, 75 percent of the main dining area would still need to be handicap accessible, and the Cafe  
 2 Royale's option of seating wheelchair patrons in the bar or having them carried to the common area was a  
 3 violation. On appeal, the fact of the violation was understood by all parties: "All parties agreed that Cafe  
 4 Royale's seating capacity was in violation of the handicap access requirements." (*Cafe Royale, supra*, 218  
 5 *Cal. App. 3d at p. 174.*) Hence issue was joined as to whether the restaurant's "good faith" belief that it was  
 6 "in compliance" (*ibid.*) was sufficient to deny the patron recovery under *section 54.3*. The trial court  
 7 thought so, but the appellate court disagreed. The appellate court reasoned thusly: the fact that *section 54.3*  
 8 said a person who "denies or interferes with admittance to or enjoyment of the public facilities as specified  
 9 in *section 54* and *54.1* ... is liable for each offense ... but in no case less than two hundred fifty dollars (\$  
 10 250) ... ." The court said: "The plain meaning of this language is that ordinarily minimum statutory damages  
 11 in the amount of \$ 250 must be awarded for a denial of equal access in violation of *section 54 et seq.*,  
 12 *notwithstanding the defendant's intent.*" (*Id. at p. 177.*) The *Cafe Royale* court reasoned that an  
 13 interpretation of *section 54.3* that included an element of intentional violation would, because the level of  
 14 compliance would diminish, yield "a result that is clearly repugnant to the statutory purpose." Further, the  
 15 Donald case held a Plaintiff need not visit the facility to sue for compliance. (*Id. at pp. 179-180.*) So the trial  
 16 court reversed the trial court judgment awarding the plaintiff nothing, and concluded that he was entitled to  
 17 the \$ 250 statutory minimum. (*See id. at pp. 180-181.*) Café Royale applies here. Thus, Defendants' good  
 18 faith efforts, if any, are irrelevant as is any reliance on a city building inspector.

19  
 20 **CLAIM II: Failure To Modify Practices, Policies And Procedures**

21 32. Based on the facts plead at ¶¶ 6-16 above and elsewhere herein this complaint, Defendants failed  
 22 and refused to provide a reasonable alternative by modifying its practices, policies, and procedures in that  
 23 they failed to have a scheme, plan, or design to assist Plaintiffs and/or others similarly situated in entering  
 24 and utilizing Defendants' services as required by Civil Code § 54.1. Thus, Plaintiff's Member and  
 25 Plaintiff(s) were subjected to discrimination in violation of Civil Code § 54.1.

26 **CLAIM III: Violation Of The Unruh Act**

27 33. Based on the facts plead at ¶¶ 6-16 above and elsewhere herein this complaint and because  
 28 Defendants violated the Civil Code § 51 by failing to comply with 42 United States Code §

1 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv) and 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(2), Defendants did and continue to knowingly discriminate  
2 against Plaintiffs and persons similarly situated in violation of Civil Code §§ 51, 52, and 54.1. Plaintiffs  
3 allege the access violations alleged here are so obvious as to implicate at least a prima facie case of  
4 discriminatory intent.

5 34. Based on the facts plead at ¶¶ 6-16 above, Claims I, II, and III of Plaintiffs' Second Cause Of  
6 Action above, and the facts elsewhere herein this complaint, Plaintiffs will suffer irreparable harm unless  
7 Defendants are ordered to remove architectural, non-architectural, and communication barriers at  
8 Defendants' public accommodation. Plaintiffs allege that Defendants' discriminatory conduct is capable of  
9 repetition, and this discriminatory repetition adversely impacts Plaintiffs and a substantial segment of the  
10 disability community. Plaintiffs allege there is a state and national public interest in requiring accessibility  
11 in places of public accommodation. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law to redress the discriminatory  
12 conduct of Defendants. Plaintiffs desire to return to Defendants' places of business in the immediate  
13 future. Accordingly, the Plaintiffs allege that a structural or mandatory injunction is necessary to enjoin  
14 compliance with state civil rights laws enacted for the benefit of individuals with disabilities.

15 35. Wherefore, Plaintiffs pray for damages and relief as hereinafter stated.  
16

17 DEMAND FOR JUDGMENT FOR RELIEF:

18  
19 A. For injunctive relief pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12188(a). Plaintiffs request this Court enjoin  
20 Defendants to remove all architectural barriers in, at, or on their facilities related to the following: Space  
21 Allowance and Reach Ranges, Accessible Route, Protruding Objects, Ground and Floor Surfaces, Parking  
22 and Passenger Loading Zones, Curb Ramps, Ramps, Stairs, Elevators, Platform Lifts (Wheelchair Lifts),  
23 Windows, Doors, Entrances, Drinking Fountains and Water Coolers, Water Closets, Toilet Stalls, Urinals,  
24 Lavatories and Mirrors, Sinks, Storage, Handrails, Grab Bars, and Controls and Operating Mechanisms,  
25 Alarms, Detectable Warnings, Signage, and Telephones.

26 B. For damages pursuant to Cal. Civil Code § 52 or 54.3

27 C. For attorneys fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988, 42 U.S.C. § 12205, and Cal. Civil Code § 51, 52;  
28

1 54.3;

2 D. A Jury Trial and;

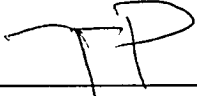
3 E. For such other further relief as the court deems proper.

4 Respectfully submitted:

**PINNOCK & WAKEFIELD, A.P.C.**

6

7 Dated: DECEMBER 26, 2006

By:  \_\_\_\_\_

8

THEODORE A. PINNOCK, ESQ.  
MICHELLE L. WAKEFIELD, ESQ.  
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

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JS44

(Rev. 07/89)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE SECOND PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

FILED

I (a) PLAINTIFFS TRIPPLE AAA ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

DEFENDANTS LA POPULAR TORTILLERIA, LLC; 2194 NATIONAL AVE SAN DIEGO, CA 92113-2209; and does 1 through 10, inclusive, Defendants.

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

(b) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF San Diego, CA (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED DEFENDANT San Diego, CA (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) BY: DEPUTY

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED

(c) ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER)

Theodore A. Pinnock, Esq. SBN 153434
Michelle L. Wakefield, Esq. SBN 200424
David C. Wakefield, Esq. SBN:185736
Pinnock & Wakefield; 3033 Fifth Avenue, Suite 410
San Diego, California 92103
Telephone: (619) 858-3671; Facsimile: (619) 858-3646

ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN)

06CV 2786IEG CAB

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (PLACE AN X IN ONE BOX ONLY)

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
2 U.S. Government Defendant
3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (PLACE AN X IN ONE BOX FOR PLAINTIFF AND ONE BOX FOR DEFENDANT)

- Citizen of This State
Citizen of Another State
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country
1 Incorporated or Principal Place of Business in This State
2 Incorporated and Principal Place of Business in Another State
3 Foreign Nation
4
5
6

IV. CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE US CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE. DO NOT CITE JURISDICTIONAL STATUTES UNLESS DIVERSITY).

42 U.S.C. Sections 12101-12102, 12181-12183, and 12201, Et. Seq.

V. NATURE OF SUIT (PLACE AN X IN ONE BOX ONLY)

Table with columns: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, PERSONAL INJURY, CIVIL RIGHTS, TORTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES.

VI. ORIGIN (PLACE AN X IN ONE BOX ONLY)

- 1 Original Proceeding
2 Removal from State Court
3 Remanded from Appellate Court
4 Reinstated or Reopened
5 Transferred from another district (specify)
6 Multidistrict Litigation
7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER f.r.c.p. 23 DEMAND \$ TO BE DETERMINED AT TRIAL Check YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: YES NO

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See Instructions): JUDGE

DATE December 26, 2006

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

Docket Number

Handwritten signature and docket number: 81 133247 350 12/27/06

UNITED STATES  
DISTRICT COURT  
Southern District of California  
San Diego Division

# 133247 - A3  
December 27, 2006

Code	Case #	Qty	Amount
CV086900	3-06-CV-2785		50.00 CC
	Judge - GONZALEZ		
CV086400			100.00 CC
CV510000			190.00 CC

Total -> 350.00

FROM: CIVIL FILING AAA ASSOC. FOR  
CHILDREN W/ DISABILITIES ET AL  
V. LA POPULAR TORTILLERIA ETAL  
VISA AUTH# 010473 - SH