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1 2 3 4 5 6	Bryan J. Thomas (SBN# 151578) bryan@bjthomaslaw.com LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS AND A 1801 Century Park East 24 Floor Los Angeles, California 90067 (424) 201-5446 (424) 316-3038 Fax Attorney for Plaintiff Fifth Degree Tours #2	ASSOCIATES
8	UNITED STATE	ES DISTRICT COURT
9	CENTRAL DISTR	RICT OF CALIFORNIA
10	FIFTH DEGREE TOURS #2) CASE:) COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES FOR:
12	Plaintiff,) 1. UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICE
13) [North Carolina Gen. Stat §75-1.1, et
14	VS.) seq.]) 2. UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICE
15	LIVE NATION WORLDWIDE, INC.; LIVE NATION TOURING (USA),	· -
16	INC. Defendant) 3.UNJUST ENRICHMENT) 4. BREACH OF CONTRACT
17		5. BREACH OF ORAL CONTRACT 6.INTENTIONAL
18		MISREPRESENTATION
19		7.TORTIOUS INTERFERENCE WITH PROSPECTIVE ECONOMIC
20		ADVANTAGE 8. NEGLIGENT INTERFERENCE
21		WITH PROSPECTIVE ECONOMIC
22		ADVANTAGE
23		DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
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26		Complaint and Jury Demand

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2	II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE		
3	5. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(a). This		
4	Court also has supplemental jurisdiction over the related state-law claims under 28		
5 6	U.S.C. § 1367.		
7	6. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant, and the venue in this		
8	District is proper because Defendant is registered with the California Secretary of		
9	State and its principal place of business is in this Judicial District.		
10	7. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 139 (b)(1)		
11	because Defendant has its principal place of business in this Judicial District, and a		
12 13	substantial part of the decisions, events or omissions giving rise to the claims		
14	occurred in this Judicial District.		
15	III.		
16	STATEMENT OF FACTS		
17	8. On or about February 21, 2024, Eric Mitchell of Fifth Degree Tours #2, LLC		
18	(hereinafter "FD") contacted Jordan Benghiat at Live Nation Entertainment		
19	(hereinafter "Live Nation") to request renting the PNC Music Pavilion in Charlotte,		
20	North Carolina ("PNC") for a live concert event called "Jam Fest," to be held on		
21	July 20, 2024. PNC capacity is 19,500. The venue can hold 9,500 seated guests and		
23	an additional 10,000 on the lawn.		
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26	Complaint and Jury Demand		

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20. On April 4, 2024, Jinny Sample responded to Appler stating that "it has been almost five weeks since their first communication for a hold and LNW has yet to provide the requested hold." Jinny Sample further informed Appler that it was urgent that the hold is resolved because FD must inform WSSU of the concert status. Jinny Sample further requested that Appler provide an explanation for the hold-up and what steps FD needed to take in order to expedite the process. 21. On April 5, 2024, Jinny Sample contacted Appler via email informing Appler that the event was very important for the HBCU community due to their historic struggles with underfunding and limited resources and that Jam Fest was designed as an event to kick start FD's fundraising for the entire HBCU community of schools. 22. On April 11, 2024, Jinny Sample emailed Appler confirming their phone conversation and the current lineup of Artist for Jam Fest. Appler informed Jinny Sample that the LNT booking department needed to approve the Artist lineup for Jam Fest and once approved, the next steps of securing the venue would take place. 22. On April 12, 2024, Appler emailed Jinny Sample informing her that the 1st hold for a ticketed rental event at the PNC Music Pavilion has been granted. Appler further informed Jinny Sample that the hold has been placed by LNT booking department for the following Artist: Jeezy, Boosie, Plies, Flo Milli, Kali Uchis,

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Rubin Rose, Shyfronmdatre and Solo.

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- 23. Appler further informed Jinny Sample that moving forward her direct point of contact will be with Jonathan Rosas, National Director of Third-Party Programming.
- 24. On or about May 7, 2024, Jinny Sample informs Jonathan Rosas that FD is adding recording artist Kevin Gates to the Jam Fest lineup.
- 25. On or about May 7, 2024, Jonathan Rosas responds to Jinny Sample by informing her that Live Nation owns the PNC venue, and they have multiple touring deals and "can't have conflicting offers in the market". Jonathan Rosas further states "that's why Live Nation needed the full lineup prior to getting a contract done" and he would send the Kevin Gates request to the Talent and Touring team for their approval.
- 26. On or about May 8, 2024, Jinny Sample sends an email to Jonathan Rosas informing him that FD is an independent promoter, therefore, an Live Nation competitor, hence, why would Live Nation have veto power over FD's artist lineup and no other venue has ever requested that FD produce an artist list for approval.
- 27. On May 21, 2024, LNT confirmed the request for Sexy Red to appear on the Jam Fest show, but only as a supporting artist, NOT as a headliner.
- 28. Approximately two weeks before the Jam Fest show, FD CEO Wesley Hunter met at the PNC Music Pavilion with his head of security Mario Sims and a PNC representative, to do a walkthrough of the venue. Wesley Hunter was shown the

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backstage, dressing rooms, conference rooms, cafeteria, stage, and a large VIP tent which was an empty space with no tables, chairs, couches, decorations etc. It was the only VIP option that was offered to FD for the Jam Fest concert. The PNC representative did not offer any other VIP benefits such as parking or exclusive bar access to FD for its VIP guest.

29. However, two months after the Jam Fest concert, Wesley Hunter attended a

Hootie and the Blowfish concert at the PNC and was given a VIP guest parking and VIP wristband for VIP access into the VIP areas of the venue. Wesley Hunter discovered that there was an entire VIP area that included chairs, tables, couches, bar(s), and other VIP amenities that was never offered to FD during the walkthrough.

30. On July 20, 2024, during the morning of the show, at approximately 7am, the crew began loading the equipment for the stage and sound, when unannounced, local police showed up at the venue with a drug sniffing dog. The police dog searched the stage, backstage and the dressing rooms, despite the fact, the only people at the venue were the crew employed by the venue.

- 31. Wesley Hunter, who has been a concert promoter for over thirty years, has never had a police dog search his show.
- 32. Upon arrival at the venue on July 20, 2024, Wesley Hunter had multiple interactions with Appler during the day regarding a variety of production issues.

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Appler in response to each issue, would demand that the show be canceled instead of simply resolving the "at issue" production matter. Wesley Huner estimates that Appler demanded that the show be canceled over twelve (12) times before the show start time of 4pm.

33. During the Jam Fest concert, a thunderstorm hit the show. Appler informed FD

- representatives that the show had to be canceled. Wesley Hunter refused and indicated that he wanted the crowd to seek shelter under the Pavilion roof until the storm passed as PNC had done with Rock shows in the same circumstances. Appler then informed FD that the show could be halted until the storm passed but all concert attendees on the lawn area would need to leave the lawn area and walk back to their cars during the storm to seek shelter while the concert was "paused." Unlike previous Rock shows where lawn attendees were provided shelter under the pavilion roof, there were no other options given to the concert attendees located on the lawn area. As a result, the lawn attendees had to walk back to their cars in the thunderstorm, some walking over a mile in dangerous conditions.
- 34. During the break, local DJs performed for the crowd who were seated under the Pavilion roof.
- 35. Approximately an hour later, Appler met with FD representatives to inform them that the weather report was showing more severe weather and an extensive storm coming to the area. Appler stated to Wesley Hunter that the show had to be

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36. Wesley Hunter refused to cancel the show and FD representatives met backstage with Appler and Jonathan Rosas via phone and all parties agreed to postpone the Jam Fest concert due to the weather. The parties agreed upon the language used to inform the crowd and the announcement was made by the DJ,

informing the crowd that the Jam Fest concert has been postponed with a new date

to be determined. Thereafter, LNW posted an online announcement stating the Jam

Fest concert was Postponed and a new date to be announced.

37. On July 22, 2024, FD representatives contact Jonathan Rosas via email regarding a scheduled conference call to get a new date for the postponed concert. Jonathan Rosas replied that he was unable to join the conference call due to "they

38. On July 23, 2024, both Jinny Sample and Wesley Hunter attempted to speak

with Jonathan Rosas regarding getting a new date for the postponed concert.

39. Wesley Hunter informed Jonathan Rosas via email that it was urgent that they

receive a new date as soon as possible in order to capitalize on the buzz of the show

being a considerable success and avoid being locked out of securing new artists for

the continued Jam Fest show.

need more time."

40. Thereafter, on July 24, 2024, Jonathan Rosa, Jinny Sample and Wesley Hunter

appeared via zoom wherein Jonathan Rosa informed FD representatives that the

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show was canceled and there would be no new date for the show. Wesley Hunter objected to the cancelation and asked for LN's attorney information.

- 41. On July 29, 2024, Philip Nevinny of Live Nation and an FD representative met via zoom where Philip Nevinny reiterates that the concert was canceled, and no new date would be provided to FD.
- 42. LNW unilaterally canceled the Jam Fest concert without any authorization by FD or powers pursuant to the Venue Agreement. The Venue Agreement, section Term (C), states "Upon the expiration of the License Period or the termination of this Agreement pursuant to a breach of the terms and conditions set forth, prior to the expiration of the Term, Licensee shall immediately quit and surrender the Venue to PNC. The Venue Agreement is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein.
- 43. In addition, pursuant to the governing provision of Ticketmaster, the Promoter of the concert is called the "Event Organizer" and only the Event Organizer can cancel events and make arrangements for ticket refunds, exchanges etc.
- 44. LNW issued a press release, without consulting FD or getting its approval, announcing that the Jam Fest concert was canceled and instructing ticket holders how to get refunds for their tickets.
- 45. As a result of the cancelation, FD lost all ticket sale revenue from the Jam Fest concert and Artist deposits, however, LNW retained all revenue from ticket fees,

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parking, concessions, and merchandise.

46. In addition, LNW knew that the Jam Fest concert was a fundraiser for HBCU students, and all charitable contributions would be lost as a result of LNW's unilateral decision to cancel the concert.

47. One week after the Jam Fest concert, another concert at the PNC by Limp

Bizkit (a rock act) was hit by a thunderstorm; the crowd was treated much differently than the crowd at the Jam Fest concert. The Limp Bizkit concert attendees on the lawn area were told to seek shelter under the Pavilion roof during the storm. Once the concert could not continue, that concert was postponed and rescheduled to another date.

48. In addition, FD received numerous complaints from people who attempted to attend the show who stated that the box office had closed early, and a substantial number of people were still parking and walking to the venue in an attempt to purchase tickets to the show before the headliner had taken the stage.

49. After the cancelation of the Jam Fest Show, FD has attempted to produce other shows. FD contacted the Spectrum Center in North Carolina, capacity 18,504, to produce a show featuring the music artist "Future."

FD attempted to place a hold on the arena for the Future date with Dan Bain ("Bain"), Vice President of Booking & Events for the Spectrum Center. On or about December 18, 2024, Bain, who had lunch with Appler during FD's attempt to

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A party is guilty of an unfair act or practice when it engages in conduct which amounts to an inequitable assertion of its power or position.

- 54. Defendant LNT violated N.C. General Statute §71-1.1 et seq.
- 55. The above-described conduct by defendants constitutes unfair business practices within the meaning of the N.C. General Statute §71-1.1 et seq.
- for the concert. There is no term or provision in the rental agreement for PNC which requires or gives LNT the authority to approve FD's artist for the concert or dictate that if an Artist could appear, it could only appear as a non-headliner.

56. In particular, but not limited to, LNT required prior approval of FD's artist list

- 57. In addition, LNT admitted that their booking department, which is an entirely different company than LNW, was dictating to FD who could perform at the Jam Fest concert and in what capacity, thereby limiting FD's ability to secure the best artist for the concert.
- 58. LNT, as a live concert promoter, was directly affecting a competitor, i.e., FD ability to put on a successful concert in the Charlotte market.
- 59. Pursuant to N.C. General Statute §71-1.1 et seq. an order should be issued requiring defendants to disgorge all monies which it received from any person who purchased a ticket and/or attended the concert and purchased concessions, merchandise or paid for parking and, all profits which LNW and/or LNT earned from the concert.

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Case 2:25-cv-07828-WLH-RAO Document 1 Filed 08/20/25 Page 15 of 24 Page ID 1 SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF 2 (Dissemination of Untrue and Misleading Public Statements in Violation of et N.C. General Statute §71-1.1 et seq.) 3 (AGAINST LIVE NATION WORLDWIDE, INC.) 60. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs, 4 5 inclusive, as though set forth in full herein. 6 61. Defendant LNW violated s N.C. General Statute §71-1.1 et seg. 7 by making or disseminating, or causing to be made or disseminated, before the 8 public via their online website a notice to the public that the Jam Fest concert held 9 on July 20, 2024, had been canceled by FD and that Defendant knew or should have 10 known that statement was untrue or misleading in connection with the Jam Fest 11 12 concert. 13 62. For an act or practice to be deceptive it must have "the capacity or tendency to 14 deceive" but proof of actual deception is not required. Deliberate acts of deceit or 15 bad faith do not have to be shown, rather, the claimant must demonstrate that the 16 act or practice possessed the tendency and capacity to mislead or created the 17 18 likelihood of deception. 19 63. Defendant knew that FD wanted a new date for the postponed concert and 20 informed LNW of their intentions to continue the Jam Fest concert. In fact, the 21 parties on July 20, 2024, agreed to postpone the concert to a date to be determined. 22 23 24 15. 25 26 Complaint and Jury Demand

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78. Defendant breached the Venue License Agreement by unilaterally canceling the event on August 6, 2024. Pursuant to the Venue Agreement, section 16H., Force Majeure, the Agreement defines "Force Majeure Occurrence" as "to include, without limitation, Acts of God, strikes, labor disputes, war, fire, earthquake, serious weather anomalies such a hurricane, tornado, cyclone, typhoon, blizzard, tidal wave, tsunami or flood, acts of public enemies, acts of terrorism, epidemic, action of federal, state or local government authorities, or other event or reason beyond the reasonable control of a party that, in each case makes the nonperforming party's performance impossible or impractical. The parties never canceled the event on July 20, 2024, thereby triggering the 16. H provision. 79. On the contrary, the parties agreed to postpone the Jam Fest concert and make a public announcement of the new date. However, Defendant unilaterally canceled the Jam Fest concert on August 6, 2024, and has refused to provide a new date for the completion of the concert. 80. Plaintiff did not authorize or approve the cancelation of the Jam Fest concert. 81. Defendant's breach of the Venue License Agreement approximately caused damage to Plaintiff because, as a direct and approximate result of the breach Plaintiff lost deposit payments made to the Artist, productions cost, marketing and advertising cost, and ticket sale revenue.

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representations, Defendant knew, or should have known, that these representations were false, and that Plaintiff would rely upon them. The Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis allege, that Defendant intended for Plaintiff to rely on the representations.

96. Plaintiff justifiably relied on Defendant's representations with respect to the representation of the postponement of the concert. In reliance on this representation, Defendant were induced to, and did, seek investors and contracts with other Artist to perform at the continued concert date.

97. Plaintiff's reliance on Defendant's representations was justified because of Defendant's false reassurance of their intentions to continue the postponed concert to a new date was agreed to by the parties and a public announcement was made to the public via Defendant's online website to its customer base and by FD's DJ to the concert crowd on July 20, 2024.

98. Defendants should be made to disgorge their ill-gotten gains and restore such monies to Plaintiff.

99. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' intentional misrepresentations, Plaintiff has suffered damages. The amount of these damages has not been precisely determined, and the damage continues to accrue. Notwithstanding, Plaintiff believes the damage to be more than \$20,000,000.00.

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