

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
DALLAS DIVISION**

MARY KAY INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

JENNIFER BICKEL COOK,

Defendant.

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C.A. NO.:

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

**COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES, INJUNCTIVE, AND OTHER RELIEF FOR
VIOLATION OF 17 U.S.C. § 501, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a), AND RELATED CLAIMS**

Plaintiff Mary Kay Inc. (“Mary Kay”) brings this action against Defendant Jennifer Bickel Cook (“Cook”) for: (1) copyright infringement in violation of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 501; (2) false endorsement in violation of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a)(1)(A); (3) breach of contract under Texas common law; (4) misappropriation under Texas common law; (5) breach of fiduciary duty under Texas common law; and (6) tortious interference with existing contracts and business relationships under Texas common law. These claims arise from the misappropriation of Mary Kay’s intellectual property and proprietary information in connection with the publication of the book, *Pass It On: What I Learned from Mary Kay Ash* (the “Book”), in which Cook repackaged Mary Kay’s copyrighted books and sold the resulting collection as her own book. As a result of Cook’s misappropriation, consumers are likely to be confused and wrongly believe that the Book is sponsored, endorsed, approved by, affiliated, connected, or otherwise associated with Mary Kay. In support of its complaint, Mary Kay alleges as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. Cook occupied a position of the highest trust and confidence at Mary Kay for more than four decades. She served as the personal assistant to Company founder Mary Kay Ash and

later acted as Director of the Mary Kay Museum and the Mary Kay Foundation. Unfortunately, after her retirement from the Company, Cook used relationships and information gained in her former positions for her own benefit—and to the detriment of Mary Kay and its independent beauty consultants (“IBCs”)—by misappropriating Mary Kay’s intellectual property and proprietary information, by misleading others about her continuing association with Mary Kay, and by persuading members of the Mary Kay independent sales force (“Sales Force Members”) and others to promote, distribute and sell the Book to Mary Kay’s IBCs on social media and at live events by making them believe that Mary Kay supported and/or endorsed the Book.

2. In late September 2021, Mary Kay learned for the first time that Cook planned to publish the Book, that it would likely contain Mary Kay’s intellectual property and proprietary information, and that its publication date was just days away, on October 5, 2021. Mary Kay learned about the Book after Cook emailed an administrative assistant who worked for Mary Kay on September 24, 2021 asking for answers to questions about current Company information in advance of an interview she was providing a media outlet to promote the Book. Mary Kay requires that creative works by current or former employees be “personal” and “original,” and that the work, if it includes Company information, be submitted to Mary Kay for review and approval as to the content, form, and the proposed method of distribution. Mary Kay adopted this rule to protect its intellectual property and, just as importantly, to safeguard Mary Kay’s many IBCs, many of whom might wrongly believe that they are expected to purchase Mary Kay branded merchandise or creative works.

3. Mary Kay immediately asked Cook to provide a copy of the Book so that Mary Kay could review the contents. Although Cook promised that she would provide copies of the Book, she never did. Mary Kay’s outside counsel only received a PDF copy of the Book on

October 4, 2021—one day before the Book’s publication date. Only then did it become clear why Cook was so hesitant to provide the Book to Mary Kay before its publication: Cook’s Book is both replete with Mary Kay’s copyrighted works (containing no more than two to three chapters of original content about Cook’s own experiences and recollections) and appears designed to confuse consumers into thinking the Book is endorsed, sponsored, or approved by Mary Kay. Worse yet, Cook already began to market the Book to Sales Force Members by suggesting that Mary Kay endorsed the Book, planning to appear at Sales Force Member events, and using the Sales Force Members to promote, distribute and sell the Book for her. In light of this conduct, Mary Kay brings the following claims:

4. **Cook violated federal copyright laws by copying Mary Kay-owned copyrighted works:** Mary Kay holds the copyrights to three books and a calendar of quotes written by its founder Mary Kay Ash (the “Copyrighted Works”). In the Copyrighted Works, Mary Kay Ash tells the story of how she came to be one of America’s foremost women entrepreneurs and provides advice for others hoping to achieve the same success. The Book basically summarizes the contents of the Copyrighted Works—other than approximately two to three chapters of material regarding Cook’s own experiences—and even copies *verbatim* entire passages from the Copyrighted Works. Cook never asked permission to use the Copyrighted Works, and even tried to forestall Mary Kay from reviewing the Book before its publication.

5. **Cook violated the Lanham Act by creating a false endorsement:** Cook also sought to make it appear as though Mary Kay (and its founder Mary Kay Ash) endorsed the Book. The title expressly includes Mary Kay Ash’s name, and its cover is a pink similar to the Company’s well-recognized “Mary Kay Pink” and the color pattern Mary Kay Brand introduced during Cook’s employment. The Book includes a 15-page section of photographs of Mary Kay corporate events

dating back to 1972 (before Cook even joined Mary Kay). Cook also has clearly marketed the Book as being associated with Mary Kay, touting her own work at Mary Kay and her relationship with Mary Kay Ash in the Book's promotion, particularly as she has attempted to use Mary Kay's sales force to promote, distribute and sell the Book.

6. **Cook breached her fiduciary duty to Mary Kay, violated her Non-Disclosure Agreement, and misappropriated Mary Kay's proprietary information.** Cook owed fiduciary and contractual duties to Mary Kay to protect its proprietary information. She breached those duties by, among other things, creating the Book to compete against Mary Kay's own books that contain the same photos and stories, and by accessing Mary Kay's photographs in her role as Director of the Mary Kay Museum and/or from soliciting such photographs from Mary Kay IBCs and representatives in that same role. She also breached those duties by misappropriating Mary Kay's proprietary information for her own benefit, to Mary Kay's detriment.

7. **Cook intentionally and tortiously interfered with Sales Force Members' Contracts:** Finally, Cook used her position of trust with the Company and years of contacts at Mary Kay to convince Sales Force Members that Mary Kay endorsed and/or supported the Book and thus persuaded Sales Force Members to promote, distribute, and sell the Book. Because of Cook's conduct, Sales Force Members unwittingly agreed to let her attend sales force events, causing a situation where the members were violating the terms and conditions of their agreements with Mary Kay. Cook, who is well aware of the terms of those contracts, has intentionally encouraged these violations and failed to clarify that the Book was not in fact supported or endorsed by Mary Kay. Mary Kay closely polices these contractual provisions to protect its independent sales force, who might otherwise feel pressure to purchase Mary Kay branded products, due to just this sort of targeted solicitation.

8. Through this lawsuit, Mary Kay seeks to stop the solicitation of its sales force to promote, distribute and sell the Book and to prevent Cook from profiting from her copying and misuse of Mary Kay's Copyrighted Works and the Mary Kay brand.

PARTIES

9. Mary Kay is a corporation, organized under the laws of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business located at 16251 Dallas Parkway, Addison, Texas, 75001.

10. Jennifer Bickel Cook is a natural person. Mary Kay is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that she resides at 618 Hartin Circle, Irving, Texas, 75061.

JURISDICTION

11. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1331, 28 U.S.C. § 1338, and 28 U.S.C. § 1367. Mary Kay's federal claims are predicated on 17 U.S.C. § 501 and 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a), and its claims arising under the laws of the State of Texas are substantially related to its federal claims such that they form part of the same case or controversy under Article III of the United States Constitution.

12. This Court has specific personal jurisdiction over Cook because Cook is a resident of the State of Texas and the Northern District of Texas.

13. Venue is properly founded in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because a substantial part of the events giving rise to Mary Kay's claims occurred within this judicial district, or in the alternative because the Cook is subject to specific personal jurisdiction in this district.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. Mary Kay and Its Intellectual Property

14. Mary Kay is a global manufacturer and wholesale distributor of cosmetics, skin care products, toiletries, and other related products. Mary Kay's products are sold in over thirty-

five countries, including the United States (“U.S.”), and the Mary Kay brand is recognized for its quality worldwide.

15. Mary Kay devotes a significant amount of time, energy, and resources to protecting the value of its brand, products, name, and reputation. Mary Kay products are promoted to consumers on its MaryKay.com website, print and digital catalogues and various social media sites, among other media. Mary Kay products are sold to the public exclusively through Mary Kay IBCs, which currently number approximately 500,000 in the U.S. IBCs market these products direct to consumers utilizing, among other direct sales methods, personal websites accessed through MaryKay.com where customers can shop, browse, and communicate directly with their IBCs.

16. To promote and protect its intellectual property rights, Mary Kay has registered numerous copyrights and trademarks with both the U.S. Copyright Office and U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, respectively, and has maintained the confidentiality of its trade secrets and other confidential information (collectively, the “IP”). Relevant to this dispute, Mary Kay has registered the following Copyrighted Works with the U.S. Copyright Office:

- *You Can Have It All*, Copyright Reg. No. TX0004412762, from November 1, 1996;
- *Mary Kay*, Copyright Reg. No. TX0000842917, from January 25, 1982 (later renamed *Miracles Happen*);
- *On People Management*, Copyright Reg. No. TX0001449374, from November 6, 1984; and
- *Words of Wisdom* calendar of quotes, Copyright Reg. No. TX0006371107, from April 19, 2006.

17. In the Copyrighted Works, founder Mary Kay Ash tells the story of her success and how she become one of America's foremost businesswomen.

B. Cook's Agreements with Mary Kay

18. Cook held various positions with Mary Kay from approximately 1974 through July 1, 2017, through which she gained access to or knowledge of Mary Kay's proprietary information, including in her role as personal assistant to Company founder Mary Kay Ash. Cook's last position as Director of the Mary Kay Museum involved curating, documenting and organizing information, stories, photographs and documents relating to Mary Kay and Mary Kay Ash. Cook also was Director of the Mary Kay Foundation and paid by Mary Kay to attend independent sales force events, where she told stories to promote the legacy of Mary Kay Ash and gained access to the personal information of Mary Kay's independent sales force.

19. During her employment, Cook agreed to the terms of a Non-Disclosure Agreement (the "NDA") and to Mary Kay's internal code of conduct (the "Employee Handbook") in exchange for having access to Mary Kay's proprietary information. In exchange for these rights, Cook agreed that she would not use proprietary information for her own benefit (or the benefit of anyone else) and would not disclose that proprietary information to anyone else, even after her employment with Mary Kay ended. In the NDA, Cook acknowledged that her position with Mary Kay was "one of highest trust and confidence" given her access to Mary Kay's proprietary information, and she also agreed that she would not use that information for her own benefit (or the benefit of anyone else) and would not even disclose that information to anyone else. (*See* NDA, ¶¶ 2 & 3.)

20. The Employee Handbook also prohibited Cook from “using the Company’s logos, photos, trademarks, copyrights or any other intellectual property without the authorization of Mary Kay Inc.” (See Employee Handbook, pg. 16.)

21. Through her years of employment at Mary Kay, Cook became aware that Mary Kay’s standard agreements with its Sales Force Members prohibited those Sales Force Members from distributing, promoting, or selling Mary Kay branded merchandise that was not approved by Mary Kay.

C. In September 2021, Mary Kay Learned About the Book And Tried, Unsuccessfully, to Obtain a Copy to Review

22. In September 2021, Mary Kay learned that Cook planned to publish what she described as a memoir about her experiences with Mary Kay Ash that could possibly contain Mary Kay’s proprietary information and other IP, and that the publication date was October 5, 2021; only shortly thereafter.

23. Starting on September 27, 2021, Mary Kay made multiple requests that Cook provide a copy of the Book to Mary Kay so that Mary Kay could assure itself that Cook had not improperly used any of Mary Kay’s proprietary information or other IP. Mary Kay requires that creative works by current or former employees are “personal” and “original,” and, if the works included Company information, that such works be submitted to Mary Kay for review and approval as to the content, form, and the proposed method of distribution. Mary Kay has this rule to protect its IP and to guard against individuals taking advantage of Mary Kay’s IBCs, who may wrongly believe that they are required to purchase Mary Kay branded merchandise or creative works.

24. Although Cook at first promised that she would drop off copies of the Book by September 29, 2021 (less than a week before its planned publication date), she did not do so.

25. On September 29, 2021, Mary Kay's outside counsel wrote to Cook and her publisher. Mary Kay asked, among other things, that Cook provide it with a copy of the Book by no later than 5:00 PM the following day; that her publisher delay the publication of the Book until Mary Kay had a chance to review it to determine if it contained any of its proprietary information; and that Cook agree not to contact any IBCs to ask that they promote the Book in violation of their contracts with Mary Kay.

26. Cook did not respond until late afternoon on Friday, October 1, and the email misspelled outside counsel's email address such that counsel did not receive the email until Monday, October 4 (one day before the Book's publication date). In that email, Cook's representative provided a PDF of the Book, and that was the first time Mary Kay had an opportunity to review its contents.

D. The Book Copies Wholesale Portions of the Copyrighted Works

27. The Book was published on October 5, 2021. Upon information and belief, Cook intentionally withheld the Book from Mary Kay prior to its publication, despite Mary Kay's multiple efforts to receive a copy and warnings that the Book might contain Mary Kay's IP, because she wanted to delay Mary Kay's discovery of her use of its IP until after the Book was published.

28. The Book contains *verbatim* passages from pre-existing, Mary Kay-owned publications, and includes stories Cook was paid to tell at Mary Kay-sponsored events and curate for the Mary Kay Museum during her employment, as opposed to stories deriving from Cook's personal knowledge or interactions with Mary Kay Ash.

29. A review of the "End Notes" to the Book shows that Cook has access to – and indeed copied from – Mary Kay's Copyrighted Works, including copying portions of: (a) *You Can*

Have It All in seven chapters, (b) *Mary Kay* in five chapters, and (c) *On People Management* in three chapters, among other Copyrighted Works. Attached hereto as Appendix A is a selection of examples of Cook's copying.

30. Cook combined passages and stories from the Copyrighted Works and turned them into a new collection that she is passing off as a new book of "her" memoir and lessons "she" learned. In fact, the Book contains just two to three chapters of original content—Cook's personal thoughts and observations—and the remaining chapters are paraphrases or verbatim copies of the Copyrighted Works and of stories Cook gathered from employees and members of the Mary Kay independent sales force as part of her role as Director of the Mary Kay Museum. As but one example, Cook repeats the same story in the Book (*see* pages 12-13) that appears in the section "Lighten Up" from Mary Kay's *You Can Have It All*.

31. Cook never asked permission of Mary Kay to use the Copyrighted Works (much less copy entire passages wholesale) and, as noted above, tried to forestall Mary Kay from reviewing the Book.

32. Through her advertisement and sales of the Book, Cook is infringing Mary Kay's IP, and Mary Kay has been damaged by this conduct. Mary Kay is entitled to injunctive relief because Cook will otherwise continue to unlawfully infringe the Mary Kay IP. Cook's ongoing illegal conduct has caused, and will continue to cause, irreparable harm to Mary Kay's reputation, goodwill, business relationships, and IP.

33. Cook's use of Mary Kay's proprietary material is also a violation of her NDA, the Employee Handbook, and of her fiduciary duty to her former employer, as well as constitutes common law misappropriation.

E. Cook Has Portrayed the Book as Endorsed by Mary Kay

34. Given her presence at Mary Kay events and her prominent role in the Company prior to her departure, consumers are likely to be confused and wrongly believe that the Book is in some way sponsored, endorsed, approved by, affiliated, connected, or otherwise associated with Mary Kay. Cook also has caused Sales Force Members in specific to believe that Mary Kay endorses or supports the Book.

35. Moreover, the title expressly includes Mary Kay Ash's name, and its cover is a pink similar to the Company's well-recognized "Mary Kay Pink" and the Mary Kay Brand style guide. The Book includes 15 pages of photographs from corporate events. Cook also has clearly marketed the Book as being associated with Mary Kay, touting her work at Mary Kay and relationship with Mary Kay Ash. A media interview of Cook was mostly about Mary Kay, and included an iconic photograph of Mary Kay Ash with her dog and her pink Cadillac.

36. Mary Kay is harmed in several respects by consumers (and its Sales Force Members) wrongly believing that the Book is affiliated or associated with Mary Kay. Mary Kay also seeks to protect its IBCs from wrongfully feeling pressure to purchase the Book.

37. As a proximate result of Cook's actions, Mary Kay has suffered, and will continue to suffer, significant monetary harm including, but not limited to, loss of sales, damage to the value of its IP, harm to the goodwill associated with its family of brands, and damage to its existing and potential business relations.

38. Mary Kay is entitled to injunctive relief because Cook will otherwise continue to cause consumers to wrongly believe that the Book is affiliated with Mary Kay. Cook's ongoing illegal conduct has caused, and will continue to cause, irreparable harm to Mary Kay's reputation, goodwill, business relationships, and IP.

39. Cook's disregard of Mary Kay's cease-and-desist letter shows that Cook's conduct is knowing, intentional, willful, malicious, and wanton.

F. Cook Is Encouraging Sales Force Members to Violate their Agreements with Mary Kay By Asking Them to Promote, Distribute, and Sell the Book

40. Mary Kay enters into standard agreements with its Sales Force Members. Those agreements prohibit the Sales Force Members from promoting, distributing, or selling products that are not official Mary Kay products.

41. Based on her time at Mary Kay, Cook has personal information and/or the means to communicate with many Sales Force Members. Cook used her position of trust with the Company and years of contacts at Mary Kay to convince Sales Force Members that Mary Kay endorsed and/or supported the Book and thus persuaded Sales Force Members to promote, distribute, and sell the Book. Because of Cook's conduct, Sales Force Members unwittingly agreed to let her attend sales force events, causing a situation where the members were violating the terms and conditions of their agreements with Mary Kay. Cook, who is well aware of the terms of those contracts, has intentionally encouraged these violations and failed to clarify that the Book was not in fact supported or endorsed by Mary Kay.

42. Despite having knowledge of this prohibition, Cook willfully, intentionally and knowingly interfered with contracts of Sales Force Members by actively encouraging them to promote, distribute and sell the Book through these channels.

43. By encouraging the members to promote, distribute, and sell the Book, Cook caused and induced them to violate their agreements with Mary Kay.

44. Cook had no legal right, privilege, or justification for her conduct.

45. As a proximate result of Cook's actions, Mary Kay has suffered, and will continue to suffer, actual damages for which it is entitled to recover.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

**Copyright Infringement
17 U.S.C. § 501**

46. Mary Kay re-alleges and incorporates the allegations set forth in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

47. Mary Kay has registered copyrights with the U.S. Copyright Office for the Copyrighted Works described above.

48. Cook had access to the Copyrighted Works and directly references them in each chapter of the Book, including copying from the Copyrighted Works *verbatim* without commentary and without any transformative elements, as shown in Appendix A.

49. The registrations of the Copyrighted Works are valid, subsisting, and in full force and effect.

50. Cook has willfully and knowingly used the Copyrighted Works as set forth in the foregoing paragraphs.

51. Cook is not, and has never been, authorized to use the Copyrighted Works.

52. Cook's use of the Copyrighted Works in connection with her Book uses the "heart" of the underlying works and directly harms the market for the Mary Kay Books by replicating key passages.

53. As a proximate result of Cook's actions, Mary Kay has suffered, and will continue to suffer, great damage to its business, goodwill, reputation, and profits in an amount to be proven at trial.

54. Mary Kay is entitled to recover its damages caused by Cook's infringement of the Copyrighted Works and disgorge Cook's profits from her willfully infringing sales.

55. Mary Kay is entitled to injunctive relief under 15 U.S.C. § 1116 because it has no adequate remedy at law for Cook's infringement. Unless Cook is permanently enjoined, Mary Kay will suffer irreparable harm.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

False Endorsement

15 U.S.C. § 1125(a)(1)(A)

56. Mary Kay re-alleges and incorporates the allegations set forth in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

57. Under the Lanham Act, false endorsement occurs when a person's identity is connected with a product or service in such a way that consumers are likely to be misled about that person's sponsorship or approval of the product or service. The law prohibits the use of a false or misleading representation that is likely to cause confusion as to either the plaintiff's connection with the defendant's goods or services or as to the sponsorship or approval by plaintiff of the defendant's goods, services, or commercial activities.

58. In connection with the sales of the Book, Cook uses words, terms, names, and photographs which are likely to deceive consumers into wrongly believing that the Book is in some way sponsored, endorsed, approved by, affiliated, connected, or otherwise associated with Mary Kay. In specific, Cook caused Sales Force Members to believe that Mary Kay supported and/or endorsed the Book.

59. The Book, written from the perspective of a trusted friend of Mary Kay Ash, also infringes on the likeness of Mary Kay's founder with the unauthorized use of her words and well-known persona in a manner that creates consumer confusion of an endorsement that does not exist.

60. Mary Kay is entitled to recover its damages caused by Cook's false endorsement.

61. Mary Kay is entitled to injunctive relief under 15 U.S.C. § 1116 because it has no adequate remedy at law for Cook's false endorsement, and unless Cook is permanently enjoined, Mary Kay will suffer irreparable harm.

62. Mary Kay is entitled to enhanced damages and attorneys' fees under 15 U.S.C. § 1117(a) because Cook has willfully, intentionally, maliciously, and in bad faith engaged in false endorsement.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION
Texas Common Law Breach of Contract

63. Mary Kay re-alleges and incorporates the allegations set forth in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

64. This claim arises under the laws of the State of Texas. Under Texas law, a plaintiff has a claim for breach of contract if a valid contract exists, the plaintiff performed under the contract, the defendant breached the contract, and the plaintiff sustained damages as a result of the defendant's breach.

65. The NDA and Employee Handbook referenced above are valid, enforceable contracts.

66. Mary Kay performed or tendered performance of its contractual obligations under the NDA and the Employee Handbook.

67. As described above, Cook materially breached the NDA and Employee Handbook by using Mary Kay's proprietary information for her own benefit and the benefit of others.

68. Those breaches caused Mary Kay actual damages for which it is entitled to recover.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Texas Common Law Misappropriation

69. Mary Kay re-alleges and incorporates the allegations set forth in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

70. This claim arises under the laws of the State of Texas. Under Texas law, common law appropriation occurs when the plaintiff's product was created through extensive time, labor, skill, and money; the defendant used that product in competition with the plaintiff, thereby gaining an advantage without the burden of the expense incurred by the plaintiff; and the plaintiff suffered damages as a result.

71. Mary Kay's proprietary information was created through the use of extensive labor, skill and money by Mary Kay employees and Mary Kay Ash herself.

72. Mary Kay owns the proprietary information, all of which remains valid and subsisting in full force and effect.

73. Cook knowingly, willfully and intentionally used Mary Kay's proprietary information in the Book, directly competing with Mary Kay's publications, all of which was obtained while she was a paid employee of Mary Kay at no additional cost.

74. Cook's misappropriation of Mary Kay's proprietary information has proximately caused Mary Kay damages for which it is entitled to recover.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Texas Common Law Breach of Fiduciary Duty

75. Mary Kay re-alleges and incorporates the allegations set forth in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

76. This claim arises under the laws of the State of Texas. Under Texas law, a defendant has breached a fiduciary duty when a fiduciary relationship exists between parties, the fiduciary engages in an action that is not fair and equitable or does not make reasonable use of the confidence

placed in it, and the act was a proximate cause of the plaintiff's damages and actual damage or loss occurred.

77. When one person is under a duty, created by law or contract, to act on or give advice for the benefit of another within the scope of the relationship (such as an employer-employee relationship), that person has a fiduciary relationship with the other person.

78. Employees, as part of their fiduciary duties, owe a duty of loyalty and utmost good faith to their employers and are obligated to act in their employers' interests, and are obligated under this duty not to divulge their employers' trade secrets and proprietary information both during their employment and after termination.

79. Cook and Mary Kay were subject to an employer-employee fiduciary relationship for more than forty years, with obligations of loyalty that continued after Cook's departure from Mary Kay.

80. Cook has known of her fiduciary duties as a former Mary Kay employee herself by signing the NDA and terms of the Employee Handbook.

81. Despite having knowledge of this duty, Cook willfully, intentionally and knowingly included elements of and references to Mary Kay's proprietary information that Cook had a fiduciary duty to keep confidential both as an employee and after her departure from Mary Kay in the Book; not making reasonable use of the confidence placed in her by Mary Kay.

82. As a proximate result of Cook's actions, Mary Kay has suffered, and will continue to suffer, actual damages for which it is entitled to recover.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Texas Common Law Tortious Interference

83. Mary Kay re-alleges and incorporates the allegations set forth in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

84. This claim arises under the laws of the State of Texas. Under Texas law, a defendant has tortiously interfered if a contract exists subject to interference, the defendant intentionally or willfully interfered with the contract, the act was a proximate cause of the plaintiff's damages and actual damage or loss occurred.

85. Mary Kay enters into standard agreements with Sales Force members. Those agreements prohibit the members from promoting, distributing, or selling products that are not official Mary Kay products.

86. Cook has known of this prohibition on promoting, distributing and selling non-Mary Kay products as a former Mary Kay employee herself and because Mary Kay informed her of this prohibition in the cease and desist letter it sent on September 29, 2021.

87. Despite having knowledge of this prohibition, Cook willfully, intentionally and knowingly interfered with the contracts of members of Mary Kay's independent sales force. Cook convinced Sales Force Members that Mary Kay endorsed and/or supported the Book and thus persuaded Sales Force Members to promote, distribute, and sell the Book. Because of Cook's conduct, Sales Force Members unwittingly agreed to let her attend sales force events, causing a situation where the members were violating the terms and conditions of their agreements with Mary Kay.

88. By encouraging the Sales Force Members to promote, distribute, and sell the Book, Cook caused and induced the members to violate their agreements with Mary Kay.

89. Cook had no legal right, privilege, or justification for her conduct, and instigated a breach of the Sales Force Members' agreements with Mary Kay.

90. As a proximate result of Cook's actions, Mary Kay has suffered, and will continue to suffer, actual damages for which it is entitled to recover.

CONDITIONS PRECEDENT

91. All conditions precedent to Mary Kay's claims for relief, if any, have occurred or have been performed.

REQUEST FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES

92. Mary Kay is entitled to recover its attorneys' fees and costs for this action, pursuant to the federal and state law identified herein, and Mary Kay hereby seeks such recovery from Cook of all its reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees and costs for prosecuting this action and obtaining the relief requested herein.

JURY DEMAND

93. Mary Kay demands a trial by jury on all claims and issues so triable.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Mary Kay prays for relief and judgment as follows:

A. Judgment in favor of Mary Kay and against Cook in an amount to be determined at trial including, but not limited to, compensatory damages, statutory damages, treble damages, restitution, disgorgement of profits, punitive damages, exemplary damages, and pre-judgment and post-judgment interest as permitted by law;

B. That a permanent injunction be issued enjoining Cook as follows:

- i. Prohibiting Cook from advertising or selling, via the Internet or otherwise, the Book;
- ii. Requiring Cook to take all action to remove any reference to any of Mary Kay's products, or any of Mary Kay's IP (including the Copyrighted Works) from the Book; and
- iii. Requiring Cook to take all action, including but not limited to, requesting removal from the Internet search engines (such as Google, Yahoo!, and Bing), to remove from the Internet any of Mary Kay's IP which associate Mary Kay's products or Mary Kay's IP with Cook;

- iv. Prohibiting Cook from inducing Sales Force Members to violate their agreements with Mary Kay by promoting the Book.
- C. An award of attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses; and
- D. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just, equitable and proper.

DATE: October 15, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Christopher J. Schwegmann

Christopher J. Schwegmann

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ATTORNEYS FOR MARY KAY INC.

APPENDIX A

COMPARISON BETWEEN THE COPYRIGHTED WORKS AND *PASS IT ON*

The below compares sections from the Copyrighted Work, *You Can Have It All (1995)*, Copyright Reg. No. TX0004412762, from November 1, 1996, with sections from *Pass It On*. The text shown in red is identical.

<u>Original Work</u>	<u>Pass It On</u>
<p>“Prior to starting Mary Kay Cosmetics, while working in direct selling for Stanley Home Products, I was a single working mother supporting three children. During some of this time, I was also going to college. So I know firsthand how a single working mother toils. I had to work long hours, and sometimes the only way I could find enough hours in the day to get everything done was to cut back on my sleep. Needless to say, there were mornings when I would have preferred staying in bed for an extra hour or two, but I forced myself to get up. I also know what it’s like to spend an entire day working, away from my family, and then come home late at night without a single order. I know the disappointment of working for weeks with a new salesperson only to have him or her quit for one of a dozen different reasons. During my decades in direct sales, I’ve seen just about everything imaginable, and I try never to forget these experiences. I want to be able to recall them so I can relate to another person’s problems when she comes to me for guidance — or a shoulder to cry on.” (p. 7-8.)</p>	<p>“Prior to starting Mary Kay Cosmetics . . . I was a single working mother supporting three children . . . I know what it’s like to spend an entire day working, away from my family, and then come home late at night without a single order . . . I try never to forget these experiences. I want to be able to recall them so I can relate to another person’s problems when she comes to me for guidance — or a shoulder to cry on.” (p. 1, EN 1.1.)</p>
<p>“My priorities have always been God first, family second, career third. I have found that when I put my life in this order, everything seems to work out.” (p. xii.)</p>	<p>“My priorities have always been God first, family second, career third. I have found that when I put my life in this order, everything seems to work out.” (p. 21, EN 2.1.)</p>
<p>“Many people fail to see the humorous side of life, and consequently endure unnecessary stress. Oftentimes, situations that border on being catastrophic are actually rather amusing — later. Admittedly, you might have to look hard for something funny, but if you do, chances are you’ll find it.” (p. 244.)</p>	<p>“When those who knew her well talk about Mary Kay, her wonderful sense of humor always comes up. In her book <i>You Can Have It All</i>, she dedicates a whole chapter to humor, advising readers that ‘many people fail to see the humorous side of life, and consequently endure unnecessary stress. Oftentimes, situations that border on catastrophic are actually rather amusing — later. Admittedly, you might have to look hard for something funny, but if you do, chances are you’ll find it.’” (p. 27, EN 2.4.)</p>
<p>“I believe that each of us has God-given talents within us waiting to be brought to fruition.” (p. 9.)</p>	<p>“I believe that each of us has God-given talents within us waiting to be brought to fruition.” (p. 41, EN 4.1.)</p>

<u>Original Work</u>	<u>Pass It On</u>
<p>“My priorities have always been God first, family second, career third. I have found that when I put my life in this order, everything seems to work out. This is what we believe at Mary Kay Cosmetics. With trust in God, our firm has soared to astonishing heights in the business world, with annual sales approaching \$2 billion at the retail level. God was my first priority early in my career when I was struggling to make ends meet; through the failures and successes I have experienced since then, my faith has remained unshaken.” (p. xii.)</p>	<p>“Today, some people feel that Mary Kay’s priorities and teachings are outdated, but Mary Kay understood that a woman’s priorities were important to her. As she affirmed, ‘My priorities have always been God first, family second, career third. I have found that when I put my life in this order, everything seems to work out . . . God was my first priority early in my career when I was struggling to make ends meet; through the failures and successes I have experienced since then, my faith has remained unshaken.’” (p. 44, EN 4.4.)</p>
<p>“It is important to remember that you do not have to change a certain number of lives. By reaching out to just one person, you can make a difference. That person can be anyone — a child, a friend, a customer, a homeless person, any one at all. We make a difference in many ways. We do it when we perform a random act of kindness for a stranger or a series of and-then-somes for a loved one; the list is endless. You don’t have to win the Nobel Peace Prize, find a cure for cancer, or alter the course of civilization. Making a difference requires only your willingness to give to others — the more often the better.” (p. 216-217.)</p>	<p>“It is important to remember that you do not have to change a certain number of lives. By reaching out to just one person, you can make a difference. That person can be anyone—a child, a friend, a customer, a homeless person, anyone at all . . . You don’t have to win the Nobel Peace Prize . . . Making a difference requires only your willingness to give to others — the more often the better.” (p. 87, EN 7.1.)</p>
<p>“Do your kind deeds without expecting anything in return, and over the course of time, good will come back to you.” (p. 209.)</p>	<p>“Mary Kay Inc. and The Mary Kay Foundation are stepping-stones that enrich women’s lives. These organizations are built on a foundation of giving to others, knowing that in doing so, a person’s life is blessed. As Mary Kay stated in her 1995 book You Can Have It All, ‘Do your kind deeds without expecting anything in return, and over the course of time, good will come back to you.’” (p. 96, EN 7.3.)</p>
<p>“Remember, it’s a two-way street. While a sales director may adopt somebody in her city, it’s just as likely that one of her consultants will be adopted somewhere else. Over a period of time, the efforts average out.” (p. 162.)</p>	<p>“For example, a Sales Director in Dallas could arrange for a Sales Director in Houston to adopt one of her Beauty Consultants and invite her to attend sales meetings and participate in her events. As Mary Kay pointed out, ‘Remember, it’s a two-way street. While a Sales Director may adopt somebody in her city, it’s just as likely that one of her Consultants will be adopted somewhere else. Over a period of time, the efforts average out.’” (p. 116, EN 9.4.)</p>
<p>“Our belief in God should never be checked at the door when we punch a time clock. Faith is a 24-hour-a-day commitment. Many women have made the mistake of changing their beliefs to accommodate their work; it must be the other way around. No circumstance is so unusual that it demands a double standard or separates us from our faith.” (p. xii.)</p>	<p>“Our belief in God should never be checked at the door when we punch a time clock. Faith is a 24-hour-a-day commitment. Many women have made the mistake of changing their beliefs to accommodate their work; it must be the other way around. No circumstance is so unusual that it demands a double standard or separates us from our faith.” (p. 141, EN 11.1.)</p>

<u>Original Work</u>	<u>Pass It On</u>
<p>“God was my first priority early in my career when I was struggling to make ends meet; through the failures and successes I have experienced since then, my faith has remained unshaken.” (p. xii)</p>	<p>“Mary Kay’s relationship with God was at the core of her company. As she states in <i>You Can Have It All</i>, ‘God was my first priority early in my career when I was struggling to make ends meet; through the failures and successes I have experienced since then, my faith has remained unshaken.’ Her life philosophy was, ‘God first, family second, and career third.’ Company meetings and meals opened with prayer. Mary Kay took God as her partner, and she always gave Him the credit for any success she might have.” (p. 141, EN 11.2.)</p>
<p>“Most successful people will tell you: ‘If it were not for the help of other people, I wouldn’t be where I am today.’ I believe that everybody who accomplishes something great has had help from someone. Somebody, somewhere, provided a spark of inspiration, offered a challenge, or held out a hand along the way.” (p. 157.)</p>	<p>“Most successful people will tell you: ‘If it were not for the help of other people, I wouldn’t be where I am today.’ I believe that everybody who accomplishes something great has had help from someone. Somebody, somewhere, provided a spark of inspiration, offered a challenge, or held out a hand along the way.” (p. 157, EN 12.1.)</p>

The below compares sections from the Copyrighted Work, *Mary Kay (1981)*, Copyright Reg. No. TX0000842917, from January 25, 1982 (later renamed *Miracles Happen*), with sections from *Pass It On*. The text shown in red is identical.

<u>Original Work</u>	<u>Pass It On</u>
<p>“Taking the wigs out of our line turned out to be an excellent decision. Our Consultants zeroed in on the skin-care products, and our sales climbed \$20,000 the very next month.” (p. 36).</p>	<p>“This proved to be a wise business decision because, once the salesforce concentrated solely on skin care, sales increased by \$20,000 the very next month.” (p. 9, EN 1.6.)</p>
<p>“I believe we have found success because God has led us all the way.” (p. 60.)</p>	<p>“Mary Kay’s relationship with God was also at the core of her new company. Her life philosophy was, ‘God first, family second, and career third.’ Company meetings and meals opened with prayer. She took God as her business partner, and she always gave Him the credit for any success she might have. She wanted her company to not only help women financially, but also emotionally and spiritually. She wove her faith into everything she did: her speeches, her correspondence, and her actions. In her autobiography, Mary Kay insisted, ‘I believe we found success because God has led us all the way.’” (p. 11, EN 1.7.)</p>
<p>“But I firmly believe that the happiest people are not the ones with the most money but the ones who truly enjoy their work. For me, work is a thrill. Even today, I get up at five every morning and start on my list of the ‘six most important things I must do today.’ I love the sense of accomplishment that I feel when that list is completed. I have often said that I enjoy what I do so much that I would work for nothing!” (p. 132.)</p>	<p>“As Mary Kay stated, ‘I firmly believe that the happiest people are not the ones with the most money, but the ones who really enjoy their work . . . I realized that the real thrill was in being able to do the work I loved . . . I’ve often said that I enjoy what I do so much that I would work for nothing!’” (p. 55, EN 4.12.)</p>
<p>“Whatever the reason, someday I will no longer be here. When that day comes, I know our National Sales Directors will carry on magnificently in my place.” (p. 175.)</p>	<p>“Whatever the reason, someday I will no longer be here. When that day comes, I know our National Sales Directors will carry on magnificently in my place.” (p. 169, EN 13.1.)</p>
<p>“Years ago, I worried about what might happen to the company if I were no longer involved. I felt a deep responsibility to the thousands and thousands of people associated with Mary Kay Cosmetics. The company had come so far so quickly that I wanted to be certain it could grow and prosper without me.” (p. 175.)</p>	<p>“Years ago, I worried about what might happen to the company if I was no longer here. I felt a deep responsibility to the thousands and thousands of people involved with Mary Kay Cosmetics. The company had come so far so quickly that I wanted to be sure it could grow and prosper without me.” (p. 175, EN 14.1.)</p>

The below compares sections from the Copyrighted Work, *Mary Kay (3d Ed. 1994)*, Copyright Reg. No. TX0000842917, from January 25, 1982 (later renamed *Miracles Happen*), with sections from *Pass It On*. The text shown in red is identical.

<u>Original Work</u>	<u>Pass It On</u>
<p>“People change and even product change. But over the course of time it’s the strength of a company’s philosophy that will determine whether or not it endures. The Mary Kay philosophy rests upon three simple and beautiful ideas... Years ago, I worried about what might happen to the company if I were no longer involved. I felt a deep responsibility to the thousands and thousands of people associated with Mary Kay Cosmetics. The company had come so far so quickly that I wanted to be certain it could grow and prosper without me. It had helped so many beautiful women that I wanted to know that those golden opportunities would always be there. I was possessed with the desire to leave a legacy. I know now that my legacy is assured. The company has my name, but it also has a life of its own. And its life’s blood is the philosophy that many thousands of women have made a part of their lives.” (p. 173-175.)</p>	<p>“In the last chapter of her autobiography, ‘Living a Legacy,’ Mary Kay advised, ‘People change and even products change. But over the course of time it’s the strength of a company’s philosophy that will determine whether or not it endures . . . Years ago, I worried about what might happen to the company if I were no longer involved . . . The company had come so far so quickly that I wanted to be certain it would grow and prosper without me . . . I was possessed with the desire to leave a legacy. I know now that my legacy is assured. The company has my name, but it also has a life of its own. And its life’s blood is the philosophy that many thousands of women have made a part of their lives.’” (p. 184, EN 14.8.)</p>
<p>“Because I have a fetish about starting each day with a clean desk, I take home whatever is left when I leave in the afternoon and do it at night or early in the morning of the next day so that when I arrive at the office, everything is finished from the day before.” (p. 187.)</p>	<p>“Because I have a fetish about starting each day with a clean desk, I take home whatever is left when I leave in the afternoon and do it at night or early in the morning of the next day so that when I arrive at the office, everything is finished from the day before.” (p. 35, EN 3.1.)</p>
<p>“Let people know that you appreciate them and their performance, and they’ll respond by doing even better. Applause and the recognition it represents are among the world’s most powerful forces.” (p. 151-152.)</p>	<p>“Mary Kay believed in praising people to success. As she stated in her autobiography, ‘Let people know that you appreciate them and their performance, and they’ll respond by doing even better. Applause and the recognition it represents are among the world’s most powerful forces.’” (p. 118, EN 9.5.)</p>
<p>“Well, I never considered myself a prize — just an ordinary woman with extraordinary determination.” (p. 192)</p>	<p>“Years later, at Mary Kay Inc.’s thirtieth anniversary, a Stanley executive who had worked with Mary Kay when she was a young saleswoman came to Seminar and personally delivered an alligator handbag to her. He said, ‘Mary Kay considers this handbag to be the prize that got away. At Stanley, we consider the prize that got away to be Mary Kay.’ In her autobiography, Mary Kay commented, ‘Well, I never considered myself a prize — just an ordinary woman with extraordinary determination.’” (p. 125, EN 9.9.)</p>

The below compares sections from the Copyrighted Work, *Mary Kay on People Management (1984)*, Copyright Reg. No. TX0001449374, from November 6, 1984, with sections from *Pass It On*. The text shown in red is identical.

<u>Original Work</u>	<u>Pass It On</u>
<p>“Yes, we keep our eye on the bottom line, but it’s not an overriding obsession. To me, P and L doesn’t only mean profit and loss — it also means people and love.” (p. xix.)</p>	<p>“Yes, we keep our eye on the bottom line, but it’s not an overriding obsession. To me, P and L doesn’t only mean profit and loss — it also means people and love.” (p. 57, EN 5.1.)</p>
<p>“The most important justification for being in business is service to others.” (p. 91.)</p>	<p>“Serving others is one of the primary reasons Mary Kay started her company. ‘The most important justification for being in business is service to others,’ she insisted. Mary Kay wanted to start a company where women would have the chance to achieve. She had experienced frustration in her own career by not having the opportunity to climb the ladder of success, and she wanted to provide for women what she had been denied. What thrilled Mary Kay the most was hearing success stories from the sales force of how their Mary Kay businesses had helped them afford braces for their children or helped to put them through college. These personal stories from Mary Kay Beauty Consultants made it all worthwhile for Mary Kay.” (p. 60, EN 5.3.)</p>
<p>“It has been said that rich people are just poor people with money. The winner of a \$5-million lottery is the same person the day after he wins — except that he’s \$5 million richer. The money will, of course, make a difference in his life. But if as a result of his winnings he becomes arrogant, overbearing, haughty, and self-important, he will lose the respect of others.” (p. 151.)</p>	<p>“It has been said that rich people are just poor people with money. The winner of a \$5-million lottery is the same person the day after he wins — except that he’s \$5 million richer. The money will, of course, make a difference in his life. But if as a result of his winnings he becomes arrogant, overbearing, haughty, and self-important, he will lose the respect of others.” (p. 97, EN 8.1.)</p>
<p>“Many of the unpleasant experiences in my previous career taught me the rules for dealing with people.” (p. 4.)</p>	<p>“Many of the unpleasant experiences in my previous career taught me the rules for dealing with people.” (p. 107, EN 9.1)</p>

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 NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

Mary Kay Inc.

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Dallas (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Chris Schwegmann, Lynn Pinker Hurst & Schwegmann, 2100 Ross Avenue, Suite 2700, Dallas, Texas 75201

DEFENDANTS

Jennifer Bickel Cook

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

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

Attorneys (If Known)

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, PTF DEF, Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State, Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State, Foreign Nation

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.

Table with columns: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, CIVIL RIGHTS, TORTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES. Includes various legal categories like Personal Injury, Property Damage, Labor, etc.

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 Original Proceeding, 2 Removed from State Court, 3 Remanded from Appellate Court, 4 Reinstated or Reopened, 5 Transferred from Another District, 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer, 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 17 USC 501; 15 USC 1125. Brief description of cause: Copyright Act and Lanham Act

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: [X] Yes [] No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

DATE 10/15/2021 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/ Christopher J. Schwegmann

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

Case 3:21-cv-02543-C Document 1-2 Filed 10/15/21 Page 2 of 2 PageID 30
INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading 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. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
 United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
 Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
 Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions](#).
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
 Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
 Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441.
 Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
 Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
 Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.
 Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.
 Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.
 Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related cases, if any. If a related case exists, whether pending or closed, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases. A case is related to this filing if the case: 1) involves some or all of the same parties and is based on the same or similar claim; 2) involves the same property, transaction, or event; 3) involves substantially similar issues of law and fact; and/or 4) involves the same estate in a bankruptcy appeal.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.