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1	XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California	Exempt from Filing and Reporter Fees Gov. Code § 6103
, 2	TANIA M. IBANEZ	1300 Son, Codo 3, 0100
;	Senior Assistant Attorney General	
[3]	ELIZABETH S. KIM Supervising Deputy Attorney General	FILED ALAMEDA COUNTY
4	JULIANNE MOSSLER	ALAMEDA CONTRA
·	Deputy Attorney General	COUNTY
5	State Bar No. 243749	APR 172017
6	455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000 San Francisco, CA 94102-7004	CLERKOR
Ŭ.	Telephone: (415) 703-5746	CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
7	Fax: (415) 703-5480	John Cook!
0	E-mail: Julianne.Mossler@doj.ca.gov	
.8	Attorneys for the People of the State of Californi	a. (
9	SUPERIOR COURT OF TH	E STATE OF CALIFORNIA
10	IN AND FOR THE CO	MINERSZ COÉ A É AMERO Á
10	IN AND FOR THE CO	UNTY OF ALAMEDA
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.12	PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,	Case No. RG 17856929
.12	TEOFLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA,	Case No. 47
13	Plaintiffs,	COMPLAINT FOR APPOINTMENT OF
		A RECEIVER, INVOLUNTARY
14	V.	DISSOLUTION, PERMANENT
15		INJUNCTION, DAMAGES, AND PENALTIES
, L.J.	WOUNDED WARRIORS SUPPORT GROUP, A	
16	CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT PUBLIC BENEFIT	(1) APPOINTMENT OF A RECEIVER AND
.177	CORPORATION; CENTRAL COAST EQUINE	INVOLUNTARY DISSOLUTION
17	RESCUE AND RETIREMENT, A CALIFORNIA NONPROFIT PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION;	(CORP. CODE, §§ 6510, 6511)
18	MATTHEW G. GREGORY, INDIVIDUALLY AND	(2) BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY (BUS.
	AS A DIRECTOR AND OFFICER OF WOUNDED	& PROF. CODE, §17510.8; CORP.
19	WARRIORS SUPPORT GROUP AND CENTRAL	CODE, §§ 5231, 6215, 6320)
20	COAST EQUINE RESCUE AND RETIREMENT;	(3) AIDING AND ABETTING A BREACH
20	DANELLA J. GREGORY, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS A DIRECTOR AND OFFICER OF WOUNDED	OF FIDUCIARY DUTY (GOV. CODE, §
-21	WARRIORS SUPPORT GROUP AND CENTRAL	12596)
	COAST EQUINE RESCUE AND RETIREMENT;	(4) DECEPTIVE AND MISLEADING SOLICITATIONS (BUS. & PROF.
22	MATTHEW J. GREGORY, INDIVIDUALLY AND	CODE, § 17510.8; CORP. CODE, § 6215;
23	AS A DIRECTOR AND OFFICER OF WOUNDED WARRIORS SUPPORT GROUP AND CENTRAL	GOV. CODE, § 12599.6)
23	COAST EQUINE RESCUE AND RETIREMENT;	(5) BREACH OF FIDUCIARY
24	GINA D. GREGORY, INDIVIDUALLY;	RELATIONSHIP (BUS. & PROF. CODE,
	GREGORY MOTORSPORTS; AND DOES 1	§ 17510.8)
25	THROUGH 100, INCLUSIVE,	(6) SELF DEALING (CORP. CODE, § 5233)
26	Defendants.	(7) UNJUST ENRICHMENT (CIV. CODE, §
20 .	Detendants.	2224)
27		(8) OPERATION OF AN ILLEGAL
خیر	;	RAFFLE (PEN. CODE, § 320.5)
28		(9) FAILING TO COMPLY WITH
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1 2	REGULATIONS AND ORDERS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (GOV. CODE, § 12599.6)
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4	Plaintiffs, the People of the State of California, file this Complaint, and complain and allege
5	as follows:
6	PARTIES
7	1. Plaintiffs, the People of the State of California (People), are the true beneficiaries of
8	the assets held by Wounded Warrior Support Group (WWSG) and Central Coast Equine Rescue
9	and Retirement (CCERR), and include members of the class of charitable beneficiaries of WWSG
10	and CCERR.
11	2. The Attorney General, Xavier Becerra, who brings this action on behalf of the People,
12	is the Attorney General of the State of California, and has the primary responsibility for
13	supervising charitable trusts, "for ensuring compliance with trusts and articles of incorporation,
14	and for protecting assets held by charitable trusts and public benefit corporations." (Gov. Code, §
15	12598.) The Attorney General may bring charitable trust enforcement actions under the
16	provisions of the Supervision of Trustees and Fundraisers for Charitable Purposes Act (Gov.
17	Code, § 12580 et seq.), the Nonprofit Corporation Law (Corp. Code, § 5000 et seq.), those
18	provisions of the Business and Professions Code that prohibit unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent
19	business practices (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 17200 et seq., and § 17510 et seq.), and Penal Code
20	provisions on nonprofit raffles (Pen. Code, § 319 et seq.). Additionally, the Attorney General is
21	entitled to recover all reasonable fees and actual costs incurred in this charitable trust enforcement
22	action as set forth in section 12598, subdivision (b) of the Government Code, to be used for the
23	Attorney General's charitable trust enforcement responsibilities. (Gov. Code, § 12586.2.)
24	3. Defendant Wounded Warrior Support Group (WWSG) is a California nonprofit
25	public benefit corporation with a charitable mission to support military veterans wounded in
26	combat, and their families. WWSG has a Post Office Box address in Carmel-by-the-Sea,
27	Monterey County, State of California. It has engaged in fundraising and raffle activities in
28	Alameda County, and throughout the State of California. WWSG filed its articles with the
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California Secretary of State on March 6, 2013, and received tax-exempt status from the IRS under 26 U.S.C. section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code on August 13, 2014, based on its representation that it would operate as a charitable organization. WWSG's federal EIN is 46-2415750. WWSG's Articles of Incorporation state that it is organized and will operate as a nonprofit corporation, and its' specific charitable purpose is to "support military veterans injured in combat and the families of such veterans." WWSG registered with the Registry on December 9, 2014. As required by law, WWSG is required to hold all its assets in trust on behalf of its charitable beneficiaries. WWSG is run by the Gregory family; Defendants Matthew G. Gregory, Danella J. Gregory, and Matthew J. Gregory are officers and directors of WWSG. All members of the Gregory family operate raffles, and engage in fundraising for WWSG.

Central Coast Equine Rescue and Retirement (CCERR) is a California nonprofit public benefit corporation with the charitable purposes to rescue abused or unwanted horses, and educate the public about the proper care of horses and other animals, and about animal neglect and overpopulation. CCERR has operations in Livermore, Alameda County, State of California, and a Post Office Box address in Carmel-by-the-Sea, Monterey County, State of California. CCERR boards and/or keeps its horses in Alameda County. CCERR's federal Employer Identification Number (EIN) is 45-2996164. CCERR filed its articles of incorporation with the California Secretary of State on August 1, 2011. On January 16, 2012, CCERR received taxexempt status from the IRS, under 26 U.S.C. section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, based on its representation that it would operate as a charitable organization. CCERR's Articles of Incorporation represent that it is organized and will operate as a nonprofit corporation, and that its' specific charitable purposes are to: "(i) eliminate suffering and promote the welfare of animals by operating a rescue and retirement program for unwanted or poorly maintained horses; (ii) promote and encourage the public to undertake proper care of horses and other animals; (iii) educate the public about related issues such as animal neglect and overpopulation; (iv) carry on other charitable and educational activities associated with these goals as allowed by law." Defendants Matthew G. Gregory, Danella J. Gregory, and Matthew J. Gregory are officers and directors of CCERR, and Gina D. Gregory is the agent responsible for the day-to-day operations

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of CCERR. Each year CCERR obtained a raffle permit, but never operated its own raffle. Instead, CCERR allowed WWSG to conduct raffles using CCERR's permit in exchange for a percentage of the proceeds from the sale of raffle tickets. CCERR receives all of its revenue through raffles operated by WWSG.

- 5. In California, every charitable corporation, unincorporated association, and trustee doing business or holding property for charitable or eleemosynary purposes must register with the Attorney General's Registry of Charitable Trusts (Registry) within thirty days of receiving property, and then submit annual reports with the Registry, including the filing of Form RRF-1 (Annual Registration Renewal Fee Report) and a copy of the IRS Form 990 filed with the Internal Revenue Service. (Gov. Code, §§ 12582, 12582.1, 12585, 12586; Cal. Code Regs., tit. 11, § 301.)
- 6. In California, for an "eligible organization" to conduct raffles to support beneficial or charitable purposes, the eligible nonprofit organization must be qualified to conduct business in California for at least one year before conducting a raffle, and must be exempt under various provisions of the Revenue and Taxation Code. (Pen. Code, § 320.5.) Moreover, an eligible organization may not conduct a raffle unless it registers annually in advance with the Registry, and provides an annual report that includes information such as the aggregate gross receipts from raffles, the aggregate direct costs in operating the raffles, and the charitable or beneficial purposes for which the proceeds of the raffles were used. (*Ibid.*, subd. (h).)
- 7. Since 2011, WWSG has operated an illegal raffle as its primary source of revenue. It did so in violation of state laws governing raffles, without first registering with the Registry, and without obtaining tax-exempt status from the IRS. WWSG was served with a cease and desist order, and eventually had its raffle permit revoked and further raffle registration denied by the Registry. Moreover, although WWSG advertised that raffle proceeds would support veterans through a therapeutic equestrian program, no such program has ever existed. Instead, virtually all of the money that donors gave to help injured veterans was used by members of the Gregory family for personal expenses, hobbies, and for their for-profit business.
 - 8. As nonprofit public benefit corporations, all of the assets of CCERR and WWSG are

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held subject to a charitable trust. The Gregory family members are fiduciaries, and legally required to put the interests of the charitable beneficiaries ahead of their own interests. Despite this, the Gregory family diverted charitable assets away from CCERR and WWSG, and used the money for personal benefit.

- 9. CCERR does no fundraising of its own, and relies entirely on funds provided by WWSG to maintain its operations. CCERR registered with the Registry on March 9, 2012. According to the 2014 and 2015 IRS Form 990-EZs filed with the IRS and provided to the Registry, CCERR "relies on WWSG for all of its funding to pay its bills," and CCERR "provides and offers rescued horses to WWSG for the healing of physically & mentally wounded veterans. We are working together." As required by law, CCERR is to hold all its assets in trust on behalf of its charitable beneficiaries.
- 10. On information and belief, defendant Matthew G. Gregory (dad Matthew) is a resident of Fresno County, State of California. From 2011 to present, dad Matthew was and continues to be an officer and director of CCERR, and owed and continues to owe fiduciary duties of care and loyalty to CCERR, and its charitable beneficiaries. From 2013 to present, dad Matthew was and continues to be an officer and director of WWSG, and owed and continues to owe fiduciary duties of care and loyalty to WWSG, and its charitable beneficiaries. Dad Matthew has personally profited from the unlawful and deceptive acts alleged in this Complaint.
- 11. On information and belief, defendant Danella J. Gregory (Danella) is a resident of Fresno County, State of California. From 2011 to present, Danella was and continues to be an officer and director of CCERR, and owed and continues to owe fiduciary duties of care and loyalty to CCERR, and its charitable beneficiaries. From 2013 to present, Danella was and continues to be an officer and director of WWSG, and owed and continues to owe fiduciary duties of care and loyalty to WWSG, and its charitable beneficiaries. Danella has personally profited from the unlawful and deceptive acts alleged in this Complaint.
- 12. On information and belief, defendant Matthew J. Gregory (son Matthew) is a resident of Fresno County, State of California. From 2011 to present, son Matthew was and continues to be an officer and director of CCERR, and owed and continues to owe fiduciary duties of care and

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loyalty to CCERR and its charitable beneficiaries. From 2013 to present, son Matthew was and continues to be an officer and director of WWSG, and owed and continues to owe fiduciary duties of care and loyalty to WWSG, and its charitable beneficiaries. Son Matthew has personally profited from the unlawful and deceptive acts alleged in this Complaint.

- 13. On information and belief, defendant Gina D. Gregory (Gina) is a resident of Alameda County, State of California. From 2011 to present, Gina had and continues to have responsibility for the day-to-day operations of CCERR. In that capacity, she receives and manages charitable funds raised by WWSG and given to CCERR to support a therapeutic equestrian program to benefit injured veterans. Gina also actively participates in fundraising on behalf of WWSG. Gina has personally profited from the unlawful and deceptive acts alleged in this Complaint.
- 14. Plaintiffs are informed and believe that defendant Gregory Motorsports is a business entity located in Fresno County, State of California, and operated by dad Matthew. On information and belief, Gregory Motorsports has provided, in exchange for valuable consideration, one or more of the prize cars raffled off each year by WWSG since 2011. Gregory Motorsports has directly profited from the unlawful and deceptive acts alleged in this Complaint.
- participated with or acted in concert with one or more of the defendants, or who have acted on behalf of or as agents, servants or employees of one or more of the defendants, but whose true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, or otherwise, are presently unknown to plaintiffs. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that defendants DOES 1 through 100 have directly or indirectly participated in and are responsible for the acts and omissions that are more specifically described below, and plaintiffs' damages were proximately caused by such defendants. Because plaintiffs are presently uninformed as to the true names and capacities of defendants DOES 1 through 100, plaintiffs sue them by fictitious names, but will seek leave to amend this Complaint when their true names and capacities are discovered.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

16. At all times relevant, defendants and each of them transacted business in Alameda

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County, and elsewhere in the state of California. Defendant CCERR operates its business in Livermore, Alameda County, and defendant Gina is a resident of Alameda County. The violations of law described in this Complaint were and are now being carried out, in part, in Alameda County and throughout the State of California. This Court has jurisdiction under Article VI, section 10, of the California Constitution, and section 393 of the Code of Civil Procedure.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- 17. Whenever reference is made in this Complaint to any act of any corporate or other business defendant, such allegation shall mean that said defendant and its owners, officers, directors, agents, employees, or representatives did or authorized such acts while engaged in the management, direction, or control of the affairs of defendants and while acting within the scope and course of their duties. Whenever reference is made in this Complaint to any act of defendant, such allegation shall mean that each defendant acted individually and jointly with the other defendants named in that cause of action.
- 18. Whenever reference is made in this Complaint to any act of any individual defendant, such allegation shall be deemed to mean that said defendant is and was acting (a) as a principal, (b) under express or implied agency, and/or (c) with actual or ostensible authority to perform the acts so alleged on behalf of every other defendant.
- 19. On information and belief, in or about 2011, years before it obtained tax-exempt status from the IRS, or registered with the Registry, or had a permit to operate a raffle, WWSG began soliciting charitable donations and operating an illegal raffle. The Gregory family told potential donors that funds raised would support injured military veterans. In particular, the Gregory family falsely told donors that funds raised would provide a therapeutic equestrian program for injured veterans.
- 20. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that through internet advertisements, their own websites (e.g., www.winwithacobra.com, www.winthisshelby.com, www.wounded-warriors.net, www.wounded-warriors.org), and in-person solicitations, WWSG and the Gregory family represented that the proceeds are used to support injured combat veterans and their families by providing a therapeutic equestrian program, weekend family retreats, and

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more. These representations are false.

- 21. WWSG's IRS Form 990 for the year 2014 reported that it received \$381,416.00 in donations, and distributed \$93,855.00 to CCERR as a restricted grant for a therapeutic equestrian program for wounded veterans. The balance of WWSG's donations in 2014 was used as follows: \$56,580.00 for advertising, \$20,930.00 for office expenses, \$57,217.00 for conferences or conventions, \$375.00 for insurance, and \$152,459.00 in cash was added to WWSG's bank account.
- 22. CCERR's IRS Form 990 for the year 2014 shows that it received \$93,855.00 as a grant from WWSG. As noted in the above paragraph, that grant was restricted for use in a therapeutic equestrian program. But CCERR's 2014 Form 990 shows that it spent \$55,559.00 of the restricted grant money for boarding, feed, and care of its horses, and kept \$38,296.00 in cash in the bank. None of the restricted grant money that CCERR received from WWSG was used to advertise a therapeutic equestrian program, hire qualified therapists to work with wounded veterans, evaluate or train the rescue horses as therapy animals, purchase special equipment for injured riders, rent arena time to allow wounded veterans to ride horses, or for any other purpose related to a therapeutic equestrian program.
- 23. In its 2015 IRS Form 990, WWSG reported revenue of \$401,018.00. It claimed \$184,779.00 in direct expenses (\$97,387.00 "automobile" and \$87,392.00 "other activity".) In 2015, WWSG gave CCERR a grant of \$108,689.00 to fund a therapeutic equestrian program, leaving WWSG with \$107,550.00 in cash to bring its bank account balance up to \$284,184.00.
- 24. CCERR's IRS Form 990EZ for 2015 acknowledges that it received \$108,689.00 from WWSG, and shows that it spent \$74,458.00 on boarding, feed, and care of its horses. At the end of the year, CCERR still had \$72,527.00 cash in the bank, but none of it was used to fund a therapeutic equestrian program.
- 25. None of the charitable donations received by CCERR or WWSG were used for a therapeutic equestrian program or to support injured veterans. Instead, the bank statements of CCERR and WWSG show that the money was used to pay for the Gregory family's personal expenses such as: \$10,000.00 to pay off dad Matthew's Cabela's Hunting and Fishing credit

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card, traffic school, purchases at Victoria's Secret, MyPillow, Inc., Nordstrom, Macy's, Dillard's, Hot Topic, Marshall's, TJ Maxx, Guitar Center, JC Penny, La Mundial dressage boots, Valentine's Day flowers, Stevens Creek Volkswagen, Dublin Volkswagen, Dublin Toyota, Fresno Chrysler Jeep, Costco, Home Depot, Shelby American, various restaurants and hotels, car show fees, tires and maintenance on personal vehicles, gasoline, groceries, dental services, and assorted tack and equipment for Gina's show horse hobby. The Gregory family's use of charitable funds for their personal benefit not only deceived the public but also diverted raffle funds that should have gone to fund legitimate charitable programs benefitting veterans.

- 26. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that the Gregory family made false and misleading statements in their filings with the IRS and the Registry. In addition to falsely portraying that WWSG is an active, successful charity that provides direct support to wounded veterans in the form of a therapeutic equestrian program, defendants dad Matthew, Danella, and son Matthew failed to keep adequate books and records, which caused WWSG and CCERR to file false and misleading reports about revenue and program expenses with the IRS and the Registry.
- 27. WWSG's charitable solicitations to the public also contain multiple false and misleading statements, including unattributed photographs, text, and quotes plagiarized from other websites and the Washington Post to suggest to donors that WWSG, through CCERR, is operating a therapeutic equestrian program for wounded veterans. (See e.g., www.wounded-warriors.org.) WWSG's website also includes the PATH International Certified Therapeutic Riding Center logo to falsely suggest that WWSG is a PATH Center Member. In truth, neither CCERR nor WWSG has ever operated a therapeutic equestrian program, and WWSG is not a PATH Center Member. Defendants intentionally concealed or misrepresented this information in advertisements and other communications with prospective donors to steer their donations to WWSG and away from other competing organizations for their personal benefit.
- 28. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that dad Matthew engaged in illegal self-dealing transactions. Dad Matthew owns and operates defendant Gregory Motorsports which manufactures and provides a kit car, a replica Shelby Cobra, as the prize car raffled off by

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WWSG at the end of each raffle cycle. On information and belief, withdrawals from WWSG's accounts were used to purchase goods, services, and materials for defendant Gregory Motorsports, including free advertising for defendant Gregory Motorsports. And in its 2015 IRS Form 990, WWSG reported that it expended \$97,387.00 in exchange for a Shelby Cobra prize car that, on information and belief, was purchased from defendant Gregory Motorsports.

- 29. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that defendants kept hundreds of thousands of dollars in donations that should have been used to support rescue horses or wounded combat veterans. Because defendants dad Matthew, Danella, and son Matthew failed to keep or maintain any financial records for CCERR and WWSG, plaintiffs base their estimate on CCERR's and WWSG's bank records and believe that the bank records represent only a portion of the true money owed to CCERR, WWSG, and their charitable beneficiaries.
- 30. In August 2016, the Registry issued a cease and desist order to CCERR on the grounds that it failed to file a raffle report for the 2015 raffle year in violation of Penal Code section 320.5, subdivision (h)(6), and because its expenses exceeded revenue in violation of Penal Code section 320.5, subdivision (b)(4)(A), for the years 2011 through 2014. The cease and desist order applied to CCERR and all persons or entities acting on its behalf. The order also included information and instructions for appealing the order. CCERR did not appeal the order.
- 31. In August 2016, the Registry issued a cease and desist order to WWSG on the grounds that it was not eligible to operate a raffle in California under Penal Code section 320.5, subdivision (c), and it was operating an illegal raffle on the internet in violation of Penal Code section 320.5, subdivision (f)(2). The cease and desist order directed WWSG to cease and desist from "all raffles and solicitations by any means." The order applied to WWSG and all persons or entities acting on its behalf. The order included information, and instructions for appealing the order. WWSG did not appeal the order.
- 32. Also in August 2016, the Registry issued letters to CCERR and WWSG revoking their raffle registration for the period of September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016, and denying their applications for raffle registration for the year beginning on September 1, 2016. The letters included information and instructions for appealing the revocations and denials. Neither CCERR

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nor WWSG appealed the revocation or denial of their raffle permits. These letters, together with the cease and desist orders described above, meant that CCERR and WWSG were required to immediately stop all raffle activity. Nevertheless, WWSG created a new website and continued selling raffle tickets online at www.wounded-warriors.org and the Gregory family continued selling raffle tickets in-person at car shows throughout California, Arizona, and Nevada. In an attempt to circumvent the cease and desist order, WWSG held its raffle drawing on January 1, 2017, in Chandler, Arizona.

- 33. The named individual defendants and defendants DOES 1 through 100 have breached and continue to breach their fiduciary duty, violations of trust, and violations of law as alleged in this Complaint. To preserve charitable assets and to prevent waste, dissipation and loss of charitable assets in this State to the irreparable damage of plaintiffs, and to prevent further misrepresentation to the People, the requested dissolution, injunctive relief and removal of officers and directors should be granted.
- 34. Unless otherwise stated in this Complaint, the actions and omissions that form the bases for the causes of action alleged in this Complaint occurred on or after August 1, 2011. Unless otherwise stated in this Complaint, plaintiffs and the Attorney General did not have knowledge or information of the facts and circumstances underlying these causes of action before May 14, 2015, when WWSG and CCERR responded to the Attorney General's first document demand in connection with the Attorney General's investigation of WWSG and CCERR. Plaintiffs did not discover these complaints and circumstances before that date, and could not in the exercise of reasonable diligence have discovered them before that date.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION INVOLUNTARY DISSOLUTION AND APPOINTMENT OF A RECEIVER (AGAINST DEFENDANTS CENTRAL COAST EQUINE RESCUE AND RETIREMENT AND WOUNDED WARRIORS SUPPORT GROUP.)

- 35. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference each of the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 34 of this Complaint.
- 36. The Attorney General seeks the involuntary dissolution of CCERR and WWSG under sections 6510 and 6511 of the Corporations Code based on the conduct described in this

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including but not limited to, the acts or omissions described in this Complaint, in violation of common law trust principles and state statutes (including, but not limited to, Corporations Code section 5231.)

A. Diversion of Restricted Charitable Donations.

- 41. Corporations Code section 5231, subdivision (a), requires corporate directors to perform their duties in good faith, in the best interests of the corporation, and "with such care, including reasonable inquiry, as an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use under similar circumstances."
- 42. Beginning in 2011, defendants started soliciting donations by telling the public that the funds would be used to help injured veterans, and in particular, to support a therapeutic equestrian program for injured veterans. But none of the money was used to aid any injured veteran. Instead, in violation of Government Code § 12599.6, subdivisions (f)(2), and (4), the donated funds were used to pay the Gregory family's personal expenses like traffic school, personal shopping, restaurants, groceries, auto repair, and credit card debt. Additionally, on information and belief, a portion of the donated funds were used to advertise and purchase equipment for defendant dad Matthew's for-profit business, defendant Gregory Motorsports.
- 43. Further, the OFFICER/DIRECTOR DEFENDANTS and DOES 1 through 50, in their capacity as officers and directors of WWSG, granted funds to CCERR for the restricted purpose of supporting a therapeutic equestrian program. The Gregory family was aware of the restriction when they received the restricted grant on behalf of CCERR, but none of the restricted funds were used for a therapeutic equestrian program. Instead, all defendants, including defendant Gina and Does 51-100, diverted the charitable funds to purchase personal items for the Gregory family including clothing, lingerie, gasoline, food, and tack and equipment for Gina's show horse hobby.
- 44. These acts were in bad faith, not in the best interests of the nonprofit corporations, and were not done with such care as an ordinarily prudent person would use under similar circumstances. These acts were also misrepresentations to the People of the purpose of WWSG and CCERR and the nature or purpose or beneficiary of a solicitation.

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B. Failing to Maintain Books and Records.

- 45. CCERR and WWSG were required to keep adequate and correct books and records of account, minutes of the proceedings of its members, board, and committees of the board. (Corp. Code § 6320.) The OFFICER/DIRECTOR DEFENDANTS and Gina, in her capacity as agent, violated Corporations Code section 6320, subdivision (a) because they kept no books, records, or minutes for CCERR or WWSG.
- The failure to keep books, records of account, or minutes also violates Corporations Code section 5231, subdivision (a) because it was not in the best interests of the corporations, and because it violated the Gregory family's obligation to act in good faith, and with the duty of care that an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would use under similar circumstances.
- 47. Defendants' failure to keep adequate and correct books and records of accounts also caused CCERR and WWSG to file false and misleading reports with the IRS and the Registry as more fully described below.
 - C. Causing WWSG to Solicit Donations through Raffles Before it had Nonprofit Status, Registered with the Registry, and/or Obtained a Raffle Permit.
- 48. From 2011 through 2015, WWSG operated an annual raffle without obtaining a permit from the Registry. During that time, defendants misled the public into believing that WWSG was authorized to conduct a raffle for charity. WWSG could not obtain a raffle permit during those years because it did not have tax-exempt status until August 13, 2014, and/or was not an "eligible organization" as defined by Penal Code section 320.5, subdivision (c) because it had not registered with the Registry until December 9, 2014. An "eligible organization" must be qualified to conduct business in California for at least one year before conducting a raffle. (Pen. Code, § 320.5, subd. (c).)
- 49. By selling raffle tickets, soliciting donations, and operating WWSG as a charity before obtaining tax-exempt status, registering with the Registry, and by operating an illegal raffle, defendants failed to act in the best interests of WWSG in violation of Corporations Code section 5231, subdivision (a). By making material misrepresentations about WWSG's status as a charity, soliciting donations, selling raffle tickets, operating without registering as a charity and

Dissolution

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without obtaining a raffle permit, defendants violated Government Code section 12599.6, subdivisions (f)(2), and (4), and caused WWSG to incur penalties under Government Code section 12586.1, subdivisions (a) and (b).

D. Causing CCERR and WWSG to Lose Their Raffle Permits.

- 50. CCERR obtained a raffle permit every year from 2011 to 2016. CCERR never conducted its own raffle, but instead allowed WWSG to use its permit. CCERR then reported revenue generated and expenses incurred by WWSG to the Registry as though it had conducted the raffle itself. In August 2016, the Registry revoked CCERR's 2016 raffle permit, and denied its 2017 raffle application because the expenses it reported exceeded revenue for the raffles held from 2011 through 2014 in violation of Penal Code § 320.5, subdivision (b)(4)(A), and because it failed to file a raffle report for 2015 in violation of Penal Code § 320.5, subdivision (h)(6).
- 51. WWSG was operating an illegal raffle from 2011 through 2016, in part, by selling raffle tickets on the internet in violation of Penal Code section 320.5, subdivision (f)(2). As a result, in August 2016, the Registry revoked WWSG's 2016 raffle permit, and denied its 2017 raffle application.
- 52. An annual raffle is WWSG's primary means of generating revenue. Even though CCERR obtains a raffle permit every year, it never runs its own raffle, and depends entirely on WWSG's fundraising for financial support. The OFFICER/DIRECTOR DEFENDANTS and DOES 1 through 50 violated Corporations Code section 5231, subdivision (a) and Penal Code section 320.5, and caused both charities to lose their raffle permits by failing to file a required raffle report, exceeding allowable expenses, and selling raffle tickets over the internet.
 - E. Operating in Violation of Cease and Desist Orders and Revocation of Raffle Registration.
- 53. In August 2016, the Registry issued a cease and desist order to CCERR for failing to file a raffle report for 2015, and because its expenses exceeded revenue for all raffles conducted from 2011 to 2014.
- 54. In August 2016, the Registry issued a cease and desist order to WWSG for selling raffle tickets over the internet in violation of Penal Code section 320.5, subdivision (f)(2).

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- 55. The cease and desist orders instructed the organizations and all persons and entities associated with them to "stop all raffle activities and solicitations by any means." Although WWSG briefly took down its website and stopped selling raffle tickets online, defendants continued to solicit raffle ticket sales at car shows throughout California. These violations of the Registry's cease and desist order by defendants caused WWSG to incur penalties of \$20,000.00.
- 56. Despite having its' raffle application denied, WWSG created a new website where it offers raffle tickets for sale online, including in California, but lists its address at a UPS Store in Arizona. It then conducted its raffle drawing on January 1, 2017, in Chandler, Arizona. WWSG is still registered as an active California nonprofit public benefit corporation, and subject to the laws of the State of California and orders issued by the Attorney General. The actions described in this section violate the Registry's cease and desist orders, and Corporations Code section 5231, subdivision (a).
 - F. False Reporting to the IRS, and the State of California, and Disseminating False Information to Potential Donors and the Public.
- 57. The OFFICER/DIRECTOR DEFENDANTS and DOES 1 through 50 caused CCERR to file, with the IRS and the Registry, false and misleading returns (IRS Form 990EZ) and RRF-1 Forms for fiscal years 2011 to 2015. These defendants also disseminated this false and misleading information to the donating public. These actions were improper, unfair, unlawful, and likely to mislead the IRS, the Registry, potential donors, and the public in violation of Government Code sections 12591.1, subdivision (b)(2), 12599.6, subdivision (f)(2), and Corporations Code section 6215.
- 58. The OFFICER/DIRECTOR DEFENDANTS and DOES 1 through 50 also caused WWSG to file, with the IRS and the Registry, false and misleading IRS Forms 990EZ and RRF-1 for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2013, and IRS Forms 990 and RRF-1 for fiscal years ended December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2015. These defendants also disseminated this false and misleading information to the public. These actions were improper, unfair, unlawful, and likely to mislead the IRS, the Registry, potential donors, and the public in violation of Government Code sections 12591.1, subdivision (b)(2), 12599.6, subdivision (f)(2), and

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- Each of CCERR's Form RRF-1 filed for fiscal years 2011 through 2015, and IRS Form 990EZ for fiscal years 2011 through 2015, make material false statements about CCERR's actual program expenses in violation of Government Code section 12591.1, subdivision (b)(2). Such violations are subject to a penalty of \$1,000.00, per act, or a total of \$10,000.00.
- Each of WWSG's Form RRF-1 filed for years 2013 through 2015, IRS Form 990EZ for fiscal year 2013, and Form 990 for fiscal years 2014 and 2015, make material false statements about WWSG's actual program expenses in violation of Government Code section 12591.1, subdivision (b)(2). Such violations are subject to a penalty of \$1,000.00, per act, or a total of

All defendants knowingly deceived and defrauded the public when they diverted charitable donations to their personal use, when they solicited donations without tax-exempt status and without registering with the Registry, when they continued to sell raffle tickets without a permit and in violation of cease and desist orders, and when they filed false and fraudulent reports and forms with the IRS and Registry. As a result, each defendant is liable for a penalty not exceeding \$10,000.00 for each year. (Gov. Code, § 12591.1, subd. (a).)

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION AIDING AND ABETTING A BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY (AGAINST DEFENDANTS GINA D. GREGORY, GREGORY MOTORSPORTS, MATTHEW G. GREGORY, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS OWNER, DIRECTOR, AND OFFICER OF GREGORY MOTORSPORTS, AND DOES 51 THROUGH 100.)

- Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference as though fully set forth each of the
- Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that Gina, Gregory Motorsports, and dad Matthew as its owner, officer and/or director, and DOES 51 through 100 aided and abetted and/or participated in the breach of duty of the OFFICER/DIRECTOR DEFENDANTS for the purpose of advancing their own interests or financial advantage. On information and belief defendant Gregory Motorsports received payments for the kit car used by WWSG as a raffle prize and free advertising at the expense of WWSG and CCERR. On

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FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION BREACH OF FIDUCIARY RELATIONSHIP (AGAINST ALL NAMED DEFENDANTS AND DOES 1 THROUGH 100.)

- 72. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference as though fully set forth herein each of the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 71 this Complaint.
- California Business and Professions Code section 17510.8 imposes a charitable trust on funds collected for charitable purposes, and "a fiduciary relationship between a charity or any person soliciting on behalf of a charity, and the person from whom the charitable contribution is being solicited."
- 74. Defendants solicited and accepted contributions on behalf of charitable beneficiaries. Acceptance of those donations established a charitable trust, and a fiduciary duty on the part of defendants to ensure that the donations were used for the purposes stated during the solicitation.
- Defendants violated Business and Professions Code section 17510.8 by soliciting and then failing to use the accepted donations for injured veterans in violation of the fiduciary relationship created between a charity and donor.
- As a proximate result of the breaches of trust and fiduciary relationship by defendants, CCERR, WWSG, and their charitable beneficiaries were damaged in an amount presently unknown to the People, and which cannot be ascertained without an accounting by all defendants. The facts necessary to ascertain the exact amount of damages owing to CCERR, WWSG, and their charitable beneficiaries are within the special knowledge of the defendants. However, the People estimate the total damages proximately caused by defendants' actions and omissions exceed \$500,000.00.
- By reason of the acts alleged in this Complaint, defendants failed to comply with the trust which they assumed, and departed from the public and charitable purposes they were bound to serve. In order to preserve and conserve the assets of CCERR and WWSG, and in order to prevent waste, dissipation and loss of charitable assets and to prevent further misrepresentations to the donating public, it is necessary that the injunctive relief prayed for, including, but not limited to, the removal of the OFFICER/DIRECTOR DEFENDANTS as officers and directors of CCERR and WWSG, and the appointment of a receiver be granted.

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SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION ENGAGING IN SELF-DEALING TRANSACTIONS (AGAINST DEFENDANT MATTHEW G. GREGORY AND DOES 1 THROUGH 50.)

- 78. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference as though fully set forth herein each of the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 42, 62 through 65. And 72 through 77 of this Complaint.
- 79. Corporations Code section 5233 defines "self-dealing transactions" as those transactions involving the corporation in which one or more of its directors has a material financial interest. In order to ratify a self-dealing transaction, the board must establish that the corporation met all of the following conditions: (A) the corporation entered into the transaction for its own benefit; (B) the transaction was fair and reasonable to the corporation; (C) the transaction was approved by the board in good faith by a vote of the uninterested directors; and (D) the board determined that the corporation could not have obtained a more advantageous arrangement. (Corp Code, § 5233, subds. (d)(2)(A)-(d)(2)(D).)
- 80. Dad Matthew is also the owner, director, and/or officer, of defendant Gregory Motorsports, which supplied a Shelby Cobra as the prize car in each of WWSG's raffles from 2011 through 2017, in exchange for money or other valuable consideration from WWSG.
- 81. At the time WWSG entered into the transactions, dad Matthew was a director of WWSG and had a material financial interest because he was receiving monies from Gregory Motorsports, but dad Matthew failed to follow the requirements for self-dealing transactions set out in Corporations Code section 5233. The agreements were not approved by the California Attorney General, and they were not fair and reasonable to WWSG at the time they occurred.
- 82. The transactions WWSG entered into with dad Matthew and Gregory Motorsports during the period of January 2011 through January 2017 constituted self-dealing transactions within the meaning of Corporations Code section 5233 and none of the exceptions in that section apply. Dad Matthew, Danella, son Matthew, and Gina knew or should have known that all of the transactions involving WWSG, dad Matthew, and Gregory Motorsports were self-dealing transactions. In the alternative, if the defendants other than dad Matthew did not know of the self-dealing nature of these transactions, it was because dad Matthew wrongfully concealed the

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EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION OPERATING AN ILLEGAL RAFFLE

(AGAINST DEFENDANTS MATTHEW G. GREGORY, DANELLA J. GREGORY, MATTHEW J. GREGORY, GINA D. GREGORY, AND DOES 1 THROUGH 100.)

- 89. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference as though fully set forth herein each of the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 40, 48 through 56, and 61 of this Complaint.
- 90. Penal Code section 320.5, subdivision (a)(4)(A) states that at least ninety percent of the gross receipts generated from the sale of raffle tickets for any given draw must be used by the organization conducting the raffle to benefit or support a beneficial or charitable purpose. The organization conducting the raffle may use the revenues to benefit another nonprofit organization, provided that the other nonprofit is an eligible organization.
- 91. In every year it obtained a raffle permit, CCERR violated Penal Code section 320.5, subdivision (a)(4)(A) because its expenses exceeded revenue, and on information and belief, none of the revenue generated was used to support a beneficial or charitable purpose.
- 92. In every year it conducted a raffle, WWSG violated Penal Code section 320.5, subdivision (a)(4)(A) because its expenses exceeded revenue, and none of the revenue generated was used to support a beneficial or charitable purpose.
- 93. On information and belief, since 2011, WWSG has illegally sold raffle tickets, and conducted its annual raffle over the internet in violation of Penal Code section 320.5, subdivision (f)(2).
- 94. Further, in August 2016, the Registry revoked and denied raffle permits for CCERR and WWSG. At the same time, the Registry issued cease and desist orders to both organizations directing them to stop all raffle activities and solicitations by any means. But defendants continued to sell raffle tickets, including over the internet, and conduct raffle activities, including a raffle drawing on January 1, 2017, without a permit and in violation of the Registry's cease and desist order.

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TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION FAILING TO COMPLY WITH REGULATIONS AND ORDERS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

(AGAINST DEFENDANTS MATTHEW G. GREGORY, DANELLA J. GREGORY, MATTHEW J. GREGORY, GINA D. GREGORY, AND DOES 1 THROUGH 100.)

- 95. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate by reference as though fully set forth herein each of the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 34, 38 through 40, 45 through 56, 68 through 69, and 94 of this Complaint.
- 96. Defendants' actions as described in this Complaint violated Government Code section 12599.6, subdivision (f)(1) by operating CCERR and WWSG without registering as a charity, by operating WWSG without registering for raffles, soliciting raffle ticket sales and engaging in raffle activities in violation of the cease and desist orders, and by engaging in raffle activities after revocation of raffle registration and denial of raffle permits.
- 97. Each of these violations subjects defendants to penalties for each act or omission.

 (Gov. Code, § 12591.1, subd. (a) &(c).) As a result of the aforementioned violations, under Government Code section 12591.1, plaintiffs are entitled to civil penalties in an amount that is presently unknown, but believed to be in excess of \$200,000.00.

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, plaintiffs pray for judgment as follows:

1. For the removal of defendants Matthew G. Gregory, Danella J. Gregory, Matthew J. Gregory, and DOES 1 through 50 as officers and/or directors of CCERR and WWSG as provided by Corporations Code section 5223 and as otherwise authorized by law, ordering them to surrender all assets of CCERR and WWSG, and enjoin them, their employees, agents, servants, representatives, successors, and assigns, and any and all persons acting in concert or participation with them, and all other persons, corporations, or other entities acting under, by, through, or on their behalf, from doing any of the following: (1) expending, disbursing, transferring, encumbering, withdrawing or otherwise exercising control over any funds received by or on behalf of CCERR or WWSG, or rightfully due CCERR or WWSG; and (2) conducting business of any kind on behalf of, or relating to CCERR or WWSG other than necessary to assist with dissolution, if requested by the Court and/or the receiver.

- 2. That the Court appoint a receiver to manage the affairs of CCERR and WWSG, and to preserve their remaining charitable assets, and establish a procedure for determining the disposition of the assets of CCERR and WWSG in a manner consistent with their charitable purposes and consistent with any lawful restrictions that were placed on their remaining assets pending resolution of this Complaint.
- 3. For the involuntary dissolution of CCERR and WWSG under the provisions of Corporations Code section 6511 et seq.
- 4. For an order prohibiting defendants Matthew G. Gregory, Danella J. Gregory, Matthew J. Gregory, Gina D. Gregory, and DOES 1 through 100 from acting as an founder, officer, director, agent, employee, or a fiduciary for any charitable corporation, charitable association, charitable organization, or charitable trust within the State of California;
- 5. For an order prohibiting defendants Matthew G. Gregory, Danella J. Gregory, Matthew J. Gregory, Gina D. Gregory, and DOES 1 through 100, from operating any raffle and from soliciting charitable donations and assets in California or from any resident of California;
- 6. For damages due CCERR and its charitable beneficiaries resulting from the breaches of fiduciary duty of defendants in an amount to be determined following an accounting from defendants, plus interest at the legal rate until the judgment is paid;
- 7. For damages due WWSG and its charitable beneficiaries resulting from the breaches of fiduciary duty of defendants in an amount to be determined following an accounting from defendants, plus interest at the legal rate until judgment is paid;
- 8. For an order compelling dad Matthew and Gregory Motorsports to provide an accounting of any profits or other benefits made/received from the self-dealing transactions alleged, and compelling them to pay all profits and benefits over to WWSG along with interest at the legal rate. To the extent WWSG suffered any damages as a proximate result of these transactions, for an order compelling dad Matthew and Gregory Motorsports to pay them over to WWSG;
- 9. That the court assess civil penalties against defendants under Government Code section 12591.1 for violations of the Supervision of Trustees and Fundraisers for Charitable

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