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                  Superior Court of the State of California
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                               County of Orange
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     ROSE MARY GEORGE-ANN FINOCCHI;
                                       Case: 30-2020-01164696-CU-MM-CJC
     JOSHUA JOSEPH CONLEY; RHEA JOY
     FINOCCHI; NATHAN ROSS FINOCCHI;
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                                       Judge: Martha K. Gooding
     ZACHARY RUCKER; NYNA FINOCCHI
SPROUSE; DANIEL PAUL FINOCCHI;
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                                       Complaint Filed:
     CURTIS JOHN MICHAEL FINOCCHI;
                                       Trial Date Set: 01/03/2023
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     LISA ROBIN FINOCCHI;
                              TRAVIS
                                       PLAINTIFFS' THIRD AMENDED
     FINOCCHI; and ANGELA FINOCCHI
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                                       COMPLAINT FOR:
               Plaintiffs,
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          VS.
                                       1) Medical Negligence [Wrongful
                                       Death]
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     ORANGE COUNTY GLOBAL MEDICAL
     CENTER, INC.; JOHN W.
                               CHEN,
                                       2) Intentional Infliction of
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              M.M.
                      SHAH,
                               M.D.;
                                       Emotional
     M.D.;
                                                    Distress
     CHRISTOPHER T.
                        LANE,
                               M.D.;
19
                              ORANGE
                                       3) Fraudulent Deceit and
            NEUROLOGY
                         OF
     COUNTY, INC. AND DOES 1 THROUGH | Concealment
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     50, INCLUSIVE
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               Defendants.
                                       JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
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COME NOW Plaintiffs, ROSE MARY GEORGE-ANN FINOCCHI; JOSHUA JOSEPH CONLEY ("Joshua"); DANIEL PAUL FINOCCHI, In Pro Per; TRAVIS FINOCCHI; and ANGELA FINOCCHI (collectively "Plaintiffs") and allege the following against ORANGE COUNTY GLOBAL MEDICAL CENTER, INC. ("OCGMC"), a California corporation; ELITE NEUROLOGY OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC., a California corporation; JOHN W. CHEN, M.D., an

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individual; M. M. SHAH, M.D., an individual; CHRISTOPHER T. LANE, 1 M.D. an individual; and DOES 1 through 50, Inclusive, (collectively 2 "Defendants"). Prior plaintiffs, LISA ROBIN FINOCCHI, 3 FINOCCHI SPROUSE, CURTIS JOHN MICHAEL FINOCCHI, ZACHARY RUCKER, NATHAN ROSS FINOCCHI and RHEA JOY FINOCCHI, are relatives of the 5 Decedent, and were initially Plaintiffs in this case who have filed 6 7 dismissals prior to the filing and service of this Third Amended Complaint by leave of Court granted upon the Court's sustaining of 8 Defendant's Demurrer to Plaintiff's Second Amended Complaint. All 9 10 or some of these Plaintiffs may be subject to later motions to set 11 aside those dismissals as not having been authorized by said

Plaintiffs under Code of Civil Procedure §473c.

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THE PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff, ROSE MARY GEORGE-ANN FINOCCHI [hereinafter "Rose"] is an individual residing within the City of Long Beach, County of Los Angeles, in the State of California. Plaintiff Rose is the Decedent, PETER FINOCCHI's [hereinafter "Decedent" or "Peter"] sister and was appointed Legal Guardian for Peter when he was 14 years of age (as well as for three other siblings) in 1972 by Orange County Family Court.
- 2. Plaintiff, JOSHUA JOSEPH CONLEY [hereinafter "Joshua"] is an individual residing within the State of Texas. Plaintiff Joshua is the Decedent's son.
- 3. Plaintiff, DANIEL PAUL FINOCCHI [hereinafter "Daniel"] is an individual residing within the State of California. Plaintiff Daniel is the Decedent's brother.
- 4. Plaintiff, TRAVIS FINOCCHI [hereinafter "Travis"] is an individual residing within the State of California. Plaintiff

- 5. Plaintiff, ANGELA FINOCCHI [hereinafter "Angela"] is an individual residing within the State of California. Plaintiff Angela is the Decedent's niece by marriage.
- 6. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants ORANGE COUNTY GLOBAL MEDICAL CENTER, INC. [hereinafter "Orange County Medical Center"] is, and at all times relevant herein, a corporation or other form of business entity organized under the laws of the State of California and doing business in the County of Orange, State of California with a principal place of business at: 1001 Tustin Ave., Santa Ana, CA 92705. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Orange County Global, Inc. is an acute care hospital and medical center where the decedent, Peter Finocchi, was originally transported to via ambulance (paramedics) for critical emergency care and was then admitted as an in-patient on or about June 28, 2019 until his death on July 11, 2019.
- 7. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that SUMANTA CHAUDHURI, M.D. [hereinafter "Dr. Chaudhuri"] is an individual residing and working within the County of Orange, State of California. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and allege thereon that Dr. Chaudhuri is and at all times relevant herein was, practicing as a chief medical officer or other officer, supervisor, director or part owner of ORANGE COUNTY GLOBAL MEDICAL CENTER in the State of California.
- 8. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that Defendant JOHN W. CHEN, M.D. [hereinafter "Dr. Chen"] is an individual residing and working within the County of Orange,

- 9. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that Defendant M. M. SHAH, M.D. [hereinafter "Dr. Shah"] is an individual residing and working within the County of Orange, State of California. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and allege thereon that Defendant Dr. Shah is and at all times relevant herein was, practicing as a licensed physician and surgeon in the field of neurology in the State of California as a consulting and/or treating physician affiliated with Defendant, Orange County Global Medical Center and DOES 25 through 50 and providing medical care and treatment to Peter at the request of Orange County Global Medical Center and DOES 25 through 50 as an emergency/critical care patient.
- 10. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that Defendant CHRISTOPHER T. LANE, M.D. [hereinafter "Dr. Lane"] is an individual residing and working within the County of Orange, State of California. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and allege thereon that Defendant Dr. Lane is and at all times relevant herein was, practicing as a licensed physician and surgeon in the field of general surgery in the State of

through 50 as an emergency/critical care patient.

- 11. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that Defendant ELITE NEUROLOGY OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.

 [hereinafter "Elite, Inc."] is, and at all times relevant herein, a corporation or other business entity organized under the laws of the State of California and doing business in the County of Orange, State of California with a principal place of business at: 2617 E. Chapman Avenue, Suite 101, Orange, CA 92869.

 Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Elite, Inc. is a medical group specializing in neurology which was founded, owned and/or operated by defendant, JOHN W. CHEN, M.D..
- 12. Plaintiffs are ignorant of the true names and capacities of the defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 25, inclusive, and DOES 25 through 50, inclusive, and therefore sues Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and based thereon allege, that Defendants DOES 1 to 50 are in some manner liable to Plaintiffs for wrongful death (medical negligence), intentional infliction of emotional distress and/or deceit and concealment alleged herein and therefore sue said defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiffs will amend this Complaint to allege the true names, identities and capacities of DOES Defendants when the same have been ascertained.

allege that at all times relevant herein, Defendants, including those named herein above and as DOES 1 through 25, were principals, physicians, medical groups, laboratories, corporations, professional partnerships/corporations or other types of business entities, whom acted as the agents or principal of each other and in doing the acts alleged herein, they acted within the purpose, scope, course and parameters of that agent/principal relationship and with the knowledge and/or consent, either express or implied of the remaining Defendants and that Plaintiffs' losses and damages, as herein alleged, were proximately caused by and the result of the Defendant's intentional and/or negligent, direct and/or indirect, actions and/or other acts or omissions causing Peter's death and injury

Plaintiffs are informed and believe and based thereon

14. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and allege that at all times relevant herein, Defendants, including those named herein as DOES 25 through 50, inclusive, were owners, officers, directors, managers, supervisors, employees and/or agents of Defendants Orange County Global Inc., Elite Inc., Dr. Chen or Dr. Lane and Does 1 to 25 in the capacity of doctors, health care professionals, group medical specialists, medical technicians, medical assistants or other types of professional healthcare providers and were acting within the course and scope of their medical capacity, agency, consultation, employment with the permission, consent, and knowledge of Defendants Orange County Global Inc., Elite Inc., Dr. Chen and/or Dr. Lane.

to the Plaintiffs as herein alleged.

15. The Plaintiffs named hereinabove shall be referenced

throughout this complaint individually or where appropriate collectively as "Plaintiffs."

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 16. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in all previous paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 17. This Court has jurisdiction over the causes of action asserted herein pursuant to the California Constitution, Article VI section 10, because this case is a cause not directed by statute to other trial courts.
- 18. This Court has jurisdiction over each and every defendant named herein because they conduct business in, reside and/or are citizens of the County of Orange, State of California. 19.

Venue is proper in this Court because defendants' wrongful acts and Plaintiffs' injuries occurred within the County of Orange. Therefore, venue is proper in the County of Orange pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure sections 395 and 395.5.

ALLEGATIONS AS TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION

- 20. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in all previous paragraphs (1-19) as though fully set forth herein.
- 21. On Friday, June 28, 2019, Decedent/Peter was hit by an auto. He was transported by emergently to Orange County Global Medical Center Emergency Room, still alive but in extremely critical condition. In the Emergency Room medical records Peter was listed as an "organ donor" and a representative for One Legacy, the designated donor agency, was "assigned" to Peter's case.

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23. Shortly thereafter, One Legacy communicated with Rose and pressured Rose to sign a "Do Not Resuscitate" form (DNR). When she refused and asked why they were pressuring her, they stated "because if Peter were to code during the night, we would then have to resuscitate him." Rose refused to sign the DNR. The Representative from One Legacy told Rose that Peter was considered a "Gold Star Donor" since he was allegedly irreversibly "brain dead" but by keeping him on a life support ventilator, all of his organs would remain viable for "harvesting" and transplantation. At this point Rose asked One Legacy representatives not to bother her, her brothers or Peter's children any more at this time about signing a DNR.

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- Peter's brothers Daniel and Curtis John Michael Finocchi arrived at the hospital on July 1, 2019, approximately one hour after Rose arrived, as did long-time family friend, Pastor Tom Phipps, and long-time family friend, Rochelle Small-Ware. Doctors explained to all present that two doctors were needed to declare Peter "brain dead." Dr. Shah represented that while Peter was not completely lacking all brain activity as there was too much brain activity to declare him irreversibly "brain dead"; "Peter's brain activity is not sustainable and not survivable. The family was told they would be doing additional tests on Peter in order to prove that he was "brain dead" and then could legally move forward with the organ harvesting by One Legacy. When asked why Peter was not receiving any type of active treatment (since the family at this time had visualized him moving spontaneously and still exhibiting some brain activity), they were told by Dr. Shah, that, "Peter was simply not categorized as someone who could possibly survive and therefore he was not going to be given any treatment beyond the most basic life support. And therefore would not be providing him any type of surgery or other medical interventions to relieve the pressure on his brain" or otherwise attempt to revive or resuscitate him; instead only what was required to preserve his organs for harvesting and transplantation.
- 25. Prior to Rose's arrival at the Hospital on July 1, 2019, Dr. Shah had already declared Peter "brain dead", despite Peter's brain activity, significant body movements and some breathing over the ventilator. Peter's Hospital chart notes reflexes in both Peter's legs and feet indicating brain activity, and the doctors' plan was to "wait for Peter's reflexes to stop and then proceed

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with the organ harvest." This harvesting was to occur on July 1, 2019, the day Rose and Peter's family first presented at OCGMC.

- 26. Rose called Peter's five children who lived resided outside of California to begin arrangements to fly them to California. However, Rose was also told by the attending nurses that, "Peter's vital signs keep improving and they had never seen anything like it or the way Peter was moving and nobody could explain it." Rose again asked why no one was doing anything about getting his brain to stop swelling and possibly prevent his death. Again, she was told that, "because he is a donor, and the doctors consider him 'brain dead.'" Rose was told that Dr. Shah had said Peter was "brain dead" but that other doctors did not agree with him.
- 27. On July 2, 2019, Peter's oldest son Joshua; niece Angela, and Nephew Travis arrived at the hospital, were in Peter's presence, and were apprised of the situation by Rose as related above. Peter's son, Joshua, was designated by the family as their "spokesman" relative to Peter's medical condition and further treatment.
- At one point, Rose lifted Peter's eyelids and saw gas bubbles which she believed indicated brain swelling and pleaded for intervention as she belived Peter was suffering. A radiologist noted brain swelling and edema on Peter's brain and called it to the doctors' attention, but nothing was done to alleviate any possible pain or to treat that condition. The autopsy report later showed an untreated hematoma at the front of Peter's brain. Dr. Lane was extremely frustrated and agitated by family's request to treat Peter given his continued visible muscle movement and brain

activity; exclaiming to Rose, Travis and Angela, "If we'd known this guy was going to have seventeen people show up for him, we'd sure as hell done things a lot differently!" Said plaintiffs were shocked by this exclamation by Dr. Lane and what he meant by what things would have been "done" a lot differently."

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29. On July 4, 2019, the Hospital Administrator, Director of Nurses, and some security guards came to the family and stated they wanted to discuss some "miscommunications." Rose, Daniel, Michael, Nathan and Joshua were taken into a conference room where the nurse spoke and kept stating there were a lot of "miscommunications." Rose stated in their presence that they had been told that, "as long as we were here no later than 6:30 in the morning Joshua and I would be able to witness the further tests regarding Peter's death." alleged "brain The nurse stated that was miscommunication but Rose told her their previous words were very The nurse apologized for the miscommunication and she clear. stated that she "hoped our family would accept the apology on behalf of hospital and doctors for the numerous the miscommunications" that had kept occurring. Rose told the Hospital Administrator that she no longer trusted the hospital because it seemed that all they wanted were Peter's organs. Rose stated that she had been told her brother was a "Gold Star" donor (because less than 2% of all organ donations are harvested from "brain dead" patients.) Rose also told them that she was told that Peter's organs would no longer be viable after Saturday morning. informed the Hospital Administrator that if she had to, Rose would go to court to continue trying to get them to make some medical efforts to save Peter's life. The Hospital Administrator looked at

Rose and sarcastically stated: "You don't have enough time to get a court order before we [the Hospital] will declare him 'brain dead' and taken Peter's organs."

- 30. Later on July 4, 2019, Peter's two younger children, Zachary and Nyna, also arrived from Missouri. The hospital was continually pressuring the family to sign a DNR. The family refused. Then the hospital asked if they could run the "brain death" test again. The family responded that the hospital was not authorized to run any more such brain apnea tests.
- 31. On July 5, 2019, Rose went home and thereafter received a call from Joshua. The doctors had informed him that his father had "flatlined." Joshua was crying and said that, "they're doing it; they're declaring dad dead." When Rose arrived at the hospital that day she asked Dr. Shah why he had told Joshua that Peter was "flatlined" even though Peter was continuing to show brain activity. Dr. Shah said that the law was "black and white" but medicine is not. Dr. Shah stated that, "there was brain activity but the brain activity was not sustainable; it is not survivable; there is not a great amount of it." He also stated that, "I've declared Peter dead at least five times but I'm waiting for a second doctor to declare Peter dead so Peter can be 'officially' declared dead."
- 32. On July 6, 2019, Peter was to have a last "brain apnea test" (which was originally to be witnessed by Plaintiffs Rose and Joshua, but which ultimately only Plaintiff Joshua Conley were allowed to witness). After the test was performed, Dr. Chen met with Joshua and Dr. Chen seemed very upset. He stated he had already tested "this guy five times and he was getting really tired

of it. This would be the sixth test and One Legacy would not take the organs after the seven-day deadline had passed." During their interaction, Dr. Chen stated, "Your dad flunked the test, here sign this." Joshua, thereupon, felt there was no hope and thus felt compelled by Dr. Shah and Dr. Chen's medical determinations, and insistence that Peter was now irreversibly "brain dead" and "signed off" on the document as directed by Dr. Chen. At this time Dr. Chen was the second doctor purporting to declare Peter brain dead. (See also: ¶ 63 and ¶67, infra).

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The family was then told as a result of this "brain 33. death" pronouncement by doctors Shah and Chen, One Legacy would now "take over" custody and control of Peter's body and that Peter would therefore be "technically" "discharged" from the hospital's The family was told they had only two options. patient care. Option one: was to keep Peter on the ventilator and the family could stand by Peter's bedside and say their goodbyes and then One Legacy would take him downstairs where they would remove all of the organs and skin that they would use for donations and that no anesthesia would be given because Peter was already "dead." Option two: was for the family to be present while life support was removed until Peter naturally stopped breathing. The family was encouraged to go with option one due to the viability of organs if Peter was still on a ventilator as opposed to being removed from the ventilator and allowed to die naturally. Option one would allow nineteen of Peter's organs to remain viable and Option two would reduce that number to only three of Peter's organs being viable thereby greatly reducing the ability to recover "multiple later "billing" "federal organ procurements" for and

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- 34. On July 7, 2019, after having being told by the Hospital that Peter was irreversibly "brain dead," the family began to arrange for return flights home. Rose returned to the hospital to stay with Peter who was still on "life support" in preparation for the upcoming organ harvesting. When Rose left his room for a short time to drive Peter's children to the airport, she came back and noticed a bag of liquid food was by his bedside. When she inquired about this, she was told that, "Peter's organs still need to be kept nourished in anticipation of being harvested."
- 35. On July 8, 2019 at approximately 6:30 p.m., a nurse from One Legacy brought Rose into a conference room. Rose thought this was "the end" for Peter and she was preparing to call her brothers (who would be there) for Peter's final moments before he was totally removed from life support and stop breathing naturally. Instead, the staff said that, "One Legacy has its own neurological medical team and its doctors and team do not agree with the opinion of 'brain death' by Peter's doctors (Dr. Chen and Dr. Lane). Further, they said they had reviewed in great detail all of Peter's blood work since he arrived at OCGMC, including all of Peter's radiology scans, and all of the other medical interventions/testing since Peter arrived at Orange County Global Medical. They said they had gone over all of the brain apnea tests since Peter arrived and they did not agree with the 'brain death' determination of Peter's doctors." Dr. Havashi neurological support team, including the nurse, physically

evaluated Peter. The nurse then stated that, "Dr. Havashi and the neurological surgical team performed their own neurological physical assessment on Peter and they all witnessed that Peter was breathing on his own, and was moving a lot (not just minute, twitching type movements). Peter had made movements as though he were swimming and he was moving his abdomen very noticeably. All of this information had thus apparently already been in the charts from the previous hospital doctors and nurses since admission to OCGMC. After seeing all of this, reviewing the monitors, seeing that Peter was breathing over the ventilator and moving, Dr. Havashi said that, "this man is **not** dead and we don't need organs from a live donor." The nurse then stated that, "Peter has been declared 'undead.' Peter is alive. He is once again a living patient in this hospital." Rose expressed that she now no longer trusted the hospital, but she was told by the One Legacy nurse that, "Your brother, right now, is the absolute safest patient in this hospital." Rose was then told, "When we returned your brother back to this hospital and placed him back under its care, his doctors proceeded to resign from his care and the Hospital Administration has spent all last night and today trying to find new doctors willing to take "your brother's" case. But there is no doctor in the Hospital, not already associated with the case, who is willing accept it." Rose decided she wanted Peter moved to another hospital and One Legacy agreed. One Legacy further told Rose they did not want anything to do with Peter and no longer wanted his organs. Rose then went back to Peter's room believing Peter was still alive after three days of being declared dead, and upon entering Peter's room, the nurse said "Dr. Shah has again

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declared Peter brain dead and we will get a second doctor to also declare Peter brain dead and we will still take Peter's organs for One Legacy". Rose told the nurse that, 'But One Legacy said they won't take his organs now." and the nurse replied "We're still going to be declaring your brother brain dead." To Rose's horror, there were still no affirmative, positive medical treatment or interventions being provided for Peter by the hospital and at saving his life.

- 36. Rose then began to make phone calls to the entire family. She phoned his children, his brothers, his sister, his niece and his nephew, informing them all that Peter had been determined not to be "dead"!
- 37. Rose then kept pushing for Peter to be transferred to another hospital, but she was told no other hospital would take him. The hospital administrator callously said with a smirk: "Looks like you're stuck with us." The other nurse there taking notes smiled and nodded. Because Rose no longer trusted the doctors or the Hospital she would only leave Peter's bedside during the "mandatory 2-hour blackouts" when she was requested by the hospital to leave.
- 38. On July 9, 2019, Orange County Global Medical Center contacted Joshua and again told him that his father was dead, disagreeing with One Legacy's assessment. Its personnel pressured Joshua to take Peter "off life support." Joshua told them he needed 24 hours to think about it.
- 39. On July 10, 2019, Rose asked the nurse where Peter's morphine drip was and she was told not to worry, they will get around to it. Then a respiratory therapist took Rose to the side

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- 40. On July 11, 2019, Orange County Global Medical Center (under the direct supervision of Dr. Lane) removed Peter from the ventilator. Dr. Lane gave Peter a morphine shot and then removed the tube from Peter's mouth. Peter's heart rate began to slow and continued to drop. Peter was no longer taking breaths or moving. It was apparent to Rose that Peter was passing and she said her final words to him. After Daniel and Michael left, Rose remained with Peter. Sherwin, a male nurse, who was on duty and witnessed the above event, he disclosed that before this, 'Dr. Lane turned off Peter's life support because Dr. Lane wanted to see how Peter would do this morning when Dr. Lane turned it off." Plaintiffs thereon allege that Dr. Lane in fact hastened Peter's death earlier that morning and then reconnected Peter to the life-support so Dr. Lane could be assured of the result when he would repeat its removal in morning in front of family. Rose had previously been forced to leave Peter's side during "black-out" hours (2:00 a.m. to 4:00 a.m.). Plaintiff are informed and believe that it was during that "black out" time when Dr. Lane is believed to have come in and turned off Peter's life support. It was reported by the same staff that Peter actually "died" within minutes of Dr. Lane turning down his life support earlier that morning and thus before the time that the family arrived and was present consistent with Option two.
- 41. The Plaintiffs were initially told by hospital staff that the coroner had decided not to do an autopsy; but that the family could pay for one themselves if wanted. Thereafter, the family was told the coroner would be doing an autopsy due to the bizarre

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circumstances associated with Peter's "death." The coroner came to Orange County Global Medical Center and took custody of Peter's body. Rose then left the hospital premises.

- Rose then personally called Peter's children, niece, and nephew (the family) and informed everyone of the above events.
- Rose was later informed by the coroner there was a "large amount of morphine" in Peter's post-mortem blood system and that the family would want someone to review the records and then discuss with the family as to how the family might want to "move forward".
- 44. The Plaintiffs served a CCP §364 Notice of Intent to Sue on Defendants, dated July 8, 2020.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Wrongful Death/Medical Negligence by Plaintiff Joshua, Peter's Son Only

(Against All Defendants)

- Plaintiff Joshua, Peter's son, realleges and incorporates 45. by reference each and every allegation contained in all previous paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.
- 46. At all time herein mentioned up to and including July 11, 2019, Defendants, and each of them, had a legal and medical duty to attempt to keep Peter alive and to treat his various critical injuries in an effort to save his life until such time as either an authorized representative signed a DNR or Peter was medically determined to be irreversibly, medically "brain dead."
- 47. At all times herein relevant, Peter emergently came under the emergency/critical care and the medical responsibility of all of the health care provider Defendants for full emergent and

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- 48. Plaintiff Joshua is informed and believes and thereon alleges that all health care provider Defendants, including all DOE health care provider Defendants negligently failed to comply with the applicable standards of emergent, critical care, knowledge and skill in examining, diagnosing, treating, monitoring, and providing all appropriate critical medical care and interventions, as hereinafter alleged, to reasonable and medically necessary to prevent his death; and instead negligently, recklessly and prematurely abandoned Peter; failing to provide or continue medical efforts to preserve his life but instead abandoned any life saving and support efforts by falsely declaring Peter irreversibly "brain dead." While Peter was in the emergency room, he "coded" and was resuscitated, but since he was noted as considered to be a "homeless meth abuser" (as reflected in Peter's medical chart) / At that time, he was also designated as a "donor" and his body was assigned to One Legacy. From June 28, 2019 throughout Peter's hospital stay until July 11, 2019, Defendants took only those medical actions and interventions to preserve Peter's organs for "harvesting" by One Legacy, but none to save his life.
- 49. Plaintiff Joshua is informed and believes and thereon more specifically alleges that all Defendant health care providers, including all health care provider DOE Defendants, negligently

failed to comply with emergency, ICU and/or other standards of appropriate critical care and treatment of Peter, inter alia, by improperly and prematurely declaring Peter medically irreversibly "brain dead" despite the medical tests and patient observations to the contrary as hereinabove alleged. Despite, inter alia, manifesting numerous signs of neurological activity, muscle movement, and blood flow, the Defendants, and each of them, negligently refused to take any critical life saving or sustaining measures or to reduce his cranial pressure and swelling, but instead persisted in negligently insisting that Peter was medically irreversibly "brain dead" and therefore discontinuing all life support or recovery treatment, providing only that care and support to sustain his organs for transplants. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that Defendants' refusal was consciously or unconsciously motivated by Defendants' improper and unreasonable medical opinion that Peter's value, as a "Gold Star" organ donor, was more important than his life, causing Defendants to actually accelerate Peter's ultimate "brain death" in order to expedite the harvesting of Peter's organs by One Legacy; as demonstrated by the Hospital's own records and by One Legacy's ultimate evaluation that they could not "harvest" Peter's organs, because in their medical opinion Peter was "not [brain] dead" and therefore that his organs could not be legally or ethically "harvested" by One Legacy. Even after Peter was then returned to Defendants' care as a live patient, Defendants recklessly and negligently continued to refuse to provide Peter any active, possibly life preserving or saving medical interventions, and instead accelerated Peter's ultimate death by the prolonged lack of any interventions or life such

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saving efforts and through the administration (unknown to plaintiffs) an excessive amount(s) of morphine into his body (after representing to the family that Peter was irreversibly "brain dead" and therefore not in need of any pain killing medication; specifically any morphine drip or infusion).

- 50. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligent and/or reckless failure or refusal to properly medically treat, intervene, and otherwise preserve Peter's life within the applicable standards of urgent critical medical care, Peter was deprived of a reasonable probability of survival, wrongfully causing and/or contributing to his untimely death on July 11, 2019.
- Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that Defendant health care providers, including all DOE Defendants, holding themselves out as having the requisite medical skill and experience to evaluate, diagnose, care for and treat Peter, in fact failed to properly evaluate, diagnose, care for and treat Peter within the applicable standards of such critical care given his grave medical condition. Defendants' above-alleged failures to properly diagnose, evaluate, care for and to employ all appropriate life supporting, life sustaining and life saving medical interventions legally caused and/or contributed to in the untimely and wrongful death of Peter as described herein at age sixty-one (61).
- 52. The above-alleged medical negligence and/or reckless malfeasance of Defendants, as herein alleged, caused and/or contributed to Peter's untimely death.
- 53. Defendants and DOES 1 through 50 are not known to plaintiffs but are alleged to have also negligently caused or were

death.

54. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' medical negligence, including DOE Defendants, and Peter's death, Plaintiff Joshua has sustained the loss of his father's (Peter) love, companionship, comfort, care, assistance, protection, affection, society, moral and any support; all in amounts of both "economic" and "non-economic" damages as determined according to proof at the time of trial.

also substantial factors in causing Peter's untimely and wrongful

55. Joshua seeks any and all further damages recoverable, if any, under applicable California law and according to proof at trial.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress Upon Family Members
ROSE MARY GEORGE-ANN FINOCCHI, JOSHUA JOSEPH CONLEY, DANIEL PAUL
FINOCCHI, TRAVIS FINOCCHI AND ANGELA FINOCCHI

(As to all Defendants)

- 56. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in all previous paragraphs, including Plaintiffs' first cause of action, as though fully set forth herein.
- 57. Plaintiffs were, at all times herein relevant between July 1, 2019 and July 11, 2019, known by Defendants and each of them to be related to Peter as "family" members (i.e., children, siblings, niece and nephew, respectively) and that Plaintiffs were highly concerned about Peter and highly distressed as to Peter's life-threatening injuries and expressed to Defendants they wanted defendants to exercise all medically possible life supporting and

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- Despite Defendants' actual and constructive knowledge of the family's highly probable susceptibility to extreme emotional distress, mental suffering and related medical and physical trauma, Defendants and each of them callously and intentionally continued to make false misrepresentations to Plaintiffs alleged hereinabove, to the effect that Peter was already irreversibly "brain dead," was beyond any possible medical treatment or efforts to save his life. Defendants also continually depreciated Peter's visible signs of bodily movements, breathing and limited brain activity as being like a "chicken with its head cut-off"; all done emotionally and psychologically pressure intentionally to Plaintiffs to concede to Defendants' medical rationale for refusing to provide or take any possible life-saving medical procedures or treatment of Peter (despite such signs), and to focus only upon preserving Peter's organs for harvesting and donation to One Legacy but not any efforts to save his life.
- Further, Defendants knew or should have known that they had the legal and ethical duty under such critical, life-threatening circumstances to communicate professionally, accurately and honestly with Peter's family members and not to communicating any false, disparaging, misleading and/or conflicting representations as alleged hereinabove; including, medical concealing important medical information and facts Defendants knew they had a legal and ethical duty to honestly disclose to the family, Defendants intentionally wrongfully attempted to deceive

- misrepresentations, concealments, false statements, unethical actions, unprofessional remarks and outrageous misconduct toward plaintiffs as family members as alleged herein above; Plaintiffs, and each of them suffered severe emotional and mental distress and related bodily injuries as a result of Defendants' alleged outrageous, intentional and callous misrepresentations and persistent stated refusals to provide Peter any potentially life-saving medical interventions; finally compelling the family through Joshua, to concede to accept Defendants' representations and to authorize Defendants taking Peter off life support as hereinabove alleged; only to later be informed as alleged hereinabove that Peter was not "brain dead" but still alive.
- 61. The Plaintiffs and each of them suffered severe emotional and mental distress as alleged hereinabove and including deep sadness, sleeplessness, desperation, and an overall dread that Peter's death could have been prevented but for Defendants' intentional and unlawful refusal to provide Peter any possibly

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THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Fraudulent Deceit and Concealment

to save Peter's life; in amounts to be shown by proof at trial.

- 62. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1 through 61 above, as though fully set forth herein.
- In their respective capacities as medical physicians hospital management and staff and other healthcare providers under California law who undertook and provided critical medical care to Decedent/Peter, Defendants had the legal duty to use all available reasonable and necessary emergency and life-saving medical care, treatment, diagnoses, monitoring devices, medicines, medical interventions, IV's, ventilators, defibrillators and any and all other available life-saving, life support and resuscitating procedures in attempting to preserve Peter's life, up to and until either (1) a legal "DNR" was properly and knowingly executed by the family and/or (2) it was properly determined and confirmed by accepted medical standards criteria and recognized protocols that Peter was, in fact, irreversibly medically and legally "brain dead" before prematurely declaring Peter medically "dead" and thereupon to justify persistent refusal to provide Peter with any potentially life saving medical interventions or treatment as hereinabove alleged; the family was subjected to several emotional, mental and

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physical distress and were compelled to choose between option one and option two as alleged supra.

- 64. Given the above-alleged medical and legal duties owed to Peter and his family, Defendants and each of them had the additional legal and ethical duty of care **not** to discontinue life support and resuscitation/life saving efforts for Peter until Peter was irreversibly (medically) "dead" by the applicable medical and legal standards to do "no harm," and to accurately and truthfully inform Peter's family members present as to Peter's true medical condition and to comply with the family's reasonable directives as to when life-saving efforts and life support for Peter should be discontinued; including all accurate and true medical reasons claimed to establish any purported irreversible "brain death" pronouncements and the proper timing, protocols and procedures by which any and all life-saving and life support measures were to be discontinued, so that Peter's family members present could say their last goodbye's before Peter was medically dead and his body transferred for organ donation.
- Unknown to Plaintiffs and intentionally not disclosed to Peter's family members present by Defendants or any of them, was that Defendants were, in fact, on information and belief, motivated to intentionally hasten Peter's "brain death" as of June 28, 2019 and through July 6, 2019, inter alia, for the following unlawful fraudulent and deceitful reasons:
- Defendants and each of them wanted to prematurely declare Peter medically and irreversibly "brain dead" so that they could persuade the family to execute a "DNR" allowing Defendants to obviate the need for Defendants to undertake any efforts to provide

Peter any extensive and expensive life support and/or life-saving care, monitoring, treatment, procedures and interventions which might not be covered by any medical coverage or any other financially responsible sources due to Peter's known lack of finances and his homelessness; and,

- (b) Defendants and each of them unlawfully and wrongfully had overriding concerns and/or interests contrary to the best intents of Peter and the family insuring that Peter's body and organs (as a "Gold Star" organ donor) would be maintained (even post-mortem) in such a manner as to preserve the viability of his multiple organs so they could be promptly "harvested" by One Legacy (once Peter was declared, legally and medically, irreversibly "brain dead") for immediate transplantation into waiting donor recipients.
- Ge. As alleged in detail hereinabove, beginning on or about June 28, 2019 and continuously through and including July 6, 2019, Defendants and each of them repeatedly, falsely, intentionally, recklessly and deceitfully, both by intentional misrepresentations and by intentional concealment of Peter's true medical status by insisting that Peter was irreversibly "brain dead" and as purportedly being without any significant brain activity, blood flow, brain or body movements; such as to render the use of any life saving interventions futile; and in order to justify Defendants being relieved of the duty to provide Peter any and all possible life saving medical treatment or medical interventions which the family wanted. Defendants repeatedly and falsely medically advised Peter's family members that they should sign a "DNR" authorization and thereby give consent to remove Peter from

further life saving medical treatment and/or interventions and to let Peter die; thereafter continuing **only** those interventions and procedures necessary to preserve the viability of Peter's internal organs long enough to be harvested by One Legacy.

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67. As also alleged, supra, Plaintiffs and each of them (and ultimately Joshua) were coerced, pressured and compelled to believe and rely upon Defendants' above-alleged persistent medical concealments and misrepresentations as establishing that Peter was irreversibly "brain dead" and therefore should not be provided any potentially life saving treatments, medical interventions or procedures but rather to have him be immediately declared "brain dead" thereupon permitting Peter's "dead body" to be placed under the control of One Legacy solely for the purpose of harvesting his organs for transplantation. On the morning of July 6, 2019, the last day Peter's organs were still viable for harvesting by One Legacy; Defendants and each of them finally specifically compelled Plaintiff Joshua Conley to accept that Peter, upon additional purported "brain death" test results which Peter purportedly "failed" and the Death Declaration of two Defendants (Dr. Shah and Dr. Chen) that Peter was irreversibly "brain dead"; in order to compel Joshua to authorize Defendants not to provide Peter any possibly life saving medical treatments and/or interventions and to allow Peter to "die" (pursuant to "Option One" or "Option Two") by taking him off life support; explaining that once off life support, Peter would immediately be handed over to One Legacy as "dead" thereafter providing only such medical interventions and life support as necessary, if any, to preserve Peter's organs; and including discontinuing any pain medications based upon Defendants'

false representations that since Peter was irreversibly "brain dead" he could not possibly feel any pain.

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68. From June 28, 2019 ("first death") to July 7, 2019 ("final death"), Dr. Shah repeatedly insisted that even though Peter had brain activity, it was not "sustainable or liveable": but never denying Peter had some brain activity. Various Plaintiffs continued to "visit" Peter at Orange County Global Medical Center thereafter, and directly observed Peter exhibit periodic significant body movements and were informed by staff that Peter still had some blood flow, breathing over the ventilator and brain wave activity. But when said Plaintiffs further inquired of Defendants, the hospital staff and doctors insisted it these were insignificant and that Peter was "brain dead" and defendants refused to provide any actual life saving efforts and provided only what was necessary to preserve the transplant viability of his organs. In an outrageous and conscious disregard of Plaintiffs' emotional and mental states and vulnerability to great emotional and mental harm, Defendants callously waived off the significance of any of Peter's continued periodic body movements, brain activity, breathing and/or bloodflow as nothing indicative of any possibility of survival and expressly described to Plaintiffs that Peter was essentially like "a chicken with its head cut off." All of which cumulatively causing manifestly foreseeable, severe emotional distress, mental upset and trauma to the Plaintiffs by defendants so intentionally misinforming and deceiving Plaintiffs in such an inappropriate, unprofessional and discompassionate manner.

69. On July 8, 2019, One Legacy brought Rose into a

conference room. Rose thought this was "the end" of the 'Option two' process the family had chose and she was preparing to call her brothers who were there) for Peter's final moments before being removed from life support. Instead, the One Legacy representative informed the family that, "One Legacy has its own neurological medical team and its doctors and team do not agree with the findings of 'brain death' by Peter's two doctors (Dr. Chen and Dr. Lane). Further, that One Legacy's team had reviewed in great detail all of Peter's prior blood work since he arrived at Orange County Global Hospital as well as all of Peter's radiology scans and all of the other medical interventions/testing since Peter They had gone over all of the brain apnea tests since Peter arrived and they did not agree with the "brain death" determination of by Dr. Chen and Dr. Lane. Dr. Havashi and the neurological support team, including the nurse, also physically evaluated Peter. The nurse then stated that," Dr. Havashi and the neurological surgical team performed their own neurological physical assessment on Peter and Peter was breathing on his own and was moving often (not just minor reflex movements). One Legacy said Peter was instead making movements as though he were swimming and he was moving his abdomen very noticeably. All of this medical information was known to Defendants and had already been in the charts from the previous hospital doctors and nurses. After seeing all of this, reviewing the monitors, seeing that Peter was breathing over the ventilator and moving, Dr. Havashi said that, "this man is **not** dead and we don't need organs from a live donor." The nurse then stated that, "Peter has been declared un dead [sic]. Peter is alive. He is once again a live patient in this hospital."

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Rose exclaimed that she could now no longer trust the hospital, but was told by the One Legacy nurse that, "Your brother, right now, is the absolute safest patient in this hospital." Rose was then told, "When we returned your brother back to this hospital and placed him back under its care, his doctors proceeded to resign from his care and the Hospital Administration has spent all last night and today trying to find new doctors willing to take your brother's case. But there is no doctor in the Hospital, not already associated with the case, who is willing accept it."

70. Plaintiffs hereby reserve the right to bring a later motion for leave to seek punitive damages as to Plaintiffs' Second and Third Causes of Action, only, in the event evidence legally supporting a potentially viable claim for punitive damages is established during the course of subsequent investigation and discovery.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request trial by jury on all claims so triable and pray for judgment against Defendants, and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, as appropriate to each cause of action alleged, as set for below:

AS TO THE FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION AS TO PLAINTIFF JOSHUA CONLEY ONLY

- A. For economic damages and non-economic damages and as allowed by law the wrongful death of Peter by his natural son named herein above;
- B. All funeral, burial or other expenses according to proof;
- C. Interest to the extent allowed by law;
- D. Costs of the suit; and
- E. Any other relief the court deems just and proper based

1	upon the evidence.			
2	AS TO SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION FOR ALL PLAINTIFFS			
3	Α.	For economic a	and non-economic damages as allowed by law	
4		and according	to proof at trial;	
5	В	Interest to the	ne extent allowed by law;	
6	С.	Costs of the s	suit; and	
7	D.	Any other rel	ief the court deems just and proper based	
8		upon the evidence.		
9	<u>A</u>	S TO THE THIRD	CAUSE OF ACTION FOR ALL PLAINTIFFS	
10	Α.	For economic a	and non-economic damages as allowed by law	
11		and according	to proof at trial;	
12	В	Interest to the extent allowed by law;		
13	С.	Costs of the suit; and		
14	D.	Any other relief the court deems just and proper based		
15		upon the evide	ence.	
16	Dated: Ap	oril 13, 2022	Respectfully submitted,	
17	HUNT & ADAMS, INC.			
18			LAW OFFICES OF CHAMBERS & NORONHA	
19			\sim	
20	BY: JOHN C. ADAMS III GARY H. CHAMBERS Attornova for Plaintiffs			
21				
22			Attorneys for Plaintiffs, ROSE MARY GEORGE ANN FINOCCHI,	
23			JOSHUA J. FINOCCHI, TRAVIS FINOCCHI, ANGELA FINOCCHI, DANIEL P. FINOCCHI	
24			DANIEL F. FINOCONI	
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