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13 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
14 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

16 California Coalition for Women
17 Prisoners, JANE DOES # 1 – 6,
18 individually and on behalf of others
19 similarly situated,

19 Plaintiffs,

20 v.

21 SCOTT LEE, M.D.; JAMES ELLIOTT;
22 KENNETH MAXWELL; JEFF
23 MACOMBER; DIANA TOCHE, M.D.;
24 ANTHONY KEVIN; ANGELA KENT;
25 JENNIFER CORE; MONA HOUSTON;
26 RICHARD MONTES; MOLLY HILL;
27 ROB KETTLE; LUIS GONZALEZ;
28 MESVEEN KUMAR; J. CLARK
KELSO; and Does 1-20,

26 Defendants.

Case No.:

COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

² Yashna Eswaran is pending admission to the Central District of California.

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1 Plaintiffs, including the California Coalition for Women Prisoners, Jane Does
2 # 1- # 6, individually and on behalf of all women incarcerated at the California
3 Institution for Women (“CIW”) from 2016 to May 2024, who were seen for, ducated
4 (carceral term for “scheduled”), or requested gynecology or obstetric care by Dr.
5 SCOTT LEE, hereby allege as follows:

6 **INTRODUCTION**

7 1. For decades, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation
8 (“CDCR”) and the California Correctional Health Care Services (“CCHCS”) and the
9 individually named defendants (individually named defendants hereafter collectively
10 referred to as “Defendants”) have ignored and neglected the gynecological needs of
11 people in women’s prison³ incarcerated in state prison. Defendants not only deprived
12 prisoners⁴ of basic gynecological needs but subjected them to horrific, sadistic, and
13 retaliatory abuse under the guise of gynecology care.

14 2. Defendants have long known, or should have known, that the majority of
15 people in women’s prisons have suffered sexual abuse prior to their incarceration,
16 ranging from child molestation, sex trafficking or prostitution, and/or rape and sexual
17 assault by husbands, boyfriends, pimps, or strangers.

18 3. Defendants have long been obligated to provide safe gynecology care, a
19 basic human need, to a population who were known, or should have been known, to
20 have safety and trauma concerns with any medical staff involved with their gynecology
21 care.

23 ³ The term “people in women’s prisons” is used inclusively to include cisgender
24 and transgender women, gender nonbinary people, and transgender men. The majority
25 of people in California’s women’s prisons are cisgender women, but there is a
26 significant population of gender nonbinary people and small populations of transgender
27 men and women. Throughout this Complaint, some of DR. LEE’s victims may be
referred to as “he/him” if that is the person’s pronoun.

28 ⁴ The term “prisoner” is intended to highlight the power differential between
those incarcerated and those who staff the prisons and not in a derogatory manner.

1 4. Instead, Defendants, deliberately ignored the basic needs of the
2 incarcerated population and for far too long, subjected people incarcerated at the
3 California Institution for Women (“CIW”) to sadistic and depraved abuse by physicians
4 who were the subjects of repeated complaints of sexual abuse during gynecology
5 appointments. Gynecology care was known by CIW patients as something to be feared
6 and avoided and many were forced to neglect their gynecological needs to protect
7 themselves from further sexual abuse and trauma.

8 5. For seven years, from 2016-2023, Defendant DR. SCOTT LEE was the
9 only gynecologist available to CIW prisoners. For many years, DR. LEE remained as
10 the sole gynecologist at CIW despite consistent and repeated complaints of his abuse
11 during gynecology appointments. Defendants long ignored complaints that DR. LEE
12 made inappropriate and sexualized comments, was sexually abusive with his use of the
13 speculum and his fingers during gynecological exams; conducted examinations in a
14 hostile, rough, and retaliatory manner; physically restrained his patients and forced
15 them to continue his examinations despite their pleas to stop; conducted excessive or
16 unnecessary vaginal and anal exams; and retaliated against patients who complained
17 about him by making negative comments in their medical charts and/or withholding
18 medical care and treatment.

19 6. Defendants knew that gynecology patients at CIW were at risk of sexual
20 abuse, retaliation, and denial of medical care by DR. LEE, yet failed to take action to
21 remove DR. LEE from his position even though it was clear he was abusing his position
22 and was unfit to treat patients. Defendants also knew, or should have known, that DR.
23 LEE’s continued position as the sole gynecologist at CIW, would deprive CIW
24 prisoners of gynecology care.

25 7. DR. LEE’s sexual abuse and the ratification of his conduct by the
26 remaining Defendants have caused physical pain and suffering, severe emotional
27 trauma, and the denial of gynecology care to Plaintiffs and the Class.
28

1 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

2 8. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331,
3 because this action arises under the laws of the United States. Plaintiffs allege violations
4 of 42 U.S.C. § 1983.

5 9. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a)-(d) because,
6 *inter alia*, substantial parts of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred
7 in the District and/or a substantial part of property that is the subject of the action is
8 situated in the District.

9 **PARTIES**

10 A. Plaintiffs

11 10. Plaintiff California Coalition for Women Prisoners (“CCWP”) is a
12 501(c)(3) grassroots advocacy organization that challenges the prison industrial
13 complex for the institutionalized violence it imposes on women, transgender people,
14 and communities of color. CCWP includes members both inside and outside of prison
15 and is primarily supported by volunteers. CCWP has many members currently
16 incarcerated at the California Institution for Women (“CIW”). CCWP expends
17 substantial time and resources advancing the interests of the population it serves and in
18 responding to incidents of violence within California’s state prisons. CCWP’s programs
19 focus on legal visiting and corresponding with incarcerated women, transgender, and
20 gender non-conforming individuals, to advocate on behalf of incarcerated persons to
21 help change brutal conditions of confinement, obtain release from prison, and challenge
22 inequities of the criminal legal system. CCWP has chapters in Los Angeles, California,
23 as well as in Oakland, California, and its members include people who are currently and
24 formerly incarcerated at the California Institution for Women (“CIW”).

25 11. CCWP has been injured as a direct result of Defendants’ actions and
26 omissions alleged herein because it must expend substantial resources advocating for its
27 members and constituents who are harmed and threatened by Defendants’ ongoing
28 failure to protect people incarcerated at CIW from systemic sexual abuse and

1 retaliation. CCWP dedicates much of its time and resources to ensuring that impacted
2 people have access to safe methods for reporting sexual abuse and retaliation, mental
3 health support, and in responding to CDCR's failures to provide a safe environment for
4 those incarcerated at CIW.

5 12. CCWP has over 1,000 members including currently and formerly
6 incarcerated people at multiple correctional facilities including CIW. All of CCWP's
7 members at CIW are at continued risk of sexual abuse due to CDCR's failure to ensure
8 safe and accessible gynecology care. CCWP can bring this action on behalf of its
9 members because the interests at stake are germane to CCWP's mission and impact all
10 of its members. CCWP seeks damages and declaratory and/or injunctive relief on behalf
11 of its members.

12 13. More than half of the Plaintiffs and the Class are members of CCWP.

13 14. JANE DOES Nos. 1 to 5 are no longer incarcerated and currently reside in
14 California.

15 15. JANE DOE #1 had an appointment with DR. LEE due to a worsening skin
16 condition. Following an intense argument, DR. LEE was to perform solely an external
17 examination of JANE DOE #1's vagina. Despite this understanding, DR. LEE jammed
18 his fingers into JANE DOE #1's vagina with such force that he tore her open, causing
19 her intense pain. KUMAR observed DR. LEE's actions and did not intervene, or report
20 DR. LEE's abuse. DR. LEE did not provide any treatment for JANE DOE #1's skin
21 disease and even when JANE DOE #1 was eventually prescribed the proper topical
22 cream by another doctor, DR. LEE withheld the treatment from her. JANE DOE #1
23 faced retaliation when she tried to report DR. LEE's abuse of her. JANE DOE # 1 is a
24 survivor of sexual abuse and suffered emotionally and physically as a result of DR.
25 LEE's actions, including permanent disfigurement of her genitalia.

26 16. JANE DOE # 2 told DR. LEE that she did not require a pap smear as she
27 had no cervix. Still, DR. LEE was insistent that she allow him to conduct a pap smear.
28 When JANE DOE #2 stated that she wanted to be seen by her primary care doctor

1 instead, DR. LEE became visibly angry and hostile and made sexually inappropriate
2 comments to JANE DOE #2. JANE DOE # 2 refused to be physically examined by DR.
3 LEE because of his behavior. At a future appointment, DR. LEE deprived JANE DOE
4 #2 of necessary care by dismissing her medical complaints. Eventually, JANE DOE # 2
5 refused any future appointments with DR. LEE. Despite her need for gynecological
6 care, JANE DOE #2 refused to be seen by DR. LEE because of her own experiences
7 with him and those she had heard about from other prisoners. JANE DOE #2 is a
8 survivor of child abuse; her interactions with DR. LEE were retraumatizing. As a result
9 of DR. LEE's actions, JANE DOE #2 was unable to access essential medical care.

10 17. JANE DOE # 3 requested to see a gynecologist for birth control by
11 injection. DR. LEE refused to give her the requested contraception and became very
12 aggressive about giving her an intrauterine device ("IUD") instead. JANE DOE # 3 felt
13 that DR. LEE gave her no other choice than to agree to the IUD. At the appointment for
14 IUD insertion, JANE DOE #3 told DR. LEE and KUMAR that she had severe anxiety
15 about the procedure and an extensive history of sexual trauma and asked that they go
16 slow and announce any physical touching. DR. LEE ignored her requests and forcefully
17 inserted a speculum inside of JANE DOE # 3 without any lubricant. When JANE DOE
18 # 3 told him that he was hurting her, DR. LEE forced and held her legs open while
19 ignoring her pleas for him to stop. KUMAR assisted DR. LEE in forcing her legs open
20 and watched him insert the IUD, but did not say or do anything to intervene on behalf
21 of JANE DOE # 3. JANE DOE #3 suffered extreme pain, excessive bleeding, and
22 severe trauma. She remains terrified of seeing a gynecologist and has not sought
23 gynecology care since she was released from CIW.

24 18. JANE DOE #4 was seven and a half months pregnant at her first
25 appointment with DR. LEE. DR. LEE stayed in the room while JANE DOE #4 was
26 undressing despite her request for privacy. While measuring JANE DOE # 4's stomach,
27 DR. LEE inappropriately touched her breast area and forcefully touched her pelvic
28 region. DR. LEE ignored JANE DOE #4's complaints of the pain. DR. LEE then

1 inserted his fingers into JANE DOE #4's vagina while his other hand was on her thigh.
2 DR. LEE was aggressive and abusive, pumped his fingers in and out of JANE DOE
3 #4's vagina, made inappropriate comments, and continued despite JANE DOE #4's
4 request to stop. When DR. LEE pulled his fingers out of JANE DOE #4, they were
5 covered in blood. When JANE DOE # 4 told DR. LEE that she didn't want to see him
6 again, he responded that he was the only gynecologist at CIW. KUMAR was present
7 during the appointment but did not chaperone or intervene during DR. LEE's abuse of
8 JANE DOE # 4. At a later pre-natal appointment, JANE DOE # 4 refused to have a
9 pelvic exam with DR. LEE because of his behavior and the trauma she sustained from
10 her prior appointment. Following the birth of her child, and in need of post-partum care,
11 JANE DOE # 4 requested reasonable accommodations. DR. LEE denied JANE DOE #
12 4 these basic supplies and she struggled through her post-partum recovery without the
13 accommodations that are normally provided. JANE DOE # 4 suffered extreme pain and
14 discomfort due to the deprivation of this post-partum care.

15 19. JANE DOE # 5 was seen by DR. LEE for recurring gynecological issues.
16 JANE DOE # 5 had seven to ten appointments with DR. LEE over a three-year period.
17 At almost every appointment, DR. LEE was dismissive of JANE DOE #5's medical
18 complaints and claimed that he needed to do another pap smear. At each appointment,
19 DR. LEE required that she undress while he remained in the room, giving her no
20 privacy. He then would use his fingers to examine JANE DOE # 5 and repeatedly
21 inserted his fingers in and out of her vagina. DR. LEE would routinely use his hand to
22 spread her legs open. DR. LEE was also aggressive and sexual in his use of a speculum
23 on JANE DOE # 5, by jamming the speculum inside of her and opening it in a very
24 rough manner and removing and re-inserting the speculum repeatedly. JANE DOE # 5
25 would not receive results from these examinations. On at least one occasion, DR. LEE
26 examined JANE DOE # 5's breasts in a sexualized and inappropriate manner. The nurse
27 chaperones consistently failed to observe or report DR. LEE's actions. Even after
28 refusing care from DR. LEE, JANE DOE # 5 felt that she had no other options but to

1 see DR. LEE because her medical condition persisted and no one else was available for
2 gynecology care. JANE DOE # 5 continued to suffer with her medical and as a survivor
3 of sexual abuse was retraumatized by DR. LEE.

4 20. JANE DOE # 6 is currently incarcerated at CIW and was seen by DR.
5 LEE more than ten times over less than five years. At almost every appointment, DR.
6 LEE required JANE DOE # 6 to undergo an invasive exam or procedure. JANE DOE #
7 6 repeatedly did not receive any results or follow up treatment from these appointments.
8 DR. LEE was routinely hostile towards JANE DOE #6. At least once, DR. LEE used
9 physical force to do an examination on JANE DOE # 6 by holding her legs down after
10 she asked him to stop. At this same appointment, he inserted his fingers into her anus
11 without notice, consent, or explanation. At another appointment he had JANE DOE # 6
12 straddle the floor, while she was undressed from the waist down, as he inserted his
13 fingers inside of her. At appointments, DR. LEE routinely made sexually inappropriate
14 comments and blamed JANE DOE # 6 for her medical condition. JANE DOE # 6
15 refused treatment with DR. LEE on several occasions and requested a female provider
16 instead. Still, JANE DOE # 6 was ducated for appointments with him. DR. LEE
17 retaliated against JANE DOE # 6 for complaining about his treatment of her. JANE
18 DOE # 6 has suffered severe physical and emotional trauma due to the actions of DR.
19 LEE. As a survivor of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, each interaction with DR.
20 LEE was retraumatizing. She has struggled with persistent bleeding, necessitating blood
21 transfusions due to DR. LEE's failure to provide the appropriate medical interventions.
22 Due to DR. LEE's retaliatory conduct, JANE DOE #6 has suffered physical pain,
23 emotional trauma, and barriers to her possibility of parole.

24 B. Defendants

25 21. Defendant DR. SCOTT LEE is an adult male who is a resident of Ontario,
26 California and a citizen of the United States. DR. LEE has been licensed with the
27 Medical Board of California since 1984. On information and belief, DR. LEE worked
28 as a gynecologist at CIW from around 2016 until May 2024. At all relevant times, he

1 was responsible for ensuring that the medical care he provided was in compliance with
2 legal standards, including the federal PREA standards. DR. LEE was also obligated to
3 ensure that his actions did not violate federal or state constitutional rights or other legal
4 rights of any patient at CIW. DR. LEE is being sued in his individual capacity and
5 currently resides in and/or maintains a business office in Orange County.

6 22. Defendant JAMES ELLIOT is a 30-year healthcare executive who has
7 served as the CIW Chief Executive Officer for California Correctional Health Care
8 Services (“CCHCS”) since 2010. In that capacity, he is responsible for the operation of
9 all CDCR medical departments, including that at CIW. He is charged with the duty to
10 ensure that all health care provided at CIW, including gynecology care, is provided in
11 accordance with legal standards and that gynecology care provided by medical staff to
12 prisoners at CIW is safe and compliant with law, including the Prison Rape Elimination
13 Act. Mr. ELLIOT previously served as the CEO for CIW starting in July 2010. Mr.
14 ELLIOT is being sued in his individual and official capacity. On information and belief,
15 he currently resides in and/or maintains a business office in Riverside County.

16 23. Defendant DR. KEN MAXWELL is the Chief Medical Executive
17 (“CME”) for CIW and has overall responsibility for health care services at CIW,
18 including gynecology care. As CME, DR. MAXWELL is a member of the senior
19 administrative team and supervises patient safety, quality of care, and patient
20 experience. DR. MAXWELL is being sued in his individual capacity. On information
21 and belief, he currently resides in and/or maintains a business office in Riverside
22 County.

23 24. Defendant ANGELA KENT is the Associate Director of Female Offender
24 Programs and Services (“FOPS”) of the Division of Adult Institutions. She has
25 supervisory authority over the Warden at CIW and is responsible for the review of
26 every staff sexual misconduct allegation at CIW. As the Associate Director of FOPS,
27 Defendant KENT also serves as the PREA Coordinator for CIW and is charged with the
28 responsibility of ensuring CIW’s compliance with the National PREA Standards.

1 Defendant KENT is being sued in her individual capacity and her official capacity as
2 the CDCR official with authority to implement injunctive and equitable remedies at
3 CIW that may be deemed appropriate. Defendant KENT currently resides in and/or
4 maintains a business office in Sacramento County.

5 25. Defendant JENNIFER CORE was the Warden and Chief Executive Officer
6 of CIW from 2022-2023 and was responsible for the custody and treatment of all CIW
7 prisoners. As Warden of CIW, she had overall responsibility for medical care provided
8 to the incarcerated population at CIW, including gynecology care, and ensuring that
9 medical staff did not violate the legal rights of any CIW prisoner. She also had
10 responsibility over the Investigative Services Unit (“ISU”) at CIW, referring staff
11 misconduct allegations to the OIA, reviewing every allegation of staff sexual
12 misconduct, reviewing reports on staff misconduct investigations, determining
13 investigative findings against her staff, and taking disciplinary action against all staff
14 assigned to work at CIW, including medical staff. As Warden, JENNIFER CORE also
15 served as Chair of the Institutional PREA Review Committee (“IPRC”) and was
16 charged with reviewing all PREA-related incidents. At all relevant times, she was
17 acting under color of state law and in the course and scope of her employment. She is
18 being sued in her individual capacity.

19 26. Defendant MONA HOUSTON was the Warden and Chief Executive
20 Officer of CIW from 2021-2022. In those capacities, MONA HOUSTON had all the
21 same duties and responsibilities that were later assumed by JENNIFER CORE. At all
22 relevant times, she was acting under color of state law and in the course and scope of
23 her employment. She is being sued in her individual capacity. MONA HOUSTON
24 currently resides in and/or maintains a business office within San Bernardino County.

25 27. Defendant RICHARD MONTES was the Warden and Chief Executive
26 Officer of CIW from 2019-2020. In those capacities, RICHARD MONTES had all the
27 same duties and responsibilities that were later assumed by JENNIFER CORE. At all
28 relevant times, he was acting under color of state law and in the course and scope of his

1 employment. He is being sued in her individual capacity. RICHARD MONTES
2 currently resides in and/or maintains a business office within Riverside County.

3 28. Defendant MOLLY HILL was the Warden and Chief Executive Officer of
4 CIW from 2017-2019. In those capacities, MOLLY HILL had all the same duties and
5 responsibilities that were later assumed by JENNIFER CORE. At all relevant times, she
6 was acting under color of state law and in the course and scope of her employment. She
7 is being sued in her individual capacity. MOLLY HILL currently resides in and/or
8 maintains a business office within Los Angeles County.

9 29. Defendant ROB KETTLE was an Associate Warden at CIW since 1997
10 and at all relevant times, he was the Associate Warden (“AW”) of Health Care
11 Operations at CIW. As AW over Health Care Operations, ROB KETTLE had the
12 responsibility of ensuring that the incarcerated population at CIW received safe medical
13 care and was required to take action. At all relevant times, ROB KETTLE was acting
14 under color of state law and in the course and scope of his employment. He is being
15 sued in his individual capacity. ROBERT KETTLE currently resides in and/or
16 maintains a business office within San Bernardino County.

17 30. Defendant LUIS GONZALEZ was, at all relevant times, the PREA
18 Compliance Manager at CIW since January of 2020. As PCM, Defendant GONZALEZ
19 was responsible for implementing the PREA National Standards at CIW, enforcing the
20 mandates of PREA at CIW, and serving on the Institutional PREA Review Committee
21 (“IPRC”) at CIW. Defendant GONZALEZ is being sued in his individual capacity and
22 currently resides in and/or maintains a business office within Riverside County.

23 31. Defendant MESVEEN KUMAR is a Medical Assistant who has worked at
24 CIW since 2020. She was present for many gynecology appointments with DR. LEE.
25 At all relevant times, she was acting under color of state law and in the course and
26 scope of her employment. She is being sued in her individual capacity. MESVEEN
27 KUMAR currently resides in and/or maintains a business office within Riverside
28 County.

1 32. On information and belief, Defendant Associate Warden ANTHONY
2 KEVIN is currently assigned as the PREA Compliance Manager (“PCM”) at CIW, or
3 alternatively, to oversee the PCM at CIW. In that role, KEVIN is responsible for
4 implementing and enforcing the PREA National Standards at CIW. The PCM also
5 serves on the IPRC at CIW. KEVIN is being sued in his official capacity as a CDCR
6 official with authority to implement injunctive and equitable remedies to ensure
7 compliance with PREA at CIW, as may be deemed appropriate. KEVIN currently
8 resides in and/or maintains a business office within Riverside County.

9 33. Defendant DR. DIANA TOCHE is the Undersecretary of Health Care
10 Services and is responsible for planning, implementing, and evaluating the health care
11 governance structure and processes at all California prisons, including CIW. DR.
12 DIANA TOCHE has the duty to ensure that all medical care provided at all medical
13 departments at CDCR, including gynecological services at CIW, are provided in
14 compliance with legal standards, including the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act, and
15 that medical staff providing medical care to CDCR’s incarcerated population, including
16 those at CIW, act according to law and do not violate the rights of any CDCR prisoner.
17 DR. DIANA TOCHE is being sued in her official capacity and currently resides in
18 and/or maintains a business office within Sacramento County.

19 34. Defendant JEFF MACOMBER is the Secretary of CDCR and has overall
20 responsibility for the custody and care of prisoners incarcerated at CIW and for
21 maintaining zero tolerance for sexual abuse of CIW prisoners by staff. JEFF
22 MACOMBER is being sued in his individual and official capacity as the CDCR official
23 with authority to implement injunctive and equitable remedies at CDCR, as may be
24 deemed appropriate. JEFF MACOMBER currently resides in and/or maintains a
25 business office within Sacramento County.

26 35. Defendant CLARK KELSO is the Receiver who was appointed in 2008 in
27 *Plata v. Schwarzenegger*, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 43796 (N.D.Cal. Oct. 3, 2005) and
28 charged with the responsibility the delivery of medical services in all California state

1 prisons, due to the federal court’s conclusion that the medical care system in California
2 prisons was “broken beyond repair”. In March 2017, KELSO delegated responsibility
3 over CIW’s medical services back to CDCR. KELSO is being sued in his official
4 capacity as an official with authority to implement certain aspects of the injunctive and
5 equitable remedies sought in this case, as may be deemed appropriate. KELSO
6 currently resides in and/or maintains a business office within Sacramento County.

7 36. Defendant DOES 1-20 are/were agents or employees of CDCR, acting
8 under color of state law and within the course and scope of their employment.
9 Defendant Does 1-20 are being sued by their fictitious names because their true and
10 correct identities are not currently known. The correct names of Defendant Does 1-20
11 will be submitted once they are identified.

12 37. Defendants, including the individually named defendants, had a special
13 relationship with the named plaintiffs and the class members based on the Plaintiffs’
14 and classes’ custodial status as prisoners to whom Defendants owed a duty of care.

15 **EXHAUSTION OF REMEDIES**

16 38. Plaintiffs Jane Doe # 1-5 are no longer incarcerated and are not subject to
17 the requirements of the Prison Litigation Reform Act (“PLRA”). CCWP is a 501(c)(3)
18 organization with over 1,000 members both currently and formerly incarcerated; CCWP
19 has several full time staffers who are not incarcerated, and is not subject to the PLRA or
20 its exhaustion requirements. Plaintiffs and the Class are therefore not subject to the
21 PLRA or its exhaustion requirements.

22 39. Nevertheless, JANE DOES # 1- 3 all filed grievances against DR. LEE
23 prior to their release from prison and therefore have exhausted their administrative
24 remedies. JANE DOE # 6 also filed a grievance against DR. LEE and as exhausted her
25 administrative remedies.

26 40. Plaintiffs are excused from filing a government tort claim due to the
27 unavailability of the remedy and threat of retaliation that pervades at CIW.

28 41. Nevertheless, Plaintiff JANE DOES # 3 and # 6 timely filed a government

1 tort claim on behalf of the Class with the State of California and their claims were
2 denied before filing this complaint.

3 **EQUITABLE TOLLING**

4 42. The individual Plaintiffs’ claims are subject to tolling for two years
5 pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section 352.1.

6 43. The individual Plaintiffs’ claims are further equitably tolled by the various
7 Defendants’ actions undertaken specifically to fraudulently conceal the fact that
8 Plaintiffs’ rights were being violated by DR. LEE, including but not limited to DR.
9 LEE’s insistence that he was the doctor and knew what Plaintiffs needed; DR. LEE’s
10 refusal to allow Plaintiffs to document the reasons for their refusal of care by him; and
11 the actions taken by supervisory Defendants to ensure that DR. LEE’s misconduct
12 would not come to light and complaints about his conduct would not be sustained, as
13 described more fully herein.

14 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

15 **I. For Decades, CDCR Has Subjected Patients in California’s Women’s**
16 **Prisons to Sexual Abuse, Assault and Harassment Under the Guise of**
17 **Gynecology Care.**

18 44. As part of its duty to provide basic medical care to prisoners, CDCR is
19 required to provide gynecological care to those incarcerated at the women’s prisons in
20 California. It is standard practice in the free world to ensure that gynecology services
21 are provided in a way that feels safe to patients. The vast majority of patients prefer to
22 have a female, rather than a male, gynecologist and have that freedom to choose. For
23 survivors of sexual abuse, gynecology care is more complicated.

24 45. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (“ACOG”)
25 recommends that physicians inquire about sexual abuse and rape trauma history for
26 every patient. Such information is essential for ensuring trauma-informed gynecology
27 care that prevents the possibility of re-traumatizing patients with a history of prior
28 sexual abuse. The ACOG’s recommendation is especially relevant in the context of

1 gynecology care for incarcerated people, who have a disproportionately high rate of
2 experiencing sexual abuse prior to their incarceration.

3 46. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, 39% of females reported that
4 they were sexually abused prior to admission in state prison. With such high rates of
5 prior sexual abuse history among female prisoners, Defendants knew or should have
6 known that trauma-informed care is essential to the provision of safe gynecology
7 services to prisoners. Research has shown that the vast majority of people in women's
8 prisons and jails in the United States have experienced sexual or physical abuse, sexual
9 assault, and/or partner violence. For example, a Department of Justice study found that
10 86% of those incarcerated in women's jails reported having experienced sexual violence
11 in their lifetime and 77% reported partner violence.⁵ For prisons, research has shown
12 an even higher rate (up to 94%) who experienced sexual and/or physical abuse prior to
13 incarceration.⁶

14 47. For decades, CDCR and correctional health services have not only failed to
15 provide trauma-informed gynecology care to prisoners, they deliberately ignored and
16 exposed patients to sexual abuse under the guise of gynecology care.

17
18 A. Allegations of Sexual Abuse by Dr. Ernest Reeves, Gynecologist at the
19 Central California Women's Facility.

20 48. The Central California Women's Facility ("CCWF") in Northern
21 California is the largest women's prison in California and is located in Chowchilla,
22 California. CCWF opened in 1990 and houses prisoners at all security levels, including
23 people sentenced to death. CCWF currently incarcerates approximately 2,100 prisoners.

24 ⁵ Shannon M. Lynch et al., Women's Pathways to Jail: The Roles and
25 Intersections of Serious Mental Illness and Trauma (Washington, DC: U.S. Department
26 of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, 2012), p. 32.

27 ⁶ Mary E. Gilfus, Women's Experiences of Abuse as a Risk Factor for
28 Incarceration: A Research Update (VAWnet Applied Research Forum, December
2002), p. 2.

1 49. Dr. Ernest Reeves was a gynecologist who worked at CCWF for 14 years,
2 from 1998 to 2012.

3 50. In 2011, Michann Meadows, a former patient of Dr. Reeves, filed a federal
4 civil rights lawsuit alleging that she was sexually abused by Dr. Reeves during
5 gynecology appointments from 2000-2012. (*Meadows v. Reeves*, Case No. 1:11-cv-
6 00257 (JLT) (E.D.Cal. 2011). Ms. Meadows alleged that Dr. Reeves performed
7 aggressive and unreasonably rough vaginal and anal exams on her and without medical
8 reason. (*Id.*, ECF 28 at ¶¶ 12-17.)

9 51. When Ms. Meadows immediately complained about sexual abuse by Dr.
10 Reeves in 2000, she was subjected to a false disciplinary violation. (*Id.*, ECF 28 at ¶¶
11 13-14.)

12 52. Ms. Meadows' allegations of sexual abuse against Dr. Reeves were well-
13 supported by sworn declarations of seven other patients of Dr. Reeves, who described
14 similar, horrific sexual abuse by Dr. Reeves over the course of the 14 years that he
15 worked as the sole gynecologist at CCWF. (*Id.*, ECF 140.) For example, former patients
16 of Dr. Reeves reported that he was very demeaning towards his patients, extremely
17 rough and aggressive during vaginal and anal exams, abusive with his use of the
18 speculum and his fingers during exams, and he physically restrained patients and
19 refused to stop exams when patients begged him to stop. (*Id.*, ECF 140-1 to ECF 140-
20 7.)

21 53. Many of Dr. Reeves' patients were survivors of sexual abuse prior to their
22 incarceration and had filed grievances against him that were ignored for many years.
23 (*Id.*)

24 54. Dr. Reeves was not subject to any investigation in response to numerous
25 allegations of sexual abuse against him until many years later, in 2010. The
26 investigation against Dr. Reeves was improperly conducted at CCWF by custody staff
27 who were not appropriately trained to conduct staff or sexual abuse investigations and
28 who had an inherent conflict of interest because they worked at the prison where Dr.

1 Reeves had worked for over ten years. As a result, CCWF’s investigation concluded
2 that Dr. Reeves’ actions with his gynecology patients did not violate CDCR policy. (*Id.*,
3 ECF 28 at ¶ 20.)

4 55. In addition to Dr. Reeves, Ms. Meadows sued the Chief Medical Officer
5 and Warden for CCWF, as well as Matthew Cate, then Secretary of the California
6 Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (“CDCR”) for the abuse she suffered
7 from Dr. Reeves. Ms. Meadows’ constitutional claims against these high-ranking
8 officials was based on their failure to promptly report, investigate, respond to, and
9 prevent ongoing sexual abuse by Dr. Reeves. (*Id.*, ECF 28 at ¶¶ 22-24.) On information
10 and belief, each of the defendants was apprised of the allegations in the case against Dr.
11 Reeves, the theories of liability against each of the high-ranking officials who were
12 sued, and why they were being sued for the sexual abuse by Dr. Reeves.

13 56. On information and belief, Dr. Reeves and the other individually named
14 defendants were informed about the settlement in *Meadows v. Reeves* that included a
15 substantial amount in money damages and injunctive relief.

16 B. Allegations of Sexually Abusive Examinations by Dr. Robert Bowman at
17 the Valley State Prison for Women.

18 57. The Valley State Prison for Women (“VSPW”) operated from 1995-2013
19 as a state prison for women. Like CCWF, VSPW is also located in Chowchilla,
20 California and has operated as a men’s prison since 2013.

21 58. At or around the same time that patients were being abused by Dr. Reeves
22 at CCWF, incarcerated people at VSPW were complaining about abusive gynecological
23 exams by Dr. Robert Bowman.

24 59. In 1999, at least three patients at VSPW alleged that they were sexually
25 abused by Dr. Bowman during purported medical examinations including pap smears,
26 pelvic and breast examinations. (*Williams v. Bowman*, Case No. CV-F-01-6003
27 (REC)(DLB) (E.D.Cal. 2001), ECF 92 at ¶¶ 11-14. Dr. Bowman was accused of
28 conducting unnecessary pelvic exams, inappropriately manipulating his patients’

1 genitalia, making offensive sexual comments, conducting unchaperoned examinations
2 of women, and remaining in the examination room while his patients undressed. (*Id.* at
3 ¶¶ 15-39.) At least one patient accused Dr. Bowman of exposing his erect penis during
4 a medical appointment and attempting to force her to perform oral sex on him.
5 (*Williams v. Bowman*, 157 F.Supp.2d 1103, 1104 (N.D.Cal. 2001).)

6 60. Patients who reported Dr. Bowman for sexual abuse alleged that they faced
7 retaliation and harassment by medical staff after coming forward with their complaints.
8 (*Williams v. Bowman, supra*, Case No. CV-F-01-6003, ECF 92 at ¶ 43.)

9 61. On information and belief, high-ranking officials with CDCR, correctional
10 health, and VSPW knew about the allegations against Dr. Bowman and failed to take
11 action to protect incarcerated patients from further abuse. (*Id.* at ¶¶ 46-55.)

12 62. In response to the allegations against Dr. Bowman, Anthony DiDomenico,
13 the Chief Medical Officer at VSPW, stated his belief on national television that female
14 patients who were incarcerated deliberately sought out unnecessary pelvic examination
15 by medical staff “because it was the only male contact they received”. Although Mr.
16 DiDomenico was allegedly reassigned as result of his offensive statements, there was
17 no disciplinary action taken against him. (*Id.* at ¶¶ 48-51.)

18 63. In 2001, one of Dr. Bowman’s former patients filed a federal civil rights
19 lawsuit against Dr. Bowman and the highest-ranking officials of the California
20 Department of Corrections (“CDC”), the Health Care Division of CDC, VSPW, and the
21 Chief Medical Officer at VSPW. (*Williams v. Bowman, supra*, Case No. CV-F-01-
22 6003.) On information and belief, each of the defendants was apprised of the allegations
23 in the case against Dr. Bowman, the theories of liability against each of the high-
24 ranking officials who were sued, and why they were being sued for Dr. Bowman’s
25 alleged abuse.

26 64. In 2003, the defendants settled the civil rights claims by Dr. Bowman’s
27 former patient.

28 //

1 C. For Years, Defendants Ignored Complaints by Patients at the California
2 Institution for Women about Sexually Abusive Gynecology Care.

3 65. The California Institution for Women (“CIW”) in Southern California was
4 opened in 1952. CIW is located in Corona, California and currently incarcerates
5 approximately 1,200 prisoners of all security levels.

6 66. CIW is the only women’s prison in California that provides medical care to
7 pregnant prisoners. On information and belief, all female prisoners who were pregnant
8 were transferred to CIW so they could receive prenatal care.

9 67. Over many years, several prisoners courageously reported about sexually
10 abusive and sadistic conduct during gynecological examinations at CIW, despite the
11 real threat of retaliation such as transfers to another prison, being confined in solitary
12 confinement, or disciplinary violations that potentially extended one’s prison term.

13 68. Defendants knew or should have known about the allegations of sexual
14 abuse during gynecology exams. Instead of taking action to prevent further harm to the
15 incarcerated population, these Defendants ignored continued complaints against
16 multiple physicians performing horrific examinations on patients at CIW, including
17 Defendant DR. LEE.

18 69. In or around 2016, gynecology services at CIW were provided by the
19 primary care physicians. As early as 2016, CIW, CCHCS, and CDCR had notice of
20 complaints that a primary care provider was performing abusive pap smears on
21 incarcerated patients at CIW.

22 70. On information and belief, two patients complained in 2016 about abusive
23 and sadistic vaginal and/or anal exams by a primary care physician who was providing
24 gynecology services at CIW. The complaints against that physician included allegations
25 of extremely rough, sadistic pap smears on patients and unnecessary anal exams
26 intended to humiliate patients. Patients also complained that the physician performed
27 abusive exams on patients as a weapon of retaliation and that gynecology exams were
28 done without any nurse or chaperone present in the examination room.

1 71. Defendants knew or should have known about these complaints of abusive
2 and sadistic gynecology services and failed to take any action to protect CIW patients
3 from further harm. Defendants also knew that the patient population at CIW had a high
4 percentage of prisoners who suffered sexual abuse prior to their incarceration and were
5 especially vulnerable to trauma from further sexual abuse.

6 72. On information and belief, a staff misconduct and/or PREA investigation
7 was conducted against that physician, during which time she was temporarily removed
8 from CIW. After the investigation completed, that physician was allowed to return to
9 CIW and continued to practice medicine with the population of prisoners that she was
10 accused of abusing.

11 73. On information and belief, high-ranking officials at CIW, CCHCS, CDCR
12 each knew or should have known about the allegations of abusive gynecological exams,
13 yet failed to take appropriate action to prevent future harm to gynecology patients
14 incarcerated at CIW.

15
16 1. Defendants had Prior Notice that Dr. Scott Lee was Sexually Abusing
Patients and Failed to Take Action to Prevent Further Harm to Patients.

17 74. On information and belief, DR. SCOTT LEE began working at CIW in
18 2016 as the sole gynecologist. In light of prior litigation and allegations of sexually
19 abusive gynecology care, Defendants knew or should have known to be on the alert for
20 any warning signs of similar behavior by DR. LEE.

21 75. To the contrary, Defendants ignored obvious red flags that DR. LEE was
22 performing abusive, sadistic, and retaliatory gynecological exams on patients at CIW.

23 76. On information and belief, multiple complaints were brought against DR.
24 LEE for abusive conduct throughout the years that he worked as the sole gynecologist
25 at CIW.

26 77. In 2017, patients at CIW began complaining about gynecological exams
27 and/or procedures performed by DR. LEE that should have raised red flags for
28 Defendants that he could potentially pose a risk of harm to patients.

1 78. In 2017, Julie Daugherty reported that DR. LEE had mutilated her genitals
2 under the pretense of performing a biopsy. (*Daugherty v. Lee*, Case No. 5:17-cv-00972
3 (C.D.Cal. April 24, 2017), ECF 8 at p.19.) Ms. Daugherty complained about DR. LEE
4 by filing a grievance, reporting him to the medical director, and then filing a federal
5 lawsuit. (*Id.* at ECF 8.) She reported widespread concerns that DR. LEE was
6 performing unwanted surgeries on his patients during purported biopsies and pleaded
7 the following: “Please stop this Dr. Scott Lee from harming, mutilating, and
8 traumatizing the women here at CIW.” (*Id.*, ECF 8 at p.15.)

9 79. The allegations by Ms. Daugherty should have prompted an immediate
10 investigation against DR. LEE, pursuant to the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act
11 (“PREA”).

12 80. On information and belief, Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, and HILL
13 failed to take appropriate action in response to Ms. Daugherty’s complaints, thereby
14 exposing the incarcerated population at CIW to an unreasonable risk of harm by DR.
15 LEE and depriving them of safe gynecological care.

16 81. Patients continued to complain about abusive conduct by DR. LEE in the
17 following years, to no avail. In 2022, DR. LEE was reported to the Medical Board of
18 California for sexually abusing a pregnant prisoner and then delaying her transport to a
19 hospital when she went into labor. Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, HOUSTON,
20 CORE, and HILL knew or should have known about these allegations against DR. LEE
21 and failed to take action to protect the prisoner population at CIW from further sexual
22 abuse by him.

23 82. Despite repeated complaints of abuse against DR. LEE, he continued to
24 work as the sole gynecologist at CIW for an entire seven years.

25 83. The Inmate Advisory Council (“IAC”) at CIW is a board comprised of
26 incarcerated members who represent the interests of the incarcerated population to
27 prison administration. The IAC at CIW meets on a monthly basis and has separate
28 meetings with medical staff representatives and with the Warden’s office.

1 84. The incarcerated population at CIW often approached IAC members to
2 raise issues of concern. Although the IAC was not intended to address individual
3 incidents or concerns, IAC members would address with prison administration issues
4 that affected a wider population of incarcerated people.

5 85. For several years, IAC members heard widespread complaints about DR.
6 LEE and frustrations that their complaints were being ignored by correctional health
7 administrators and/or the Warden's Office. IAC members were also concerned that DR.
8 LEE's abusive conduct during gynecology appointments was causing many patients to
9 deprive themselves of necessary gynecology care.

10 86. In recent years, correctional health administrators sought the assistance of
11 the IAC at CIW to help improve the low rate of cervical cancer screenings completed
12 by the incarcerated population at CIW. When the IAC was asked what correctional
13 health could do to improve their metrics on cervical cancer screenings at CIW, IAC
14 members reported that DR. LEE's continued abuse of patients and his ongoing role as
15 the sole gynecologist at CIW was contributing to the low rates of cervical cancer
16 screenings among CIW patients.

17 87. By 2023, complaints about DR. LEE's abuse became so widespread that
18 the IAC repeatedly raised concerns about the gynecologist over the course of several
19 IAC meetings with Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, CORE, HILL, and KETTLE.
20 During one IAC meeting, at least three IAC members shared their personal experiences
21 with inappropriate and abusive gynecological care by DR. LEE and expressed concern
22 that the gynecologist had been the subject of continued complaints for many years.

23 88. In response, JIM ELLIOT and DR. MAXWELL advised the IAC that they
24 had known about complaints against DR. LEE for years and that there was not anything
25 they could do about the situation. IAC members suggested having a female
26 gynecologist available to patients at CIW, but JIM ELLIOT and DR. MAXWELL
27 rejected the suggestion because DR. LEE was the only certified OB-GYN available.

28 89. On information and belief, all or almost all of CIW prisoners who saw Dr

1 Lee, depending on the treatment or medical condition for which the class member
2 sought DR. LEE's services, were subjected to one or more of his standard and routine
3 practices of abusive pelvic exams; sexualized digital penetration; abusive Pap smears,
4 biopsies, or other procedures; coerced exams or procedures; excessive exams;
5 unnecessary or abusive anal exams; exams without a chaperone; retaliatory withholding
6 of medical treatment, inappropriate sexualized comments; abusive breast exams; failure
7 to provide trauma informed care; and failure to provide privacy, among other abuses.

8 **II. PLAINTIFF JANE DOES # 1 - 6**

9 **A. JANE DOE # 1**

10 90. On December 13, 2022, Jane Doe #1 had an appointment with DR. LEE
11 due to a rare skin disease for which she required gynecological care. DR. LEE argued
12 intensely with JANE DOE #1 about her request for care and was very insulting and
13 aggressive towards her. DR. LEE began typing negative comments into JANE DOE
14 #1's medical chart and read his comments out loud to her as he typed. JANE DOE #1
15 became upset and left the appointment in tears, without receiving any care for her
16 disease.

17 91. After a few minutes, JANE DOE #1 returned to the appointment because
18 she was desperate to get medical care for her worsening condition. Upon her return,
19 DR. LEE insisted that he needed to examine JANE DOE #1 and assured that he would
20 only touch the upper part of her vagina. JANE DOE #1 agreed to an exterior
21 examination but refused a pap smear, speculum examination, and vulva biopsy. JANE
22 DOE #1's skin was very sensitive at the time due to her skin condition.

23 92. Initially, DR. LEE visually examined the exterior of JANE DOE #1's
24 vagina. Then suddenly, he jammed his fingers into JANE DOE #1's vagina with such
25 force that he tore her open, causing her intense pain that made her body jerk on the
26 table. DR. LEE's actions caused Medical Assistant ("MA") KUMAR to gasp and take a
27 step back. DR. LEE abruptly left the exam table and went back to his desk without
28 explanation. JANE DOE #1 looked to KUMAR for help, but she did nothing to address

1 DR. LEE's abusive conduct. DR. LEE did not provide any treatment for JANE DOE
2 #1's skin disease.

3 93. As a witness to DR. LEE's conduct, KUMAR was obligated under federal
4 and state law, as well as CDCR regulations and CCHCS policy, to report DR. LEE for
5 sexual misconduct. On information and belief, KUMAR failed to report DR. LEE's
6 conduct to anyone.

7 94. For months after, JANE DOE #1 was deprived of gynecological care even
8 though her skin disease was very painful and getting worse. In or around July 2023, she
9 reported DR. LEE's abusive conduct to Associate Warden ROBERT KETTLE, who
10 urged her to file a grievance against DR. LEE. JANE DOE #1 was afraid to file a
11 grievance because CIW is known to retaliate against prisoners who report staff
12 misconduct with disciplinary charges, transfer to another prison, or other retaliatory
13 actions. With an upcoming date for release from prison, JANE DOE #1 was afraid to
14 risk the possibility of receiving retaliatory disciplinary charges that would prolong her
15 incarceration. Associate Warden ROBERT KETTLE assured JANE DOE #1 that she
16 would not face retaliation if she filed a grievance.

17 95. JANE DOE #1 filed a grievance on or around July 19, 2023, reporting DR.
18 LEE's abuse and requesting to see a female gynecologist outside of the prison. In
19 response to her grievance, a nurse informed JANE DOE #1 that had to schedule an
20 appointment with DR. LEE if she required further treatment.

21 96. It was not until on or around September 18, 2023, that JANE DOE #1 was
22 finally scheduled for an appointment with a female gynecologist at Riverside Hospital,
23 which is hospital that is independent of CDCR. After a visual examination, the female
24 gynecologist prescribed JANE DOE #1 a steroid cream without requiring a vaginal
25 exam.

26 97. On or around September 21, 2023, JANE DOE #1 requested the steroid
27 cream that was prescribed to her by the outside gynecologist. In response, CIW
28 gynecology insisted that she needed to be physically examined by DR. LEE before her

1 prescription could be filled. On or around September 28, 2023, JANE DOE #1 filed a
2 grievance requesting the prescribed steroid cream. On October 2, 2023, JANE DOE #1
3 received an appointment request from CIW gynecology, at which time a nurse advised
4 that her prescription would not be filled unless she agreed to be examined by DR. LEE.
5 JANE DOE #1 again refused to see DR. LEE, reminding nursing staff that DR. LEE
6 had physically abused her during the December 13, 2022 appointment and that she had
7 a pending grievance against him for staff sexual abuse.

8 98. Later on October 2, 2023, JANE DOE #1 met with Associate Warden
9 ROBERT KETTLE about her issues with DR. LEE and his refusal to fill her prescribed
10 steroid cream. In response, Associate Warden ROBERT KETTLE initiated an
11 investigation for sexual misconduct and/or retaliation against DR. LEE pursuant to the
12 Prison Rape Elimination Act (“PREA”).

13 99. On October 6, 2023, JANE DOE #1 received another appointment request
14 from CIW gynecology. At this appointment, a nurse advised JANE DOE #1 that she
15 had to be examined by DR. LEE again in order to get the prescribed steroid cream.
16 JANE DOE #1 reminded the nurse that she had already been seen by a female
17 gynecologist at Riverside Hospital, who prescribed the steroid cream, and that she was
18 referred to the female gynecologist because of her grievance against DR. LEE for
19 abuse. At the insistence of the nurse, JANE DOE #1 was required to speak with DR.
20 LEE about her prescription. DR. LEE stated that he would not provide JANE DOE #1
21 with the prescribed steroid cream unless she let him examine her again.

22 100. JANE DOE #1 did not receive the steroid cream until nearly one month
23 after it was prescribed to her and after she sought intervention from ROBERT
24 KETTLE. Within a few days after using the steroid cream, JANE DOE #1’s skin
25 condition finally began to improve, nearly eight months after she first sought
26 gynecology care from DR. LEE.

27 101. As a result of the actions described above, JANE DOE #1 suffered
28 prolonged and unnecessary pain and suffering, permanent disfigurement of her

1 genitalia, severe emotional distress and humiliation, and retaliation that caused further
2 emotional distress and prolonged her incarceration. As a survivor of sexual abuse prior
3 to her incarceration, DR. LEE's actions were severely re-traumatizing.

4 102. Pursuant to CDCR regulations and policy, as well as federal PREA
5 Standards, all CIW staff were required to immediately report allegations of staff sexual
6 misconduct to the Office of Internal Affairs ("OIA") for independent investigation.
7 Instead of reporting the allegations against DR. LEE for investigation by the OIA, DOE
8 DEFENDANTS and/or Associate Warden ROBERT KETTLE referred JANE DOE
9 #1's complaint to the Investigative Services Unit ("ISU") at CIW.

10 103. In response to JANE DOE #1's complaints against DR. LEE, the ISU at
11 CIW conducted its own investigation of DR. LEE. In or around November 2023, JANE
12 DOE #1 was interviewed by the ISU at CIW in response to her complaints against DR.
13 LEE. ISU staff at CIW were not properly trained to conduct investigations into
14 allegations of staff sexual abuse. Also, ISU staff was comprised of custody staff who
15 previously worked at CIW for many years and often had personal relationships with
16 staff members accused of sexual abuse. As such, ISU staff had an inherent conflict of
17 interest in conducting investigations of staff sexual abuse.

18 104. In violation of PREA National Standard § 115.73 and CDCR regulations
19 and policy, JANE DOE #1 was never informed about the results of any investigation
20 against DR. LEE, whether he remained employed at CIW, and whether he was indicted
21 or convicted for his sexual abuse of her.

22 105. In 2024, JANE DOE #1 twice requested her medical records from CIW.
23 The medical file provided to JANE DOE #1 omitted key medical records, including the
24 examination conducted by R.N. ROSA LOPEZ on July 28, 2023.

25 106. In April 2024, JANE DOE #1 requested her central file from CIW. The
26 records provided to her by CIW omitted key documents, including records related to her
27 grievances filed against DR. LEE and the PREA investigation initiated by Associate
28 Warden ROBERT KETTLE.

1 107. JANE DOE #1 was released from custody in December 2024 and is no
2 longer subject to the exhaustion requirements of the Prison Litigation Reform Act
3 (“PLRA”). Nevertheless, JANE DOE #1 exhausted her administrative remedies while
4 she was incarcerated.

5 B. JANE DOE # 2

6 108. JANE DOE # 2 first saw DR. LEE after she arrived to CIW in 2022. DR.
7 LEE was adamant that he wanted to do a pap smear on her. When JANE DOE # 2
8 informed DR. LEE that a pap smear was unnecessary because she previously had a
9 hysterectomy, but he claimed that he needed to do a pap smear to confirm that she had
10 no cervix.

11 109. JANE DOE # 2 informed DR. LEE that she preferred to have her primary
12 care physician do the pap smear.

13 110. In response, DR. LEE became visibly angry and hostile, he began
14 slamming things, and started to shake. He was extremely rude and told JANE DOE # 2,
15 “I don’t know why you wouldn’t let me examine you – I know you don’t have a
16 problem having anything inside of you.” He insisted that he examine JANE DOE # 2 to
17 determine if she had a cervix.

18 111. JANE DOE # 2 refused to be physically examined by DR. LEE because
19 she got a creepy feeling from him and felt violated by his comments.

20 112. Approximately one month later, gynecology requested another
21 appointment for JANE DOE # 2 to see DR. LEE again. When JANE DOE # 2
22 complained of hot flashes, DR. LEE was dismissive of her complaints and told her that
23 she was having hot flashes because she was wearing a sweater.

24 113. A few months later, DR. LEE again saw JANE DOE # 2 and said he
25 wanted to schedule another appointment with her. At that appointment, JANE DOE # 2
26 told DR. LEE that she was refusing any future appointments with him and that he
27 should forward all of her medical records to her primary care doctor. JANE DOE # 2
28

1 refused all further appointments with DR. LEE, despite her need for gynecological care,
2 because of her own experiences with him and those she had heard about from other
3 patients of DR. LEE.

4 114. As a result of the above-described actions, JANE DOE # 2 avoided getting
5 gynecology care that she needed, for over three years, because she was afraid to be seen
6 by DR. LEE.

7
8 C. JANE DOE # 3

9 115. JANE DOE # 3 requested to see a gynecologist upon arriving at CIW in
10 2023 for a refill of her birth control by injection, which had proven effective in
11 managing her menstrual cycles.

12 116. At her appointment with DR. LEE on June 9, 2023, JANE DOE # 3
13 requested to continue on her birth control by injection but DR. LEE refused to give her
14 the requested contraception and became very aggressive about giving her an intrauterine
15 device (“IUD”) instead. When JANE DOE # 3 asked questions about his refusal, DR.
16 LEE reminded her that he was the doctor and that she did not need to understand.

17 117. At JANE DOE # 3’s first appointment with DR. LEE, he commented on
18 her blonde hair and told her it was pretty.

19 118. JANE DOE # 3 was reluctant to try an IUD and preferred contraception by
20 injection due to its less invasive nature. However, she felt that DR. LEE gave her no
21 other choice than to agree to the IUD.

22 119. On or around August 18, 2023, JANE DOE # 3 had an appointment with
23 DR. LEE for insertion of the IUD. KUMAR was present for the appointment. JANE
24 DOE # 3 informed KUMAR and DR. LEE that she had severe anxiety about the
25 procedure and an extensive history of sexual trauma and asked that they go slow and
26 take their time. She also asked them to announce any physical touching as they
27 conducted the IUD insertion procedure. DR. LEE ignored JANE DOE # 3’s questions
28 about pain management options during the procedure and told her not to worry. DR.

1 LEE was so insistent that JANE DOE # 3 try the IUD that she felt she had no other
2 choice.

3 120. DR. LEE forcefully inserted a speculum inside of JANE DOE # 3 without
4 any lubricant. When JANE DOE # 3 told him that he was hurting her, DR. LEE forced
5 and held her legs open while ignoring her pleas for him to stop. KUMAR assisted DR.
6 LEE in forcing her legs open and watched him insert the IUD, but did not say or do
7 anything to intervene on behalf of JANE DOE # 3.

8 121. DR. LEE continued to probe inside of JANE DOE # 3 for approximately
9 ten minutes without any explanation of what he was doing. As JANE DOE # 3 was
10 visibly crying, DR. LEE then caused her to suffer excruciating pain when he painfully
11 inserted the IUD inside of her. After the insertion, DR. LEE immediately made JANE
12 DOE # 3 sit up and get dressed, before throwing the contraceptive informational card on
13 her lap.

14 122. DR. LEE caused JANE DOE # 3 to suffer severe physical pain and
15 suffering and emotional trauma. As a survivor of severe sexual abuse throughout her
16 childhood, DR. LEE caused JANE DOE # 3 to suffer severe trauma as if she was being
17 raped once again.

18 123. JANE DOE # 3 suffered a lot of abnormal pain from the IUD that DR.
19 LEE inserted. She felt that DR. LEE did not insert the IUD correctly because she had a
20 lot of pain when she sat down and had severe and excessive bleeding. JANE DOE # 3
21 wanted to return to gynecology to have the IUD removed but she was so terrified by the
22 thought of returning to see DR. LEE that she opted instead to endure the pain and
23 suffering from the IUD that DR. LEE had inserted incorrectly.

24 124. When JANE DOE # 3 learned that DR. LEE was removed from CIW, she
25 requested an appointment in February 2024 with a female gynecologist at CIW to have
26 her IUD removed. JANE DOE # 3 had a panic attack after she returned to the
27 gynecology office six months later, just from walking down the same hallway where
28 she had last seen DR. LEE and seeing his name on the wall. It took a while for JANE

1 DOE # 3 to calm down and feel safe again so that she could proceed with the IUD
2 removal.

3 125. JANE DOE # 3 remains terrified of seeing a gynecologist and has not
4 sought gynecology care since she was released from CIW.

5 D. JANE DOE # 4

6 126. Jane Doe # 4 was transferred to CIW from CCWF in April 2023 and was
7 seen by DR. LEE on April 7, 2023. JANE DOE # 4 was approximately seven and a half
8 months pregnant at the time.

9 127. When JANE DOE # 4 entered the examination room, DR. LEE instructed
10 her to undress from the waist down while he remained in the room.

11 128. JANE DOE # 4 asked DR. LEE for privacy as she undressed, and DR.
12 LEE responded that he was the doctor and that he had done this before. He stayed in the
13 room despite her request so JANE DOE # 4 turned her back to DR. LEE as she
14 undressed.

15 129. DR. LEE measured her stomach and without explanation, he touched under
16 JANE DOE # 4's breasts, lifted her shirt up, and fondled and felt around her breasts.

17 130. When JANE DOE # 4 questioned why he was touching her breasts, DR.
18 LEE asserted that he was the doctor. He then started feeling below her stomach and
19 pressed on her pelvic and vaginal areas with force. JANE DOE # 4 told DR. LEE he
20 was hurting her but he was dismissive and told her he was doing his job.

21 131. Without explanation, DR. LEE inserted his fingers into JANE DOE # 4's
22 vagina and grabbed her thigh with his other hand. While JANE DOE # 4 shifted in
23 discomfort and pain, DR. LEE held her thigh and said under his breath and without
24 explanation, "Oh yeah, this is good" While his fingers were inside her, DR. LEE asked
25 JANE DOE # 4 who was the father of her unborn child.

26 132. In a sexualized and aggressive manner, DR. LEE pumped his fingers in
27 and out of JANE DOE # 4's vagina. He shoved his fingers inside JANE DOE # 4 with
28

1 such force that she moved back on the exam table. JANE DOE # 4 asked DR. LEE to
2 stop. DR. LEE yelled at JANE DOE # 4 to sit back down and held her leg down on the
3 table. When he finally pulled his fingers out of her, they were covered in blood.

4 133. JANE DOE # 4 was scared and disturbed seeing the blood because she was
5 in the late stage of her pregnancy. Up until that point, JANE DOE # 4 had not bled
6 during her pregnancy.

7 134. DR. LEE did not say anything to JANE DOE # 4 about the exam or
8 address JANE DOE # 4's bleeding in any way. JANE DOE # 4 told DR. LEE that she
9 didn't want to see him again and he responded that he was the only gynecologist at
10 CIW.

11 135. Medical assistant MESVEEN KUMAR was present during the
12 appointment but remained behind a computer during the exam and did not chaperone or
13 intervene during DR. LEE's abuse of JANE DOE # 4.

14 136. For days after the April 7, 2023, exam, JANE DOE # 4 continued bleeding
15 and lived in fear for the well-being of her unborn child.

16 137. Approximately a week later, JANE DOE # 4 was requested to see DR.
17 LEE again. DR. LEE again measured her stomach in a sexualized and inappropriate
18 manner, touching around her breasts and near her vaginal area.

19 138. When JANE DOE # 4 tried asking questions about her pregnancy, DR.
20 LEE was dismissive and snapped, "I already explained this to you."

21 139. When DR. LEE insisted doing another pelvic exam on her, JANE DOE # 4
22 refused because of the trauma she sustained from her prior appointment. DR. LEE
23 became more aggressive when JANE DOE # 4 refused the examination.

24 140. At later appointments, JANE DOE # 4 attempted to document her refusal
25 of care from DR. LEE. At least once, DR. LEE refused to allow JANE DOE # 4 fill in
26 the reason for her refusal and insisted that she sign the refusal form but allow him to fill
27 in the reason for the refusal. Out of concern that she would face disciplinary action,
28 JANE DOE # 4 signed the blank refusal form.

1 141. On information and belief, DR. LEE was not working at CIW when JANE
2 DOE # 4 went into labor. After giving birth to her child on May 6, 2023, JANE DOE #
3 4 returned to CIW two days later.

4 142. JANE DOE # 4 refused to be housed in the Outpatient Housing Unit
5 (“OPHU”), despite the comfort and convenience after giving birth, because that was
6 where DR. LEE worked.

7 143. In need of post-partum care, JANE DOE # 4 requested reasonable
8 accommodations including a breast pump, post-partum pads, disposable bed pads, and a
9 wheelchair. DR. LEE denied JANE DOE # 4 these basic supplies and she struggled
10 through her post-partum recovery without the accommodations that would normally be
11 provided to post-partum patients.

12 144. JANE DOE # 4 suffered extreme pain and discomfort due to the
13 deprivation of this post-partum care, including severe breast engorgement, difficulty
14 walking, and excessive bleeding.

15 145. Due to DR. LEE’s failure to provide JANE DOE #4 with the necessary
16 accommodations, she was not permitted pads or other necessities when she was
17 transported outside of CIW. Because of this, JANE DOE #4 was forced to sit, saturated
18 in blood whenever she was bussed to and from CIW.

19 146. As a result of the actions described above, JANE DOE # 4 suffered
20 extreme and unnecessary physical pain and suffering and severe emotional distress.

21 E. JANE DOE # 5

22 147. JANE DOE # 5 arrived at CIW in or around April 2021. Soon after her
23 arrival, she was seen by DR. LEE for recurring gynecological issues.

24 148. JANE DOE # 5 had seven to ten appointments with DR. LEE over a three-
25 year period. At almost every appointment, he claimed that he needed to do another pap
26 smear.

27 149. At JANE DOE # 5’s first visit with DR. LEE, she told him that she thought
28

1 she may have fibroids, knowing that African American women have a higher likelihood
2 of having fibroids. DR. LEE mocked JANE DOE # 5 in response and asked her, “How
3 are you going to tell me? I am the doctor.”

4 150. At each appointment, DR. LEE required that she undress for the
5 appointment while he remained in the room, giving her no privacy to undress.

6 151. At each appointment, DR. LEE used his fingers to examine JANE DOE #
7 5 and repeatedly inserted his fingers in and out of her vagina. On multiple occasions,
8 when she began to feel uncomfortable, DR. LEE would use his hand to spread her legs
9 open.

10 152. DR. LEE was also very aggressive in his use of a speculum on JANE DOE
11 # 5, by jamming the speculum inside of her and opening it in a very rough manner. DR.
12 LEE would routinely remove and re-insert the speculum in a sexualized manner.

13 153. On at least one occasion, DR. LEE examined JANE DOE # 5’s breasts in a
14 sexualized and inappropriate manner. JANE DOE # 5 was naked on the exam table
15 wearing only a bra, until it was lifted, and was covered by a sheet. DR. LEE caressed
16 and rubbed JANE DOE #5’s—using both hands at the same time.

17 154. JANE DOE # 5 attempted to refuse appointments with DR. LEE. In
18 response, DR. LEE would tell her that he was the only gynecologist at CIW. When
19 JANE DOE # 5 requested to document her refusals of his care, DR. LEE would not let
20 her specify the reason for her refusal on the form.

21 155. During several of her appointments with DR. LEE, the nurse or medical
22 assistant (including KUMAR) would exit the room, leaving DR. LEE unchaperoned and
23 alone with JANE DOE # 5. Even when a chaperone was present, they consistently
24 failed to observe DR. LEE’s actions and typically remained behind a desk.

25 156. DR. LEE insisted on doing what he claimed was a pap smear at almost
26 every appointment with JANE DOE # 5.

27 157. JANE DOE # 5 did not ever receive any lab results from any of the pap
28 smears that DR. LEE purportedly performed on her. On multiple occasions, DR. LEE

1 claimed that there were no available test results or claimed that he had no recollection
2 of a prior appointment with her.

3 158. Eventually, JANE DOE # 5 signed a documented refusal of care from DR.
4 LEE because she was being subjected to repeated invasive and sexualized exams
5 without follow-up care or effective treatment.

6 159. Even after refusing care from DR. LEE, JANE DOE # 5 felt that she had
7 no other options but to see DR. LEE because her medical condition persisted and no
8 one else was available for gynecology care.

9 F. JANE DOE # 6

10 160. JANE DOE # 6 is currently incarcerated at CIW. She has had more than
11 ten interactions with DR. LEE over a three-to-five-year period, her last interaction
12 being late in 2023.

13 161. JANE DOE # 6 requires gynecological care primarily due to fibroids and
14 abnormal uterine bleeding (“AUB”).

15 162. At almost every appointment, DR. LEE required that JANE DOE # 6 get
16 an invasive exam or procedure, including a pelvic exam, pap smear, and/or biopsy.
17 JANE DOE # 6 routinely did not receive any results or follow-up treatment from these
18 exams, thereby necessitating further invasive examinations by DR. LEE.

19 163. After asking JANE DOE # 6 to undress, DR. LEE typically remained in
20 the room while she undressed.

21 164. DR. LEE pressured JANE DOE #6 into repeated invasive physical exams.
22 When JANE DOE # 6 told DR. LEE that the exams were excessive and unnecessary,
23 DR. LEE told JANE DOE # 6 that “people like her” didn’t care about their health.
24 When JANE DOE # 6 asked if this comment was in relation to her race or gender
25 (JANE DOE # 6 is African American), DR. LEE became hostile. This hostility and
26 aggression pervaded all of JANE DOE # 6’s appointments with DR. LEE.

27 165. DR. LEE was routinely physically and verbally hostile towards JANE
28 DOE # 6. His procedures on JANE DOE # 6 were aggressive and painful. Despite
JANE DOE # 6’s request to use a smaller speculum and to be gentle, DR. LEE used a

1 large speculum on her and struggled to insert it into JANE DOE # 6. This resulted in
2 extreme discomfort and pain for DOE # 6.

3 166. At an appointment for AUB, DR. LEE told JANE DOE #6 that she would
4 not have these problems if she “wasn’t so fat”. He also commented that JANE DOE #6
5 should shave her pubic area to avoid such problems.

6 167. At least once, DR. LEE made JANE DOE # 6 stand up from the exam
7 table, while undressed from the waist down. He put his fingers inside her vagina while
8 her legs were straddled and pressed on her stomach. When JANE DOE #6 voiced her
9 discomfort with this procedure, DR. LEE became angry.

10 168. DR. LEE made sexually inappropriate comments to JANE DOE #6,
11 including asking her what positions she has had sex in. When JANE DOE # 6
12 confronted DR. LEE about the nature of his questioning, he was defensive and raised
13 his voice at her.

14 169. Due to JANE DOE # 6’s ongoing problem with fibroids and AUB, she
15 requires frequent medical care. She has had to receive biopsies in the past, however, the
16 biopsies by DR. LEE were excessively painful in comparison to any other biopsy. The
17 frequency of biopsies and exams was also excessive in comparison to prior medical
18 providers.

19 170. On one occasion, when JANE DOE # 6 asked DR. LEE to stop, he
20 responded, “God dammit, I need to do this exam.” He then forced JANE DOE # 6’s
21 legs open and asked a nurse to help him hold her down. JANE DOE # 6 objected. DR.
22 LEE held JANE DOE # 6’s legs open with such force that he left bruise marks on her
23 thighs. DR. LEE forced JANE DOE # 6 to complete the biopsy despite her request to
24 stop.

25 171. During this same appointment, without explanation, warning, or obtaining
26 consent, DR. LEE put his finger in JANE DOE #6’s anus. When she questioned him
27 about what he was doing, DR. LEE became very upset, hostile, and was inappropriately
28 crass towards JANE DOE # 6.

1 172. JANE DOE # 6’s medical problems persisted. Her uterine bleeding was so
2 heavy that she was anemic and required repeated blood transfusions. DR. LEE still
3 insisted on repeated examinations.

4 173. On several occasions, JANE DOE # 6 expressed her preference for a
5 female gynecologist in writing. Still, she continued to be summoned for repeated
6 appointments with DR. LEE. JANE DOE # 6 was told she cannot choose her own
7 doctor.

8 174. JANE DOE #6 tried to refuse visits with DR. LEE on several occasions
9 and asked to sign a documented refusal. DR. LEE and his staff did not allow JANE
10 DOE #6 to write in the reason for her refusal. Despite repeatedly refusing examinations
11 by DR. LEE, JANE DOE # 6 continued to be summoned for repeated appointments
12 with DR. LEE.

13 175. KUMAR was usually the nurse present at JANE DOE # 6’s appointments.
14 She repeatedly failed to chaperone appointments or intervene or report DR. LEE’s
15 abuse.

16 176. At times, DR. LEE served as both JANE DOE # 6’s provider for the
17 Medication Assistance Treatment (“MAT”) Program for Substance Use Disorders and
18 as her primary care physician. The hostile nature of DR. LEE’s relationship with JANE
19 DOE # 6 impacted her care in these areas as well.

20 177. JANE DOE # 6 had an existing reasonable accommodation for mobility
21 impaired vest approved by two other doctors. In October of 2019, DR. LEE revoked
22 JANE DOE #6’s reasonable accommodation without any change in diagnosis despite
23 her noted chronic back issues. JANE DOE # 6 filed a grievance regarding DR. LEE’s
24 conduct at that time.

25 178. DR. LEE documented retaliatory and false information in JANE DOE #
26 6’s medical chart including false information about the severity of her substance abuse.
27 DR. LEE’s false documentation in her medical chart led JANE DOE # 6 to postpone
28 her parole hearing and will likely impact her future possibility for parole in a negative
manner.

1 179. JANE DOE # 6 filed several grievances against DR. LEE over the years,
2 yet she continued to be ducated for appointments with DR. LEE.

3 180. In late 2023, JANE DOE # 6 was ducated for an appointment with DR.
4 LEE. She refused, stating that she would no longer be seen by DR. LEE. KUMAR told
5 JANE DOE # 6 that DR. LEE would not be present. When JANE DOE # 6 arrived for
6 the appointment, DR. LEE was the doctor present in the examination room. JANE DOE
7 # 6 refused to be examined by DR. LEE.

8 181. JANE DOE # 6 has suffered severe physical and emotional trauma due to
9 the actions of DR. LEE. As a survivor of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, each
10 interaction with DR. LEE was retraumatizing. She has struggled with persistent
11 bleeding, necessitating blood transfusions due to DR. LEE's failure to provide the
12 appropriate medical interventions. Due to DR. LEE's retaliatory conduct, JANE DOE
13 #6 has suffered physical pain, emotional trauma, and faces challenges in her possibility
14 of parole.

15 182. A summary of specific conduct that DR. LEE inflicted on JANE DOES #
16 1-6 is reflected herein:

17 **III. For Years, Dr. Lee Subjected Patients at CIW to Sexual and Physical Abuse,**
18 **Sexual Assault, Emotional Trauma and Retrauma, Unlawful Restraint,**
19 **Withholding and Deprivation of Safe Gynecology Care, and Retaliation for**
20 **Complaining about his Abuse.**

21 183. As with any patient who consents to a gynecological examination or
22 procedure, gynecology patients who were seen by DR. LEE at CIW consented to
23 gynecological care – not abuse, assault, degradation, or humiliation. Below are non-
24 exhaustive examples of the many ways that DR. LEE took actions that went far beyond
25 the scope of any implied consent from his patients.

26 a. Abusive pelvic exams and sexualized digital penetration:

27 i. DR. LEE's pelvic exams were sexualized in nature and deviated from
28 medically justifiable practices.

ii. During pelvic exams, DR. LEE routinely removed and reinsert his

1 fingers. Repeated digital penetration is not normal practice during a
2 pelvic exam.

- 3 iii. DR. LEE 's normal practice was to aggressively insert his fingers.
4 Patients described his insertion as a "slamming," "jerking," "pumping,"
5 or "shoving" motion. DR. LEE 's digital penetration was so deep and
6 aggressive that his hand would hit patients' pelvic bone. This exceeds the
7 scope of a pelvic exam as full digital penetration is not normal procedure.
- 8 iv. When patients expressed discomfort or pain, Lee became hostile and
9 aggressive and typically became more aggressive and rough with his
10 movements. With many patients, DR. LEE refused to stop the exam
11 when patients pleaded with him to stop and became increasingly hostile
12 and aggressive and in some instances, he forcibly restrained his patients'
13 legs and forced them to open wider.
- 14 v. DR. LEE routinely left his fingers inserted longer than necessary, even
15 making pulsing movements with his fingers while they were inserted.
- 16 vi. DR. LEE routinely made sexually inappropriate comments while
17 digitally penetrating patients including commenting on patients' vaginal
18 "tightness", "wetness", commenting on how "pretty" or "beautiful"
19 patient's vaginas are, and commenting on patients' sexual history.
- 20 vii. On multiple occasions, DR. LEE also touched or "flicked" patients'
21 clitoris, which is not normal practice.
- 22 viii. DR. LEE did not inform patients of his physical movements, the purpose
23 of any irregular touching, or obtain their consent when conducting pelvic
24 exams.

25 b. Abusive pap smears, biopsies, or other procedures

- 26 i. When conducting Pap smears, biopsies, or other invasive procedures
27 DR. LEE was aggressive and abusive.
- 28 ii. DR. LEE routinely used a larger speculum even when a smaller one

1 was specifically requested by the patient and routinely used the
2 speculum in such an aggressive manner that the patient was injured and
3 bled excessively afterwards. He routinely inserted and removed the
4 speculum multiple times during a single pap smear, which is not normal
5 procedure.

6 iii. DR. LEE routinely inserted and removed the speculum multiple times
7 in a single pap smear. Patients have described his use of the speculum
8 as though it was an artificial phallus.

9 iv. After patients attempted to refuse gynecology care by DR. LEE, he
10 became increasingly hostile, aggressive, and callous.

11 c. Coerced exams or procedures

12 i. When patients expressed apprehension about being examined or
13 indicated that they did not consent to a physical exam or procedure,
14 DR. LEE pressured his patients into allowing him to complete the exam
15 or procedure.

16 ii. During exams and procedures when patients pleaded with DR. LEE to
17 stop and expressed pain and discomfort, often through tears or screams,
18 DR. LEE often physically restrained his patients by forcibly spreading
19 their legs and/or holding down their thighs. At times, KUMAR
20 physically helped DR. LEE to restrain his patients. DR. LEE's restraint
21 was so forceful that he left bruising on several of his patients.

22 iii. Many times, in an attempt to convince patients to allow him to do an
23 exam or procedure, DR. LEE criticized or blamed his patients by saying
24 they did not care about their health, that their medical condition was
25 their own fault, and/or that they would die if they failed to take his
26 advice.

27 iv. DR. LEE also told patients that the only way to receive treatment for
28 their symptoms was to be physically examined by him. DR. LEE

1 routinely withheld essential treatment, even if prescribed by other
2 health care providers, if patients did not submit to a pelvic exam or Pap
3 smear. DR. LEE told many patients that he was transgender when they
4 expressed discomfort at being treated by him. For instance, DR. LEE
5 told his patients, “Just imagine I’m a transgender” or “What if I told
6 you I was a woman?” On information and belief, DR. LEE is not
7 transgender.

8 d. Excessive or unnecessary examinations

- 9 i. Patients in CDCR custody are called to medical appointments either by
10 "ducat", a request by the doctor or prison for an appointment, or by "co-
11 pay", a patient request to be seen. Patients are not free to ignore medical
12 ducats, and are disciplined if they fail to obey the ducat.
- 13 ii. DR. LEE repeatedly and excessively ducated patients for invasive
14 examinations and procedures including pelvic exams, Pap smears, and
15 biopsies.
- 16 iii. Performing bimonthly or quarterly exams is not standard—and is a sign
17 that a doctor is preying on the patient. DR. LEE frequently required
18 patients to return at two- to three-month intervals to obtain refills for
19 their oral contraceptive prescriptions as a pretext to allow him to
20 conduct additional pelvic exams.
- 21 iv. Even after refusing to be treated by DR. LEE, patients were repeatedly
22 ducated, required to report in person to the medical clinic to refuse care
23 from DR. LEE, often resulting in uncomfortable or hostile arguments
24 with DR. LEE.
- 25 v. DR. LEE ducated patients for unnecessary or misleading exams, under
26 the guise that their previous procedure or exam necessitated a follow-up
27 exam or procedure.
- 28 vi. DR. LEE often claimed that his biopsies yielded inconclusive results

1 and necessitated a repeated invasive exam or procedure, although the
2 lab results were normal.

3 e. Anal examinations

- 4 i. Anal exams are not necessary for a complete pelvic exam or pap smear.
5 ii. DR. LEE repeatedly conducted anal exams without need and without
6 obtaining informed consent from patients.
7 iii. DR. LEE did not even warn patients that he would be conducting an
8 anal exam. His patients often did not know that he would be conducting
9 such an exam until they felt his fingers or a swab in their anus.

10 f. Examinations and procedures without the presence of or observation by a
11 chaperone

- 12 i. Chaperones are intended to serve as observers and potential witnesses
13 during sensitive examinations and treatments. The American Medical
14 Association Code of Medical Ethics requires physicians to allow
15 patients to request chaperones, to communicate the option of having a
16 chaperone to patients, and to always honor a patient's request for a
17 chaperone.
18 ii. DR. LEE routinely failed to have chaperones in the room during
19 sensitive examinations or procedures. Even when a nurse or chaperone
20 was present in the room, they were often positioned behind a computer
21 or screen, unable to observe the examination. In other instances, the
22 chaperone would walk in and out of the exam room repeatedly, leaving
23 the patient without a witness to DR. LEE's conduct.

24 g. Withholding medical treatment

- 25 i. DR. LEE withheld necessary medical treatment in retaliation against
26 patients who advocated for themselves for proper care, expressed
27 concerns with DR. LEE's conduct, or refused repeated or excessive
28 exams.

1 ii. At times, DR. LEE withheld medical care or treatment unless and until
2 patients allowed him to conduct a pelvic exam or pap smear, even when
3 his patients were referred to an external healthcare provider who
4 prescribed medication or treatment.

5 h. Inappropriate and sexualized comments

6 i. While patients were undressed or during exams or procedures, DR.
7 LEE routinely made sexualized and inappropriate comments.

8 ii. DR. LEE made comments about patients' physical appearance or
9 anatomy including vaginal "tightness", grooming/hair removal
10 practices, their weight, or skin coloration.

11 iii. While patients were unclothed, DR. LEE also made comments about
12 their sexual history such as speculating as to how many sexual partners
13 they had in the past based on their physical appearance.

14 iv. DR. LEE routinely engaged in behavior that was intended to humiliate
15 his patients. For example, DR. LEE told a patient that her decision not
16 to shave her pubic area was not hygienic and would cause yeast
17 infections. He was dismissive to a patient who sought care for a
18 prolapsed vagina by saying, "it looks like an average 60-year old vagina
19 to me". DR. LEE accused a patient seeking hormone treatment to deal
20 with menopause for "just wanting to orgasm easier". DR. LEE also held
21 a used speculum in a patient's face and yelled at her, "See this? This is
22 yeast!"

23 v. On multiple occasions, when patients complained of pain during exams
24 or procedures, DR. LEE made comments such as "You've had sex
25 plenty of times why are you complaining about this?"

26 i. Abusive breast/chest exams - DR. LEE routinely conducted prolonged breast
27 exams that included stimulating or squeezing the patient's nipples or cupping
28 the breasts, for which there was no medical justification.

- 1 j. Failure to use trauma-informed gynecology care
- 2 i. On information and belief, DR. LEE failed for many years to screen his
- 3 patients for sexual and physical trauma histories.
- 4 ii. DR. LEE failed to provide gynecology care that was appropriate for his
- 5 patients who mostly suffered sexual, physical, and emotional traumas
- 6 prior to their incarceration. Instead, he routinely performed medically
- 7 unnecessary exams and procedures on asymptomatic patients, with
- 8 unreasonable force and aggression.
- 9 iii. When his patients specifically alerted DR. LEE to their prior sexual
- 10 abuse history, DR. LEE ignored his patients' requests for
- 11 accommodation to be gentle or sensitive about their past trauma. For
- 12 example, JANE DOE # 3 told DR. LEE that she had an extensive
- 13 history of sexual abuse and asked that DR. LEE be gentle and announce
- 14 his actions to her. DR. LEE ignored her request and jammed the
- 15 speculum inside of her without warning.
- 16 k. Remained in exam room while patients undressed - DR. LEE instructed
- 17 patients to undress prior to his examination or procedure and remained in the
- 18 room while they undressed, typically without any sort of divider or modesty
- 19 covering.
- 20 l. Retaliation with negative charting - When patients advocated for themselves
- 21 or complain about DR. LEE's behavior, DR. LEE retaliated by inputting
- 22 negative information in their medical chart including false information about
- 23 substance abuse, or baselessly noting that the patient was "malingering."
- 24 When patients refused care from DR. LEE, he routinely had them sign the
- 25 refusal form and did not allow them to write in the reason for their refusal.
- 26 Instead, he falsely stated the reason for their refusal.
- 27 m. Falsely accused patients of dishonesty to justify more invasive exams
- 28 i. DR. LEE routinely accused patients of seeking medical care for an

1 improper purpose. For example, DR. LEE accused a patient of selling
2 prescribed medication to other prisoners when she requested an
3 increased dose in her medication. DR. LEE also accused patients who
4 reported incontinence that they were lying about their symptoms so
5 they could access diapers. When patients requested birth control for
6 pain or period management, DR. LEE accused them of being sexually
7 active while incarcerated.

8 ii. DR. LEE often used the alleged dishonesty of his patients to justify the
9 claimed need to conduct more intrusive exams. For instance, when a
10 patient sought treatment for incontinence, DR. LEE made her get off
11 the examination table unclothed, spread her legs as he inserted his
12 fingers into her vagina, and then ordered her to cough. DR. LEE made
13 another patient who reported incontinence to squat above his face as he
14 laid on the floor to see if she was lying about her incontinence.

15 **IV. Dr. Lee's Well-Known Abuse of Gynecology Patients Deprived the**
16 **Incarcerated Population at CIW of Gynecology Care.**

17 184. Throughout DR. LEE's employment at CIW, medical and even custody
18 staff knew, or should have known, that patients in need of gynecology care were
19 refusing appointments with DR. LEE. Several patients, after speaking to DR. LEE
20 initially during their visit, refused to be examined by him. Other patients initially
21 submitted to one or more exams but subsequently began to refuse treatment or
22 examination by DR. LEE, and would request to be sent out to a nearby hospital to
23 receive gynecological care instead. The number of patients who were asking for a
24 different gynecologist and who did not want to be examined by DR. LEE specifically
25 became a known concern to CDCR and CCHCS officials, and yet they did nothing to
26 make safe gynecology care available to patients at CIW. For more than seven years,
27 patients at CIW have repeatedly requested access to a female gynecologist. In response,
28 Defendants and/or medical staff typically claimed that there was no female gynecologist

1 available to CIW patients and that their only option for gynecology care was DR. LEE.
2 At times, patients were also informed that if they wanted gynecology care from a
3 provider other than DR. LEE, they would have to pay for those medical services.

4 185. It was not until 2024, after DR. LEE was removed from CIW, that CIW
5 finally made a female gynecologist available to patients at CIW on a part-time basis.

6 186. Federal common law recognizes that patients have a privacy right to be
7 selective about the gender of their gynecologist. However, on information and belief,
8 there is no statutory, regulatory, or policy mandate that requires CIW to make available
9 a gynecologist of the gender preferred by its patients.

10 187. The refusal to provide CIW patients with access to other gynecologists,
11 aside from DR. LEE, deterred many people at CIW from seeking necessary gynecology
12 care. Many people incarcerated at CIW deprived themselves of necessary gynecology
13 care for many years, despite serious medical risks and consequences, to ensure their
14 safety and protect themselves from further abuse and trauma by DR. LEE.

15 Defendants JENNIFER CORE, MOLLY HILL, ROB KETTLE, LUIS GONZALEZ,
16 JIM ELLIOT, and DR. MAXWELL knew, or should have known, for many years that
17 the incarcerated population at CIW were depriving themselves of gynecology care and
18 failed to take action to make safe gynecology care available at CIW.

19 **V. The California Institution for Women is Known for Retaliating Against**
20 **Those who Report Sexual Abuse by Staff.**

21 188. The Prison Rape Elimination Act (“PREA”) required CIW to document
22 and immediately report allegations of sexual abuse to the Office of Internal Affairs, a
23 division of CDCR that is not housed at CIW which specializes in interviewing
24 witnesses to suspected sexual abuse or assault. However, CIW routinely fails to report
25 PREA complaints to the OIA, instead referring such complaints to its own on-site
26 Investigative Services Unit (“ISU”). ISU staff at CIW are not properly trained to
27 conduct investigations into allegations of staff sexual abuse. Also, ISU staff is
28 comprised of custody staff who previously worked at CIW for many years and often

1 have personal relationships with staff members accused of sexual abuse. As such, ISU
2 staff have an inherent conflict of interest in conducting investigations of staff sexual
3 abuse. The effect of CIW's practice is to ensure that prisoners do not feel safe to make a
4 PREA complaint.

5 189. Upon receipt of a PREA complaint, ISU staff – not custody staff – pull the
6 complaining party out of their cell, and then escort them throughout the entire facility to
7 a location for an interview. This is always done during the day, when large numbers of
8 staff and prisoners are able to observe the process, which reveals that the prisoner has
9 made a PREA complaint. This ensures retaliation by both other prisoners and staff, and
10 it is commonly believed by the overwhelming majority of prisoners that this practice
11 creates a risk of physical harm to the complaining prisoner.

12 190. Similarly, soon after JANE DOES # 1 and # 2, as well as many members
13 of the Damages Classes reported DR. LEE for sexual abuse, ISU staff rounded up many
14 of DR. LEE's patients who made written complaints about him, paraded them through
15 the yard for everyone to see, and then threatened that ISU was going to conduct
16 unclothed body searches on them.

17
18 **VI. Defendants Failed to Take Appropriate Action Against Dr. Lee to**
19 **Prevent Further Harm to Plaintiffs and the Class.**

20 **A. CDCR, CCHCS, and their Respective High-Ranking Officials were Jointly**
21 **Responsible for Ensuring Safe Gynecology Care for Patients at CIW.**

22 191. CDCR, CCHCS, Defendants MACOMBER, TOCHE, and KELSO share
23 joint responsibility in ensuring the delivery of appropriate, quality health care in a cost-
24 effective manner with minimized risk to patients. (Health Care Department Operations
25 Manual (“HC-DOM”) § 1.1.) Since the responsibility over medical care at CIW was
26 delegated back to CDCR in March 2017, CDCR and Defendants MACOMBER and
27 TOCHE have primary responsibility over the gynecology care provided at CIW and
28 share joint responsibility over some aspects of that care with the receiver, Defendant

1 KELSO.

2 192. CCHCS is required to maintain a standardized governance structure,
3 known as its Governing Body at the highest level, which consists of multidisciplinary
4 leadership teams at CDCR headquarters and institution levels that will guide the
5 statewide strategic vision and performance objectives of CCHCS. (*Id.*)

6 B. CDCR, CCHCS, and their Respective High-Ranking Officials Shared Joint
7 Responsibility in the Enforcement and Compliance with the Federal Prison Rape
8 Elimination Act at CIW.

9 193. The federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (“PREA”) was enacted in 2003 as
10 a zero-tolerance policy towards the sexual abuse of prisoners. (34 U.S.C. § 30302, *et*
11 *seq.*) PREA required the development of national standards to respond to and prevent
12 incidents of sexual abuse in prison.

13 194. The National PREA Standards were implemented in 2012 and were
14 immediately binding on states who receive Department of Justice grant funds for prison
15 purposes.

16 195. CDCR and CCHCS are obligated to comply with the federal Prison Rape
17 Elimination Act by providing proper training, reporting, and prevention of sexual abuse
18 by medical staff who are assigned to work at CIW.

19 i. CIW has Long Been Out of Compliance with PREA’s Mandate that Requires
20 a Full-Time PREA Compliance Manager to Enforce PREA at CIW.

21 196. Pursuant to PREA Standards, CIW is required to designate a PREA
22 Compliance Manager (“PCM”) who is responsible for implementing and enforcing the
23 PREA National Standards at CIW. The Warden at CIW is responsible for ensuring that
24 the PCM is provided sufficient time and authority to ensure CIW’s compliance with the
25 PREA National Standards. (PREA National Standard § 115.11(c).)

26 197. The PCM at CIW has the following responsibilities for every PREA
27 incident at CIW, including the allegations of abuse against DR. LEE:
28

- a. Making a good faith effort to reach judgment on whether the accused staff person's actions prior to, during, and subsequent to the reporting of the incident were in compliance with regulations, procedure, and applicable law, and determine if follow-up action is necessary;
- b. Serving on the IPRC and completing all of the tasks required of the IPRC as described above for every PREA incident;
- c. Scheduling every PREA incident for review by the IPRC within 60 days of the date of discovery;
- d. Monitoring the conduct and treatment of PREA victims and persons who report staff for sexual misconduct for 90 days following a report of staff sexual misconduct to ensure there are no changes in the conduct and treatment that suggest retaliation;
- e. Acting promptly to remedy any indication of retaliation against a PREA victim or person who reports staff sexual misconduct by initiating an investigation into retaliation by the Office of Internal Affairs; and
- f. Collecting and accurately reporting data to the PREA Coordinator about investigations into staff sexual misconduct on a monthly basis.

198. Historically, the PCM role at CIW was assigned to a custody lieutenant at CIW, with many competing responsibilities. In the past, the PCM at CIW typically spent five hours or less per week on the enforcement of PREA at CIW. It was not until 2024 that CIW designated the PCM as a full-time position at CIW.

ii. CDCR and CIW Failed to Utilize the Institutional PREA Review Committee to Detect the Risk of Harm Posed by Dr. Lee.

199. Pursuant to PREA National Standard § 115.86, the Warden is required to conduct an incident review of every allegation of sexual misconduct against CIW staff, including those that were not substantiated. (Department Operations Manual (“DOM”) § 54040.17.) A review is not required for allegations that have been determined to be “unfounded”. (*Id.*)

200. The Institutional PREA Review Committee (“IPRC”) is a committee at

1 each prison that is chaired by the Warden and is comprised of prison staff including the
2 PREA Compliance Manager, the In-Service Training Manager, a health care clinician,
3 and the Incident Commander or ISU Supervisor. (DOM § 54040.17.) The IPRC
4 conducts PREA reviews of each allegation of staff sexual misconduct and is required to
5 perform the following tasks as part of every PREA incident review, including each
6 allegation of abuse against DR. LEE:

- 7 a. Consider whether the allegation or investigation indicated a need to change
8 policy or practice to better prevent, detect, or respond to sexual abuse;
- 9 b. Consider whether the incident or allegation was motivated or caused by
10 group dynamics at CIW;
- 11 c. Examine the area in the facility where the incident allegedly occurred to
12 assess whether physical barriers in the area enabled the sexual abuse;
- 13 d. Assess the adequacy of staffing levels in that area during different shifts;
- 14 e. Assess whether monitoring technology should be deployed or augmented
15 to supplement supervision by staff; and
- 16 f. Prepare a report of its findings, including but not limited to, determinations
17 made pursuant to paragraphs (a)-(e) above, and any recommendations for
18 improvement and submit such report to the Warden at CIW and the PREA
19 Compliance Manager.

20 (DOM § 54040.17.)

21 201. The PCM is expected to schedule a review by the IPRC of each PREA
22 incident within 60 days of the date of discovery. (DOM § 54040.17.)

23 202. On information and belief, Defendants CIW WARDENS, ROB KETTLE,
24 LUIS GONZALES, and JIM ELLIOT took various actions that evaded review by the
25 IPRC for the allegations against DR. LEE, including the referral of allegations against
26 him for internal investigation by the ISU at CIW, after which the ISU almost always
27 conclude that the allegations were “unfounded” or “unsubstantiated”.

28 203. By doing so, Defendants CIW WARDENS, ROB KETTLE, LUIS
GONZALES, and JIM ELLIOT allowed DR. LEE to continue abusing his patients for

1 many years, without consequence, until he was finally removed from CIW in November
2 of 2023.

3 C. CCHCS Failed to Take Appropriate Action in Response to Allegations of Abuse
4 by Dr. Lee.

5 204. CCHCS is obligated to comply with the Prison Rape Elimination Act, not
6 only in providing medical care to PREA victims, but with reporting and preventing
7 sexual abuse of CIW patients. (Health Care Department Operations Manual (“HC-
8 DOM”) § 4.1.6.)

9 205. When a patient alleges that they have been the victim of sexual abuse or
10 sexual harassment by a health care provider, CCHCS policy requires that a report be
11 filed with the Medical Board of California, pursuant to Bus. & Prof. Code § 805.8.
12 (HC-DOM § 4.1.6(d)(3)(C).)

13 206. On information and belief, medical staff and CCHCS officials including
14 Defendants KELSO, TOCHE, ELLIOT, MAXWELL, and KUMAR knew or should
15 have known that DR. LEE was sexually abusing his patients and failed to timely report
16 him to the Medical Board of California.

17 207. CCHCS also requires that allegations of sexual abuse of a patient should
18 be reported to the watch commander at CIW.

19 208. In violation of Title 15, CCHCS policy requires that allegations of sexual
20 abuse of a patient should be reported and forwarded for investigation and review by the
21 Investigative Services Unit (“ISU”) at CIW. To the contrary, Title 15 requires that all
22 allegations of staff misconduct should be referred to the Office of Internal Affairs
23 (“OIA”) for investigation. (15 Cal. Code of Reg. § 3486.)

24 209. On information and belief, to the extent that any allegations against DR.
25 LEE were properly reported and referred for investigation, those allegations were
26 improperly referred to ISU for investigation, in violation of Title 15.

27 210. As Chief Executive Officer of CCHCS, JIM ELLIOT is responsible for the
28 implementing, monitoring, and evaluating the policies adopted by CCHCS pursuant to

1 PREA.

2 211. Defendants ELLIOT and MAXWELL knew or should have known for
3 many years that DR. LEE was abusing patients and failed to take appropriate action to
4 protect CIW patients from harm.

5 212. As CEO of CCHCS, JIM ELLIOT has served, at all relevant times, as the
6 Chairperson of the Local Governing Body (“LGB”) at CIW. The LGB is the highest-
7 level committee that comprises the local health care governance structure and acts at the
8 institutional level for the CDCR and CCHCS governing body. The LGB at CIW is
9 “ultimately accountable for quality patient care, treatment, and services provided by
10 employees and contractors at the institution.” (HC-DOM § 1.1.2(d)(2).) Among other
11 responsibilities, the LGB ensures that CIW has prepared and competent staff, ensures
12 adequate systems are in place to continuously evaluate, improve performance, and
13 ensure accountability of licensed clinicians. (*Id.*)

14 213. Voting members of the LGB include, but are not limited to, the following
15 staff:

- 16 a. CEO JIM ELLIOT
- 17 b. Warden of CIW or designee (Associate Warden Health Care)
- 18 c. Associate Warden of Health Care
- 19 d. Chief Medical Officer
- 20 e. Chief Nurse Executive
- 21 f. Chief of Mental Health
- 22 g. Health Program Manager, Quality Management

23 (HC DOM § 1.1.2(e)(2)(A).)

24 214. CEO JIM ELLIOT is also responsible for the Quality Management
25 Committee (“QMC”), which reviews health care areas considered to be high risk, high
26 volume, high cost and problem prone. Among other responsibilities, the QMC identifies
27 priority areas for improvement in the provision of health care services, develops
28 improvement plans, evaluates performance, and collects data. (HC DOM § 1.2.5.)

1 215. In addition to the Local Governing Board (“LGB”) and the Quality
2 Management Committee (“QMC”), CCHCS has a Professional Practice Evaluation
3 (“PPE”) program with the purpose of ensuring all patients receive health care services
4 from competent and qualified licensed medical providers. The PPE program is designed
5 to follow a set of core competency standards. If a provider’s ability to provide safe
6 patient care is called into question, the PPE program includes several focused
7 assessment steps by the physician’s supervisor to assist him/her with the appropriate
8 skills. (HC DOM § 1.4.2.5.) At each level of assessment, the clinician, his/her
9 supervisor, and CEO JIM ELLIOT will sign off on the assessment. (*Id.*)

10 216. If there are safety concerns with a clinician’s performance or conduct
11 issues, the Health Care DOM provides for automatic modification of a physician’s
12 privileges. (HC DOM § 1.4.3.3.) All health care staff, including but not limited to, the
13 institutional leaderships such as CEO JIM ELLIOT, CMO DR. MAXWELL, the Chief
14 of Mental Health, and the Chief Nursing Executive, are obligated to refer safety
15 concerns regarding clinical performance to the attention of the institutional supervisor
16 and/or regional or headquarters executive leadership. (HC DOM § 1.4.3.3(b)(1).)

17 217. The clinician who is the subject of allegations that are the basis for
18 modification of his/her privileges may request an informal hearing, which provides an
19 opportunity for the clinician to respond to the allegations. If the modification of
20 privileges is upheld after the informal hearing, a Medical Peer Review Committee
21 (“MPRC”) will conduct a formal peer review investigation into the clinical performance
22 and/or conduct of the provider that falls below the applicable standard of care. Among
23 other actions, the MPRC may take remedial action (such as education, proctoring,
24 performance monitoring, or referral for mental evaluation and treatment); modify or
25 restrict clinical privileges; issue a letter of admonition, reprimand or warning; and
26 suspend or revoke privileges. (HC DOM § 1.4.3.5(c)(2)(I).) If the provider’s privileges
27 are suspended or revoked, he/she no longer meets the minimum qualifications for the
28 position and is therefore separated.

1 218. On information and belief, various structures were in place throughout DR.
2 LEE’s employment to respond to the multiple complaints of abusive gynecological
3 services and take action to protect CIW patients from the risk of further harm by DR.
4 LEE.

5 219. Defendants MACOMBER, TOCHE, ELLIOT and MAXWELL failed to
6 utilize LGB, QMC, or PPE processes described above to (1) ensure quality patient care,
7 treatment, and services by DR. LEE, and (2) ensure that all patients at CIW receive
8 gynecology care from a competent, qualified, and safe medical provider.

9 220. Defendants ANGELA KENT, CIW WARDENS, ROB KETTLE, LUIS
10 GONZALEZ, JIM ELLIOT, and DR. MAXWELL failed to utilize the PREA process
11 described above to ensure that safe and non-abusive gynecology care was being
12 provided by DR. LEE.

13 D. The Wardens at CIW are Liable for Dr. Lee’s Years of Abuse of Patients and the
14 Deprivation of Safe Gynecology Care at CIW.

15 221. As CIW Warden, Defendants JENNIFER CORE, MONA HOUSTON,
16 MOLLY HILL, and RICHARD MONTES (collectively referred to as “CIW Wardens”
17 knew or should have known about every complaint brought against DR. LEE. The CIW
18 Wardens, as well as Defendant JIM ELLIOT, were responsible for ensuring that
19 gynecology care at CIW was compliant with the Prison Rape Elimination Act
20 (“PREA”), referring the allegations against DR. LEE for independent investigation by
21 the Office of Internal Affairs, reporting allegations of sexual misconduct against DR.
22 LEE to the Medical Board of California, and protecting the incarcerated population at
23 CIW from the risk of sexual abuse by DR. LEE.

24 222. The CIW Wardens had overall responsibility for protecting the
25 incarcerated population at CIW from harm or abuse by staff assigned to work at CIW,
26 regardless of whether the staff member is employed by CDCR or contracted by another
27 agency and assigned to work at CIW.

28 223. In violation of PREA National Standard § 115.22, § 115.34(a) and CDCR

1 regulations and policy, the CIW Wardens either ignored allegations of staff misconduct
2 by DR. LEE or improperly referred, or authorized the referral of, such allegations
3 against DR. LEE to the Investigative Services Unit (“ISU”) at CIW for internal
4 investigation by prison investigators. ISU staff have an inherent bias because they work
5 at the same prison where DR. LEE has been employed.

6 224. On information and belief, the incarcerated population at CIW brought
7 allegations of staff misconduct against DR. LEE for many years, dating as far back as
8 2017, that were either ignored, disbelieved, discredited, or mishandled by CIW
9 Wardens.

10 225. On information and belief, to the extent that any CIW Warden referred any
11 allegations against DR. LEE for staff investigation, those allegations were improperly
12 referred to ISU for investigation, after which the allegations were improperly found to
13 be unsubstantiated or unfounded.

14 226. The ISU at CIW mishandled multiple investigations against DR. LEE and
15 improperly concluded, in one investigation after another, that the allegations of abuse
16 against DR. LEE were either unsubstantiated or unfounded.

17 227. The CIW Wardens were responsible for overseeing the handling of, and
18 any investigations into, allegations of staff misconduct by DR. LEE, and for terminating
19 his physical contact with the incarcerated population at CIW when they knew or should
20 have known that he posed an unreasonable risk to patients.

21 228. Although CIW Wardens knew about allegations of abuse by DR. LEE as
22 early as 2017, upon information and belief, it was not until 2023 or 2024 that DR. LEE
23 was finally reported to the OIA for a staff investigation. Over the course of seven years,
24 the CIW Wardens allowed widespread sexual abuse by DR. LEE of CIW prisoners to
25 continue without any care, concern, or appropriate action.

26 229. The CIW Wardens also failed to properly report DR. LEE to the Medical
27 Board of California and/or to CCHCS for reporting to the Medical Board, actions which
28 would have resulted in removing DR. LEE from CIW prior to November 2023, thereby

1 prevent many years of sexual abuse by DR. LEE that severely traumatized his patients
2 and deprived the incarcerated population at CIW from safe gynecology care.

3 230. As Associate Warden of Health Care at CIW, ROB KETTLE had overall
4 responsibility over the provision of health care at CIW. AW KETTLE knew, or should
5 have known, about complaints of abuse against DR. LEE throughout his employment.

6 231. On information and belief, ROB KETTLE was present when IAC
7 members raised concerns about widespread complaints that DR. LEE was abusing
8 patients during gynecology appointments.

9 232. For many years, Defendant ROB KETTLE knew or should have known
10 that the incarcerated population at CIW was depriving themselves of necessary
11 gynecology care because of experiences they personally had and/or concerns they had
12 heard about DR. LEE.

13 233. It was not until or around October 2023 that a PREA investigation was
14 initiated against DR. LEE by Defendant ROB KETTLE, in response to Plaintiff JANE
15 DOE # 1's complaint to ROB KETTLE about DR. LEE's abusive conduct during
16 gynecology appointments. On information and belief, Defendant ROB KETTLE
17 requested a PREA investigation based on his belief that JANE DOE # 1's allegations
18 against DR. LEE, if true, would amount to sexual misconduct, in violation of PREA.

19 E. The PREA Compliance Manager at CIW is Liable for Dr. Lee's Abuse of
20 Patients and the Deprivation of Safe Gynecology Care at CIW.

21 234. Upon information and belief, Defendant GONZALEZ has been serving as
22 the PREA Compliance Manager ("PCM") at CIW since 2020, while also serving other
23 duties as a custody Captain.

24 235. Defendant GONZALEZ failed to fulfill and was deliberately indifferent to
25 the above-listed responsibilities as PCM at CIW and thereby contributed to,
26 encouraged, condoned, and perpetuated a culture of rampant sexual abuse by staff at
27 CIW.

28 236. Defendant GONZALEZ knew or should have known that he was devoting

1 insufficient time and authority to coordinate CIW’s compliance with the PREA
2 standards, in violation of PREA National Standard § 115.11(c).

3 237. Defendant GONZALEZ knew or should have known about the PREA
4 complaints against DR. LEE, yet failed to take appropriate action thereby causing harm
5 to Plaintiffs and the Class. By all of the actions and inactions alleged herein, Defendant
6 GONZALEZ maintained a custom or policy of failing to enforce and comply with the
7 PREA at CIW, thereby creating a risk of continued sexual abuse by medical staff at
8 CIW.

9 238. As former Wardens of CIW, Defendants MOLLY HILL and JENNIFER
10 CORE were responsible for overseeing the PCM at CIW and for ensuring that the PCM
11 had sufficient time and authority to ensure CIW’s compliance with the PREA National
12 Standards. (PREA National Standard § 115.11(c).)

13 F. The Associate Director of CDCR’s Female Offender Programs and Services is
14 Liable for Years of Sexual Abuse by Dr. Lee of CIW Patients.

15 239. As Associate Director of FOPS, Defendant ANGELA KENT is
16 responsible for the overall supervision of CIW Wardens including training, retention,
17 and recruiting of Wardens.

18 240. Defendant KENT knew or should have known that CIW Wardens were
19 failing in their responsibilities to report, respond, and prevent sexual abuse by CIW
20 staff.

21 241. Details about the institutionalized ways that CIW Wardens have failed to
22 address rampant sexual abuse at CIW were included in a report issued by the
23 Legislative Working Group on the Response and Prevention of Sexual Abuse in
24 California Women's Prisons, issued in March 2024.⁷ Defendant KENT knew or should
25 have known about longstanding practices at CIW that encouraged, ignored, and failed
26

27 ⁷ This Legislative Working Group report is available online at
28 https://www.sisterwarriors.org/prison_sexualassault_report.

1 to prevent sexual abuse of CIW prisoners. However, Defendant KENT failed to take
2 appropriate action to properly supervise CIW Wardens and to ensure their compliance
3 with PREA.

4 242. Defendant KENT also serves as the PREA Coordinator for CIW and has
5 grossly failed in her responsibilities to ensure that CIW is compliant with the National
6 PREA Standards and in overseeing or supervising the PREA Compliance Manager at
7 CIW.

8 G. The Secretary and Undersecretary of CDCR are Liable for Dr. Lee's Abuse of
9 Patients and the Deprivation of Safe Gynecology Care at CIW.

10 243. In 2005, CDCR established the mission of Female Offender Programs and
11 Services ("FOPS"), to ensure that the women's prisons operated in a gender-responsive
12 manner to ensure that their incarcerated populations received equitable treatment and
13 programming based on their rehabilitative needs and circumstances. As Secretary and
14 Undersecretary, Defendants JEFF MACOMBER and DR. DIANA TOCHE have
15 overall responsibility in supervising FOPS and its leadership.

16 244. In 2008, the California Legislature enacted Penal Code § 3430, which was
17 co-authored by the original Associate Director of FOPS, which directed CDCR to
18 implement gender-responsive policies and practice to fulfill the mission of FOPS.

19 245. Defendants MACOMBER and TOCHE have failed to comply with Penal
20 Code § 3430 and the FOPS mission by diluting the FOPS mission with multiple other
21 responsibilities that are completely unrelated to the mission of, and outside the scope of
22 services provided at, women's prisons, thereby undermining the original purpose,
23 intent, and effectiveness of the FOPS mission. For example, JEFF MACOMBER
24 charged FOPS with the responsibility of overseeing and implementing COVID
25 protocols in all state prisons in 2020 with the onset of COVID. At a time when staff
26 sexual abuse at the women's prisons was rampant, FOPS had the overwhelming
27 responsibility of managing COVID in all of the state prisons.

28 246. In September 2024, JEFF MACOMBER's deliberate indifference towards

1 rampant sexual abuse at the women’s prison was evidenced by the United States
2 Department of Justice’s announcement of its federal civil rights investigation into staff
3 sexual abuse at both of CDCR’s women’s prisons, including CIW.⁸

4 247. Defendant JEFF MACOMBER has neglected to ensure that leadership of
5 FOPS has the education, skills, and experience necessary to lead a gender-responsive
6 mission at both the headquarters and institutional levels. For example, four of the past
7 five Associate Directors in charge of FOPS have had no experience in services or
8 operations for women’s prisons.

9 248. Likewise, JEFF MACOMBER has failed to ensure that the women’s
10 prisons, including CIW, is led by Wardens who have the education, skills, and
11 experience necessary to implement a gender-responsive mission at the institutional
12 level.

13 249. JEFF MACOMBER has failed to properly monitor and oversee the
14 Associate Directors of FOPS, who have overall responsibility for operations and
15 administration at CIW, thereby subjecting CIW patients to physical abuse, emotional
16 trauma, and the deprivation of safe gynecology care.

17 250. JEFF MACOMBER has long been, and continues to be, aware of, the risk
18 of sexual abuse for CIW prisoners, and has encouraged, condoned, or been deliberately
19 indifferent to such risk of harm. Despite rampant sexual abuse by staff that has plagued
20 the women’s prisons, JEFF MACOMBER has failed to utilize national and internal
21 CDCR experts with the expertise in California’s women’s prisons to respond to and
22 remedy the risk of sexual abuse to CIW prisoners.

23 //

24 //

25 //

26 ⁸ The press release for the U.S. Department of Justice’s pending investigation is
27 available online at [https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-civil-
rights-investigation-correctional-staff-sexual-abuse-two](https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-announces-civil-
28 rights-investigation-correctional-staff-sexual-abuse-two).

1 **VII. Defendants Macomber, Toche, Kelso, Elliot, and Kevin are Sued in their**
2 **Official Capacity as CDCR and CCHCS Officials with the Authority to**
3 **Implement Injunctive Remedies that are Necessary to Ensure Safe**
4 **Gynecology Care for CIW Patients.**

5 251. Most of the Class remain incarcerated at CIW, where patients continue to
6 deprive themselves of necessary gynecology care in the interest of protecting
7 themselves from abusive and traumatizing gynecology appointments.

8 252. Defendants have maintained, and continue to maintain, a custom or policy
9 of failing to enforce and comply with the PREA at CIW, thereby causing an ongoing
10 risk to the Class of further abuse by medical staff providing gynecology services at
11 CIW.

12 253. Defendant JEFF MACOMBER is the Secretary of CDCR and has overall
13 responsibility for the provision of medical care to California prisoners, including
14 gynecology care for people incarcerated at the CIW. He also has authority over all
15 CDCR staff assigned to work at CIW, including medical staff, and for the training,
16 prevention, detection, response, and investigation of staff sexual misconduct. As
17 Secretary, JEFF MACOMBER has line authority over his executive staff, including the
18 Associate Director of FOPS and the PREA Coordinator. He is responsible for
19 implementing and complying with the mandates of Penal Code § 3430, which requires
20 CDCR to ensure a safe environment for people in women’s prisons and gender-
21 responsive staffing for women’s prisons. He is also responsible for ensuring that CDCR
22 complies with the federal PREA and the state Sexual Abuse in Detention Elimination
23 Act (“SADEA”). As of March 2017, the primary responsibility over medical care at
24 CIW was delegated to the Secretary of CDCR and became JEFF MACOMBER’s
25 responsibility.

26 254. Defendant DR. DIANA TOCHE is the Undersecretary of Health Care
27 Services and is responsible for planning, implementation, and evaluation of the health
28 care governance structure and processes at all California prisons, including CIW. DR.

1 DIANA TOCHE has the duty to ensure that all medical care provided at all medical
2 departments at CDCR, including gynecological services at CIW, are provided in
3 compliance with legal standards including PREA, SADEA, and Penal Code § 3430, and
4 that medical staff providing medical care to CDCR’s incarcerated population, including
5 those at CIW, act according to law and do not violate the rights of any CDCR prisoner.
6 As of March 2017, the primary responsibility over medical care at CIW was delegated
7 to the Secretary of CDCR and became DR. TOCHE’s responsibility.

8 255. As the federal receiver, Defendant CLARK KELSO retains limited
9 responsibility over specified aspects of the provision of medical care at CIW. To the
10 extent that KELSO’s retains responsibility over certain aspects of the injunctive relief
11 sought in this case, he is named as a defendant in his official capacity.

12 256. Defendant JAMES ELLIOT currently serves as the CIW CEO for
13 California Correctional Health Care Services (“CCHCS”). As CEO, JAMES ELLIOT
14 has overall responsibility for planning, implementation, and evaluation of the health
15 care governance structure and processes within CIW. JAMES ELLIOT shares joint
16 responsibility with the Warden of CIW in ensuring that other programs within CIW
17 participate and support the health care governance structure to ensure effective,
18 efficient, and safe operations.

19 257. As the current PREA Compliance Manager (“PCM”) at CIW, Defendant
20 Associate Warden ANTHONY KEVIN is responsible for implementing and enforcing
21 the PREA National Standards at CIW. On information and belief, he serves on the
22 IPRC at CIW and is responsible for overseeing and/or conducting reviews of every
23 PREA incident for staff sexual misconduct at CIW . ANTHONY KEVIN is being sued
24 in his official capacity as a CDCR official with authority to implement injunctive and
25 equitable remedies to ensure compliance with PREA at CIW, as may be deemed
26 appropriate.

27 //

28 //

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

258. Plaintiffs bring this action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 on behalf of themselves and the following Classes:

1. The Damages Classes

259. There are two Damages Classes. The first (the “Received Treatment Class”) is defined as follows:

Any person incarcerated at the California Institution for Women (“CIW”) who was seen by Dr. Scott Lee for obstetric or gynecological medical care between 2016 and May 2024.

260. The Received Treatment Damages Classes has two subclasses. The first Received Treatment Damages Subclass is the “Examination or Procedure Subclass” and is defined as follows:

Any person incarcerated at the California Institution for Women (“CIW”) who was seen by Dr. Scott Lee for gynecological or obstetric care, and whose visit involved a pelvic exam, rectovaginal exam (or rectal exam), or breast/chest exam and/or any gynecological or obstetric procedure involving the pelvic, rectal or breast areas between 2016 and May 2024.

261. The second Received Treatment Damages Subclass is the “Nonconsensual Examination or Procedure Subclass,” and is defined as follows:

Any person incarcerated at the California Institution for Women (“CIW”) who was seen by Dr. Scott Lee and received any gynecological or obstetric exam or procedure for which DR. LEE failed to obtain informed consent.

262. The second Damages Classes (the “Deterred Class”) is defined as follows:

Any person incarcerated at the California Institution for Women (“CIW”) between 2016 and May 2024, who was scheduled by the CIW to see Dr. Scott Lee for gynecological or obstetric care, and who declined to see him and/or declined treatment he recommended.

263. Plaintiffs CCWP and Jane Doe # 6 seek certification of an “Injunctive Relief Class” defined as:

1 Current or future prisoners at CIW who are in need of or seek
2 obstetric or gynecological care.

3 264. The Damages Classes and subclasses consists of at least hundreds and
4 potentially thousands of people currently or formerly incarcerated at CIW, making
5 joinder impracticable, in satisfaction of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1). The exact size of the
6 Damages Classes and the identities of the individual members are ascertainable through
7 records maintained by CIW. The size of the Injunctive is in the hundreds or thousand.

8 265. The claims of Plaintiffs are typical of the Damages Classes. The claims of
9 the Plaintiffs and the Damages Classes are based on the same legal theories and arise
10 from the same unlawful pattern and practice of sexual harassment and assault.

11 266. There are many questions of law and fact common to the claims of
12 Plaintiffs and the Damages Classes, and those questions predominate over any
13 questions that may affect only individual Damages Classes members within the
14 meaning of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(2) and (b)(3). Class treatment of common issues under
15 Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(4) will materially advance the litigation.

16 267. Common questions of fact and law affecting members of the Damages
17 Classes include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 18 a. Whether DR. LEE engaged in physical, sexual, and/or emotional abuse,
19 assault or harassment of his patients during gynecology appointments;
- 20 b. Whether DR. LEE engaged in a course of conduct of physical, sexual,
21 and/or emotional abuse, assault or harassment of his patients during
22 gynecology appointments;
- 23 c. Whether DR. LEE's abuse, assault or harassment of his patients was
24 committed within the course and scope of his employment;
- 25 d. Whether DR. LEE's patients gave informed consent to his actions of
26 sexual abuse, assault and harassment during medical appointments that
27 caused injury;
- 28 e. Whether Defendants had actual or constructive knowledge of DR. LEE's
abuse, assault or harassment of patients at CIW, or were otherwise on

1 notice of DR. LEE’s course of conduct of sexual abuse, assault and
2 harassment as alleged herein;

- 3 f. Whether Defendants took reasonable action, or failed to take reasonable
4 action, to protect CIW patients from further harm by DR. LEE;
- 5 g. Whether Defendants took action, or failed to take action, that assisted,
6 encouraged, or facilitated DR. LEE’s course of conduct of sexual abuse,
7 assault or harassment as alleged herein;
- 8 h. Whether Defendants engaged in a course of conduct designed or intended
9 to suppress complaints or reports regarding DR. LEE’s conduct as alleged
10 herein, or in fact otherwise suppressed complaints or reports regarding DR.
11 LEE’s conduct as alleged herein;
- 12 i. Whether Defendants violated the Prison Rape Elimination Act (“PREA”)
13 by failing to timely initiate a PREA investigation against DR. LEE;
- 14 j. Whether Defendants breached their duty to ensure quality patient care,
15 treatment, and services by DR. LEE;
- 16 k. Whether Defendants breached their duty to ensure that all patients at CIW
17 receive gynecology care from competent and qualified licensed medical
18 providers;
- 19 l. Whether Defendants took any action – including reporting DR. LEE to the
20 Medical Board of California – to ensure that persons under their protection
21 and care were protected from sexual abuse, assault or harassment from DR.
22 LEE.

23 268. Plaintiffs Jane Doe # 1-5, as a lesser alternative to certification under Rule
24 23(b)(3), seek issue certification under Rule 23(c)(4) on the foregoing common
25 questions in the event that the Court concludes that common questions do not
26 predominate under Rule 23(b)(3).

27 269. Absent a class action, most of the members of the Damages Classes would
28 find the cost of litigating their claims to be prohibitive and will have no effective
remedy. The class treatment of common questions of law and fact is also superior to
multiple individual actions or piecemeal litigation, particularly as to the Defendants’

1 legal responsibility for Lee’s actions, in that it conserves the resources of the courts and
2 the litigants and promotes consistency and efficiency of adjudication. This action is
3 manageable in that the common and predominant questions identified above can be
4 answered on a class wide basis, and, to the extent necessary, individual issues related to
5 liability or damages could be addressed individually; in that event, class certification
6 and resolution would have addressed the most important questions related to liability,
7 and mechanisms are available to the extent necessary, to resolve individual damages

8 270. Plaintiffs Jane Doe # 1-5 will fairly and adequately represent and protect
9 the interests of the Damages Classes. Plaintiffs have retained counsel with substantial
10 experience in prosecuting complex litigation and class actions. Plaintiffs and their
11 counsel are committed to vigorously prosecuting this action on behalf of the other
12 respective Damages Classes members, and have the financial resources to do so.
13 Neither Plaintiffs nor their counsel have any interests adverse to those of the other
14 members of the Damages Classes.

15 2. The Injunctive Relief Class

16 271. Without an order from this Court, Plaintiffs CCWP and its members, Jane
17 Doe # 6 and Injunctive Relief Class Members currently incarcerated, are and will
18 continue to be, subject to the unlawful conduct of sexual assault and harassment alleged
19 in this Complaint.

20 272. Without an order from this Court, Plaintiffs CCWP, Jane Doe # 6 and
21 Injunctive Relief Class Members currently incarcerated will continue to suffer sweeping
22 and irreparable harm.

23 273. Defendants will continue their aforementioned policies and practices
24 unless enjoined and restrained by this Court. Without injunctive relief, applicable to the
25 Injunctive Relief Class as a whole, the class members will suffer irreparable harm for
26 which there is no adequate remedy at law in that their constitutional and statutory rights
27 will be systematically violated. Without the intervention of this Court, Defendants will
28 continue the unconstitutional practices alleged in this Complaint.

CAUSES OF ACTION

274. In the following causes of action, the allegations of each and every paragraph of this complaint (both already and yet to be stated) are incorporated into each cause of action without repeating them or restating their incorporation.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

42 U.S.C § 1983

Eighth Amendment Violation –Deliberate Indifference

(Injunctive Relief Only)

(By Plaintiffs CCWP, Jane Doe # 6, and the Injunctive Relief Class Against Defendants ELLIOT, MACOMBER, TOCHE, KELSO, KENT, and KEVIN in their Official Capacities)

275. Plaintiffs restate and incorporate herein by reference the preceding and subsequent paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

276. On information and belief, DR. LEE is currently under investigation by CDCR and was temporarily removed from his position as the primary OB-GYN at CIW, pending investigation. On information and belief, DR. LEE continues to be employed by CCHCS and/or CDCR and is eligible to be returned to his position as the full-time OB-GYN at CIW depending on the outcome of CDCR’s investigation.

277. On information and belief, patients at CIW do not have reasonable access to a gynecologist with the gender of their preference to ensure trauma informed medical care to a population of prisoners who are known to suffer from an exceedingly high rate of sexual, physical, and emotional abuse prior to incarceration.

278. Defendants ELLIOT, MACOMBER, TOCHE, KELSO, KENT, and KEVIN (“Official Capacity Defendants”) have a non-delegable duty to ensure that the conditions of confinement at CIW are compliant with the Eighth Amendment constitutional right to be free from cruel and unusual punishment, sexual abuse, and retaliation.

279. The Official Capacity Defendants knew or should have known of the substantial risk of serious harm to the health and physical safety of CIW prisoners and failed to take reasonable action to prevent sexual abuse by CIW staff and further

1 traumatization of a prisoner population known to suffer from an exceedingly high rate
2 of sexual, physical, and emotional abuse prior to incarceration.

3 280. The Official Capacity Defendants were deliberately indifferent and acted
4 with reckless disregard towards the physical safety of Plaintiffs CCWP and Jane Doe #
5 6 and the Injunctive Relief Class in the following ways:

- 6 a. failing to properly monitor, oversee, and administer CIW’s compliance
7 with the Prison Rape Elimination Act (“PREA”) and the Sexual Abuse in
8 Detention Elimination Act (“SADEA”). These failures constituted culpable
9 inaction, which subjected CIW prisoners, including members of CCWP
10 and JANE DOE # 6 and the Class to sexually, physically, and emotionally
11 abusive gynecology care;
- 12 b. failing to comply with California Penal Code § 3430, which mandates a
13 mission for the women’s prisons within CDCR and requires CDCR to do
14 the following:
 - 15 i. create policies and practices designed to ensure a safe environment
16 at the women’s prisons;
 - 17 ii. contract with nationally recognized gender responsive experts in
18 issues such as staffing and trauma treatment services;
 - 19 iii. implement a gender responsive staffing pattern that includes medical
20 staff;
 - 21 iv. implement a needs-based case and risk management tool at the
22 women’s prisons that assesses upon intake a prisoner’s health care
23 needs, among other needs; and
 - 24 v. design and implement evidence-based gender specific rehabilitative
25 programs that includes health care needs and trauma treatment
26 programs designed to reduce recidivism.
- 27 c. failing to properly investigate, respond to, and oversee the investigations of
28 all allegations of sexual misconduct against DR. LEE and KUMAR;

1 d. failing to properly screen, train, evaluate, supervise, and discipline prison
2 staff assigned to work at CIW, including DR. LEE and KUMAR, to
3 prevent staff from sexually abusing incarcerated persons.

4 281. Alternatively, the Official Capacity Defendants were deliberately
5 indifferent and acted with reckless disregard towards the medical needs of patients
6 incarcerated at CIW by depriving them of gynecology care, an essential and basic need
7 for the incarcerated population at CIW.

8 282. The above-listed failures constituted culpable action or inaction by the
9 Official Capacity Defendants.

10 283. By routinely ignoring and/or failing to properly respond to allegations of
11 staff sexual misconduct, the Official Capacity Defendants subjected, and continue to
12 subject, Plaintiffs CCWP and Jane Doe # 6 to unnecessary and wanton infliction of
13 physical injury, severe emotional trauma and re-traumatization, and a substantial risk of
14 serious harm including behaviors such as substance abuse, disciplinary violations, and
15 mental health issues that were all reasonably likely to result in restricted or prolonged
16 incarceration.

17 284. These failures constituted culpable inaction, which caused harm to
18 Plaintiffs CCWP and Jane Doe # 6 and the Injunctive Relief Class.

19 285. All of the failures alleged above have posed an unreasonable and
20 unconstitutional risk of serious harm to Plaintiffs CCWP and Jane Doe # 6 and the
21 Injunctive Relief Class and are the proximate cause of continued violations of their
22 Eighth Amendment rights.

23 286. The Official Capacity Defendants have long been, and continue to be,
24 aware of, the risk of sexual abuse for CIW prisoners, including the members of Plaintiff
25 CCWP, Jane Doe # 6, and the Injunctive Relief Class, and has encouraged, condoned,
26 or been deliberately indifferent to such risk of harm.

27 287. As a direct and proximate result of unlawful actions by the Official
28 Capacity Defendants, Plaintiff CCWP, its members, Jane Doe # 6, and the Injunctive

1 Relief Class suffered and continue to suffer injuries and continued violations of their
2 Eighth Amendment rights.

3 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 **42 U.S.C § 1983**

5 **Eight Amendment Violation – Cruel and Unusual Punishment**
6 **(For Damages)**

7 **(Plaintiffs Jane Doe # 1-5, CCWP, and the Damages Classes Against Defendants**
8 **DR. LEE, KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20)**

9 288. Plaintiffs restate and incorporate herein by reference the preceding and
10 subsequent paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

11 289. At all relevant times to this action, Plaintiff’s Jane Does # 1-5, members of
12 CCWP, and the members of the Damages Classes were incarcerated at CIW, and had no
13 freedom to direct their own medical care, set their own appointments, or choose their
14 own gynecologist.

15 290. At all relevant times, DR. LEE was the only gynecologist on staff at CIW.
16 When CIW patients in need of gynecology care requested to see a female gynecologist,
17 they were repeatedly told that DR. LEE was their only option for gynecology care.

18 291. Defendant KUMAR was present for most appointments with DR. LEE and
19 either actively assisted in restraining patients’ legs when they asked DR. LEE to stop
20 his examination, remained behind a desk or computer for the entire appointment and
21 failed to chaperone DR. LEE, failed to intervene or assist on the patient’s behalf when
22 she witnessed DR. LEE’s abuse, and/or failed to properly report DR. LEE to his work
23 supervisors, CCHCS, the Medical Board of California, and to CDCR.

24 292. With all Plaintiffs, DR. LEE did not provide constitutionally appropriate
25 gynecological care, but instead he abused his position of authority to sexually,
26 physically, and emotionally abuse Plaintiffs Jane Doe # 1-5, members of CCWP, and
27 each member of the Received Treatment Damages Classes and its subclasses by
28 engaging in:

- a. Sexually inappropriate comments in connection with examinations and

1 procedures;

2 b. Abusive and/or sexualized digital penetration of Plaintiffs;

3 c. Abusive and/or sexualized use of a speculum;

4 d. Unwarranted anal exams without warning or consent;

5 e. Abusive and/or sexualized breast examinations;

6 f. Coerced examinations or procedures;

7 g. Unwarranted and/or excessive examinations or procedures;

8 h. Forcing Plaintiffs to undress in front of him or to go without a modesty
9 covering;

10 i. Conducting examinations and/or procedures without the presence of a
11 mandated female chaperone;

12 j. Arbitrary withholding of gynecological care and treatment without medical
13 justification.

14 k. Other conduct as described throughout this Complaint.

15 293. Each of the above-described actions and omissions by DR. LEE
16 independently constitutes cruel and unusual punishment of Plaintiffs and the Damages
17 Classes.

18 294. Defendant DR. LEE's conduct was offensive to human dignity, intentional
19 or undertaken with reckless disregard for the rights of Plaintiffs and the Class,
20 undertaken with deliberate indifference, and deprived Plaintiffs and the Class of their
21 rights under the Eighth Amendment to be free from cruel and unusual punishment,
22 causing them damages in an amount to be proven at trial. Plaintiffs and the Class are
23 entitled to compensation for physical injury, emotional trauma and retraumatization,
24 and restricted or prolonged incarceration they experienced as a result of DR. LEE's
25 conduct, costs and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in prosecuting the claim for
26 relief; and punitive damages, since DR. LEE's conduct was willful, malicious, and in
27 reckless disregard of the rights of Plaintiffs and the Class.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

42 U.S.C § 1983

**Eighth Amendment Violation – Cruel and Unusual Punishment
(For Damages)**

**(Plaintiffs Jane Doe # 1-5, CCWP, and Damages Classes Against Defendants
ELLIOT, MAXWELL, MACOMBER, TOCHE, KENT, CORE, HOUSTON,
MONTES, HILL, KETTLE, GONZALEZ, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20)**

295. Plaintiffs restate and incorporate herein by reference the preceding and subsequent paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

296. On information and belief, the above-described acts and omissions by Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, MACOMBER, TOCHE, KENT, CIW WARDENS, KETTLE, GONZALEZ, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 violated the constitutional rights of Plaintiffs and the Class under the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution. (Defendants CORE, HOUSTON, MONTES, and HILL are hereinafter referred to collectively as “CIW WARDENS”).

297. At all relevant times, Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, MACOMBER, TOCHE, KENT, CIW WARDENS, KETTLE, GONZALEZ, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 were acting under color and pretense of law and under color of the statutes, ordinances, regulations, policies, practices, customs, and usages of CDCR and CCHCS.

298. At all relevant times, Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, MACOMBER, TOCHE, KENT, CIW WARDENS, KETTLE, GONZALEZ, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 knew or should have known of the substantial risk of serious harm to the health and physical safety of CIW prisoners and failed to take reasonable action to prevent sexual abuse by CIW staff and further traumatization of a prisoner population known to suffer from an exceedingly high rate of sexual, physical, and emotional abuse prior to incarceration.

299. Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, MACOMBER, TOCHE, KENT, CIW WARDENS, KETTLE, GONZALEZ, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 were each deliberately indifferent and acted with reckless disregard towards the rights of the Plaintiff’s Jane Does # 1-5, members of CCWP, and the Damages Classes to be free

1 from cruel and unusual punishment, as alleged throughout the Complaint, and based on
2 the following:

- 3 a. Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, CIW WARDENS, KETTLE,
4 GONZALEZ, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 failed to properly respond to
5 allegations of staff sexual misconduct, including allegations against DR.
6 LEE, by failing to refer the allegations for investigation by CDCR's Office
7 of Internal Affairs, an agency that is charged with conducting complete,
8 objective, and independent investigations into allegations of staff sexual
9 misconduct. Instead, Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, CIW
10 WARDENS, KETTLE, GONZALEZ, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20
11 repeatedly withheld investigations from OIA and had CIW's Investigative
12 Services Unit, comprised of CIW staff, to improperly conduct
13 investigations against DR. LEE;
- 14 b. Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20, with
15 deliberate indifference and reckless disregard of the rights of Plaintiffs and
16 the Class, refused to take quality review action, peer review action,
17 corrective action, disciplinary action and/or or terminate medical staff who
18 sexually abused CIW prisoners, including DR. LEE;
- 19 c. Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, MACOMBER, TOCHE, KENT, CIW
20 WARDENS, KETTLE, GONZALEZ, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20
21 knew that CIW patients, including JANE DOES # 1-5, members of
22 CCWP, and Damages Classes members were repeatedly subjected to
23 sexual abuse by staff and, with deliberate indifference and reckless
24 disregard of the rights of Plaintiffs and the Damages Classes, failed to take
25 action to prevent harm to CIW patients;
- 26 d. ELLIOT, MAXWELL, CIW WARDENS, KETTLE, GONZALEZ, and
27 DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 were deliberately indifferent to their
28 responsibilities as Chair or members of the IPRC and the enforcement of

1 PREA and SADEA at CIW; and

2 e. Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, CIW WARDENS, KETTLE,
3 GONZALEZ, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 showed deliberate
4 indifference and reckless disregard of the constitutional deprivation of
5 rights held by JANE DOES # 1-5, members of CCWP and the Damages
6 Classes members to be free from sexual abuse and to safe, non-abusive
7 gynecology care.

8 300. As a direct and proximate result of the unlawful and culpable actions and
9 inaction by Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, TOCHE, KENT, CIW WARDENS,
10 KETTLE, GONZALEZ, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20, JANE DOES # 1-5, members
11 of CCWP, and Class members suffered and continue to suffer injuries and damages as
12 alleged herein.

13 301. Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, TOCHE, KENT, CIW WARDENS,
14 KETTLE, GONZALEZ, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 tacitly encouraged and
15 condoned actions by DR. LEE and KUMAR that were offensive to human dignity, and
16 ratified said conduct, by ignoring complaints and obvious red flags, and refusing to
17 enforce PREA, SADEA, and California Penal Code § 3430.

18 302. With knowledge that DR. LEE and KUMAR were abusing patients at
19 CIW, Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, TOCHE, KENT, CIW WARDENS,
20 KETTLE, GONZALEZ, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 failed to take reasonable
21 action to prevent the substantial risk of harm to CIW patients, including the risk of
22 retraumatization and resulting behaviors such as substance abuse, disciplinary
23 violations, and mental health issues that were reasonably likely to cause restricted or
24 prolonged incarceration.

25 303. Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, TOCHE, KENT, CIW WARDENS,
26 KETTLE, GONZALEZ, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 failed to take appropriate
27 disciplinary action against DR. LEE and KUMAR, which would have prevented harm
28 to Plaintiffs and the Damages Classes. Instead, DR. LEE was allowed to have

1 unchaperoned contact with CIW patients for many years, thereby causing preventable
2 harm to Plaintiffs and the Damages Classes.

3 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 **42 U.S.C § 1983**

5 **Fourteenth Amendment Violation – Equal Protection Claim**

6 **(For Damages and Injunctive Relief)**

7 **(By All Plaintiffs and Classes Against Defendants MACOMBER, TOCHE in their
8 Individual and Official Capacities and against Defendant KELSO in his Official
9 Capacity)**

10 304. Plaintiffs restate and incorporate herein by reference the preceding and
11 subsequent paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

12 305. As of 2008, the Secretary of CDCR has been mandated to comply with the
13 mandates of California Penal Code § 3430, which established the mission of Female
14 Offender Programs and Services (“FOPS”), to ensure that the women’s prisons operated
15 in a gender-responsive manner to ensure that those incarcerated populations received
16 equitable treatment, including health care, based on their rehabilitative needs and
17 circumstances.

18 306. Since 2008, CDCR has long ignored the mandates of Penal Code § 3430
19 and failed to manage and operate its women’s prisons in a gender-responsive manner.

20 307. Defendant Secretary JEFF MACOMBER and Undersecretary DR. DIANA
21 TOCHE knew or should have known about CDCR’s past failures to comply with Penal
22 Code § 3430 and the resulting and severe risk of sexual, physical, and emotional abuse
23 to the incarcerated population at CIW, yet intentionally failed to take reasonable action
24 to restore and implement the FOPS mission.

25 308. On information and belief, Defendants MACOMBER and TOCHE
26 repeatedly took action to dilute the FOPS mission by saddling FOPS with oversight of
27 the men’s prisons or issues that predominantly impact the men’s prisons.

28 309. On information and belief, Defendants MACOMBER and TOCHE
repeatedly prioritized the needs of the incarcerated population at the men’s prisons
while intentionally diluting the FOPS mission or diverting resources away from FOPS

1 in ways that predominantly benefit the men’s prisons.

2 310. By the actions and inactions described above, Defendants MACOMBER
3 and TOCHE intentionally discriminated, and continues to discriminate, against CDCR
4 prisoners on the basis of their gender without a compelling government interest.

5 311. Plaintiff Jane Does # 1-5, members of CCWP, and the Damages Classes
6 were all incarcerated at CIW and suffered physical injury, emotional trauma and/or
7 retraumatization, and in some cases, restricted or prolonged incarceration, as a result of
8 Defendant MACOMBER and TOCHE’s intentional actions or inactions. CCWP also
9 suffered financial costs and a substantial loss of resources due to the actions of
10 Defendants MACOMBER and TOCHE.

11 312. Plaintiff members of CCWP, Jane Doe # 6, and the Injunctive Relief Class
12 remain incarcerated at CIW and continue to be deprived of safe and accessible
13 gynecology care by an OB-GYN with the gender of the patient’s choosing and continue
14 to face a substantial risk of harm posed by the lack of trauma informed gynecology care
15 and appropriate policies and practices to detect, respond, report, and investigate sexual,
16 physical, and/or emotional abuse by medical staff.

17 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

18 **42 U.S.C § 1983**

19 **Fourth Amendment Violation**

20 **(Injunctive Relief Only)**

21 **(By Plaintiffs CCWP, Jane Doe # 6, and the Injunctive Relief Class Against**
22 **Defendants ELLIOT, MACOMBER, TOCHE, KELSO, KENT, and KEVIN in**
23 **their Official Capacities)**

24 313. Plaintiffs restate and incorporate herein by reference the preceding and
25 subsequent paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

26 314. On information and belief, DR. LEE is currently under investigation by
27 CDCR and remains employed by CCHCS and/or CDCR. DR. LEE’s current status at
28 CIW is unknown. On information and belief, DR. LEE was temporarily removed from
his position as OB-GYN at CIW, but may be practicing medicine and/or working at

1 CIW. On information and belief, DR. LEE may be returned to his position as OB-GYN
2 at CIW after the CDCR investigation concludes or he may continue to practice
3 medicine at another CDCR facility.

4 315. Defendants ELLIOT, MACOMBER, TOCHE, KELSO, KENT, and
5 KEVIN (“Official Capacity Defendants”) have a non-delegable duty to ensure that the
6 conditions of confinement at CIW are compliant with the Fourth Amendment
7 constitutional right to be free from cruel and unusual punishment, sexual abuse, and
8 retaliation.

9 316. The Official Capacity Defendants were deliberately indifferent and acted
10 with reckless disregard of the rights of Plaintiffs and the Class in failing to properly
11 monitor, oversee, and administer CIW’s compliance with the Prison Rape Elimination
12 Act. These failures constituted culpable inaction, which subjected CIW prisoners,
13 including JANE DOES #1-5 and the Class to unconstitutional invasions of their Fourth
14 Amendment rights to bodily privacy. By routinely ignoring and/or failing to properly
15 respond to allegations of staff sexual misconduct, the Official Capacity Defendants
16 subjected, and continue to subject, Plaintiffs to unnecessary and wanton infliction of
17 physical injury, emotional trauma and re-trauma, and a substantial risk of serious harm
18 including restricted or prolonged incarceration.

19 317. The Official Capacity Defendants were deliberately indifferent and acted
20 with reckless disregard of the rights of Plaintiffs and the Class in failing to properly
21 screen, train, evaluate, supervise, and discipline prison staff assigned to work at CIW,
22 including DR. LEE, to prevent staff from sexually abusing incarcerated persons. These
23 failures constituted culpable inaction, which caused harm to Plaintiffs and the Class.

24 318. The Official Capacity Defendants further were deliberately indifferent and
25 acted with reckless disregard of the rights of Plaintiffs and the Class in failing to
26 properly investigate, respond to, and oversee the investigations of all allegations of
27 sexual misconduct against DR. LEE. These failures constituted culpable inaction, which
28 caused harm to Plaintiffs and the Class.

1 319. The Official Capacity Defendants were deliberately indifferent and acted
2 with reckless disregard of the rights of Plaintiffs and the Class in failing to comply with
3 the mandates of PREA, SADEA, and California Penal Code § 3430. These failures
4 constituted culpable inaction, which caused harm to Plaintiffs and the Class.

5 320. All of the failures alleged above have posed an unreasonable and
6 unconstitutional risk of serious harm to Plaintiff and are the proximate cause of
7 continued violations of Plaintiff’s Fourth Amendment rights.

8 321. The Official Capacity Defendants have long been, and continue to be,
9 aware of, the risk of sexual abuse for CIW prisoners, including Plaintiffs Jane Doe #1-5,
10 the members of CCWP, and the Class, and has encouraged, condoned, or been
11 deliberately indifferent to such risk of harm.

12 322. As a direct and proximate result of unlawful actions by The Official
13 Capacity Defendants, Plaintiff CCWP, its members, and the Class suffered and continue
14 to suffer injuries and continued violations of their Fourth Amendment rights.

15 323. CCWP and the Class are entitled to injunctive relief to remedy the ongoing
16 harm to people in state prison under CDCR/CCHCS’ authority.

17
18 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
42 U.S.C § 1983

19 **Fourth Amendment Violation –Unreasonable Search, Seizure, False Imprisonment**
20 **(For Damages)**
21 **(Plaintiff Jane Does # 1-5 and the Damages Classes Against Defendants DR. LEE,**
22 **KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20)**

23 324. Plaintiffs restate and incorporate herein by reference the preceding and
24 subsequent paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

25 325. Plaintiffs Jane Doe # 1-5, members of CCWP, and the Damages Classes,
26 as state prisoners, retain some Fourth Amendment rights to bodily privacy, and
27 specifically retain the right to be free from sexual abuse, sexual assault, and sexual
28 harassment.

326. Even in the context of managing a prison and providing obstetric or

1 gynecological care to prisoners, the conduct of DR. LEE and KUMAR and DOE
2 DEFENDANTS 1-20 violated Plaintiffs' limited Fourth Amendment rights.

3 327. With all Plaintiffs, DR. LEE did not provide constitutionally appropriate
4 gynecological care, but instead he abused his position of authority to unreasonably
5 search, seize, and falsely imprison them by sexually, physically, and emotionally
6 abusing Plaintiff Jane Does # 1-5 and each member of the Damages Classes by
7 engaging in:

- 8 a. Sexually inappropriate comments in connection with examinations and
9 procedures;
- 10 b. Abusive and/or sexualized digital penetration of Plaintiffs;
- 11 c. Abusive and/or sexualized use of a speculum;
- 12 d. Unwarranted anal exams without warning or consent;
- 13 e. Abusive and/or sexualized breast examinations;
- 14 f. Coerced examinations or procedures;
- 15 g. Unwarranted and/or excessive examinations or procedures;
- 16 h. Using force to restrain patients by their legs and forcing their legs open;
- 17 i. Forcing Plaintiffs to undress in front of him or to go without a modesty
18 covering;
- 19 j. Conducting examinations and/or procedures without the presence of a
20 mandated female chaperone;
- 21 k. Other conduct as described throughout this Complaint.

22 328. Each of the above-described actions and omissions by DR. LEE
23 independently constitutes an unreasonable search, seizure, or false imprisonment of
24 Plaintiffs and the Damages Classes.

25 329. Defendant KUMAR was present for most appointments with DR. LEE and
26 either actively assisted or failed to intervene in the above-listed conduct by DR. LEE.
27 She typically remained behind a desk or computer for the entire appointment, failed to
28 chaperone DR. LEE, failed to intervene or assist on the patient's behalf when she

1 witnessed DR. LEE’s abuse, and/or failed to properly report DR. LEE to his work
2 supervisors, CCHCS, the Medical Board of California, and to CDCR.

3 330. Defendant DR. LEE and KUMAR’s conduct was intentional or undertaken
4 with reckless disregard for the rights of Plaintiffs and the Damages Classes, and
5 undertaken with deliberate indifference, and his conduct deprived Plaintiffs and the
6 Damages Classes of their rights under the Fourth Amendment to bodily privacy,
7 causing them damages in an amount to be proven at trial. Plaintiffs and the Damages
8 Classes are entitled to compensation for physical injury and emotional distress they
9 experienced as a result of DR. LEE’s conduct, any restricted or prolonged incarceration
10 caused by DR. LEE’s conduct, costs and reasonable attorneys’ fees incurred in
11 prosecuting the claim for relief; and punitive damages, since DR. LEE’s conduct was
12 willful, malicious, and in reckless disregard of the rights of Plaintiffs and the Class.

13 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

14 **42 U.S.C § 1983**

15 **Fourth Amendment Violation – Violation of Right to Privacy**
16 **(For Damages)**

17 **(Plaintiff Jane Does # 1-5, CCWP, and the Damages Classes Against Defendants**
18 **ELLIOT, MAXWELL, MACOMBER, KENT, CORE, HOUSTON, MONTES,**
19 **HILL, KETTLE, GONZALEZ, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20)**

20 331. Plaintiffs restate and incorporate herein by reference the preceding and
21 subsequent paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

22 332. On information and belief, the above-described acts and omissions by
23 Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, MACOMBER, CIW WARDENS, KETTLE,
24 GONZALEZ, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 violated the constitutional right to
25 privacy of Plaintiffs and the Damages Classes under the Fourth Amendment to the
26 United States Constitution.

27 333. At all relevant times, Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, MACOMBER,
28 CIW WARDENS, KETTLE, GONZALEZ, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 were acting
under color and pretense of law and under color of the statutes, ordinances, regulations,

1 policies, practices, customs, and usages of CDCR and CCHCS.

2 334. Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, MACOMBER, CIW WARDENS,
3 KETTLE, GONZALEZ, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 knew or should have known
4 that their failure to supervise, monitor, report DR. LEE and respond to allegations of
5 sexual abuse against him, constituted culpable inaction as alleged herein, based on the
6 following:

- 7 a. Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, CIW WARDENS, KETTLE,
8 GONZALEZ, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 failed to properly
9 respond to allegations of staff sexual misconduct, including allegations
10 against DR. LEE, by failing to refer the allegations for investigation by
11 CDCR's Office of Internal Affairs, an agency that is charged with
12 conducting complete, objective, and independent investigations into
13 allegations of staff sexual misconduct. Instead, Defendants ELLIOT,
14 MAXWELL, CIW WARDENS, KETTLE, GONZALEZ, and DOE
15 DEFENDANTS 1-20 repeatedly withheld investigations from OIA and
16 had CIW's Investigative Services Unit, comprised of CIW staff, to
17 improperly conduct investigations against DR. LEE;
- 18 b. Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20,
19 refused to take quality review action, peer review action, corrective
20 action, disciplinary action and/or or terminate medical staff who
21 sexually abused CIW prisoners, including DR. LEE;
- 22 c. Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, CIW WARDENS, KETTLE,
23 GONZALEZ, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 knew that CIW patients,
24 including JANE DOES # 1-5, members of CCWP, and Class members
25 were repeatedly subjected to sexual abuse by staff and, with deliberate
26 indifference and reckless disregard of the rights of Plaintiffs and the
27 Class, failed to take action to prevent harm to CIW patients;
- 28 d. ELLIOT, MAXWELL, CIW WARDENS, KETTLE, GONZALEZ, and

1 DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 grossly failed in their responsibilities as
2 Chair or members of the IPRC and the enforcement of PREA at CIW;
3 e. Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, CIW WARDENS, KETTLE,
4 GONZALEZ, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 failed to take reasonable
5 steps to protect the constitutional rights of privacy, bodily integrity, and
6 bodily privacy held by JANE DOES # 1-5, members of CCWP, and
7 Class members.

8 335. As a direct and proximate result of the unlawful and culpable actions and
9 culpable inaction by Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, CIW WARDENS, KETTLE,
10 GONZALEZ, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20, JANE DOES # 1-5, members of CCWP,
11 and Class members suffered and continue to suffer injuries and damages as alleged
12 herein.

13 336. Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, CIW WARDENS, KETTLE,
14 GONZALEZ, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 encouraged and condoned DR. LEE's
15 conduct, by ignoring complaints and obvious red flags, and refusing to enforce federally
16 mandated procedures intended to prevent misconduct of the type engaged in by DR.
17 LEE.

18 337. With knowledge of DR. LEE's sexual misconduct, no disciplinary action
19 was taken and he was allowed to be unchaperoned with patients who were incarcerated
20 at CIW. Defendants ELLIOT, MAXWELL, CIW WARDENS, KETTLE, GONZALEZ,
21 and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 are therefore responsible for DR. LEE's acts and
22 omissions, which could have been prevented.

23 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
24 **GENDER VIOLENCE [CAL. CIV. CODE § 52.4]**
25 **(For Damages)**
26 **(Plaintiff Jane Does # 1-5, CCWP, and the Damages Classes Against Defendants**
27 **DR. LEE, KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20)**

28 338. Plaintiffs restate and incorporate herein by reference the preceding and
subsequent paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

1 339. California Civil Code § 52.4 provides that gender violence is a form of sex
2 discrimination and includes “[a] physical intrusion or physical invasion of a sexual
3 nature under coercive conditions” *Id.* at §52.4(c)(2).

4 340. California Civil Code § 52.4 incorporates the definition of “gender” from
5 California Civil Code § 51, which provides: “‘Gender’ means sex, and includes a
6 person’s gender identity and gender expression.”

7 341. Plaintiffs and the Class members are women, gender non-binary, and
8 transgender.

9 342. Lee physically intruded and/or invaded the bodies of Plaintiffs and Class
10 members during medical examinations in a sexual manner. The conditions were
11 coercive in that Plaintiffs and Class members were required to place their trust in their
12 physician because he was held out to be an expert in gynecology by CIW.CDCR
13 participated in the physical intrusion and/or invasion of the bodies of Plaintiffs and
14 Class members during medical examinations by being physically present in the room
15 through agent chaperones or other staff members and/or by bringing Plaintiffs and the
16 Class members into the examination rooms and providing instructions to remove their
17 clothing knowing that Lee would assault them in a sexual manner.

18 343. Defendant KUMAR and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 participated in the
19 physical intrusion and/or invasion of the bodies of Plaintiffs and Class members during
20 medical examinations by being physically present in the room through agent chaperones
21 or other staff members, by bringing Plaintiffs and the Class members into the
22 examination rooms and providing instructions to remove their clothing knowing that
23 Lee would abuse them during examinations, actively assisting DR. LEE in restraining
24 patients’ legs when they pleaded to stop an examination, and/or by refusing to intervene
25 or report DR. LEE on behalf of patients when they witnessed abuse by DR. LEE.

26 344. Plaintiffs were injured as a result of the gender violence, and seek all
27 remedies provided for in Civil Code Section 52.4(a), including, but not limited to,
28 actual damages, compensatory, damages, punitive damages, injunctive relief, costs,

1 attorneys’ fees, and any other appropriate relief.

2 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
3 **BANE ACT [CAL. CIV. CODE § 52.1]**
4 **(For Damages)**

5 **(Plaintiff Jane Does # 1-5, CCWP, and the Damages Classes Against Defendants**
6 **DR. LEE, KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20)**

7 345. Plaintiffs restate and incorporate herein by reference the preceding and
8 subsequent paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

9 346. DR. LEE sexually abused Plaintiffs through the use of coercion, physical
10 restraint, intimidation, threats, and with reckless disregard and deliberate indifference or
11 disregard of constitutional rights protected by the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments
12 to the U.S. Constitution and California Constitution, Article I, § 17.

13 347. KUMAR and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 assisted in DR. LEE’s sexual
14 abuse of patients by assisting him with the physical restraint of patients who asked that
15 he stop his examination and by failing to intervene and stop his abuse of patients.

16 348. Lee used his position as the sole gynecologist at a state prison to ensure
17 physical access to the Direct Abuse Class. In some cases, the Direct Abuse Class was
18 coerced into seeing Lee because he issued ducats to appear before him for
19 examinations, and procedures, which they were not free to ignore or refuse without
20 consequences up to and including written discipline. Even those Class members who
21 affirmatively sought treatment from DR. LEE were coerced into doing so in spite of his
22 reputation or their own past negative experiences with him, because they had no other
23 option to obtain needed gynecological care. Thus, the Direct Abuse Class was coerced,
24 threatened, and intimidated into appearing before DR. LEE at all.

25 349. During those coercive visits, examinations, and procedures, Lee violated
26 the rights of the Direct Abuse Class under Civil Code 52.1 as described above. Because
27 the Direct Abuse Class was coerced into seeing DR. LEE, the violation was
28 accomplished by means of “threats, intimidation, or coercion.”

350. The Denial of Care Class was likewise coerced into obtaining their

1 gynecological care from DR. LEE, or not at all. They were not free to see the
2 gynecologist of their choosing, or in fact, as far as they were made aware, any
3 gynecologist other than DR. LEE. Thus, if they were unable to obtain appropriate
4 gynecological care from DR. LEE, which was a violation of their right under the Eighth
5 Amendment to the United States Constitution, that violation was accomplished by
6 means of “threats, intimidation, or coercion.”

7 351. Defendants interfered with the legal rights conferred by the Prison Rape
8 Elimination Act (“PREA”), 42 U.S.C. § 15601, the PREA National Standards, 28 Code
9 of Fed. Reg. Part 115, and the Sexual Abuse in Detention Elimination Act (“SADEA”),
10 Cal. Penal Code §§ 2635-2643, through the use of threats, intimidation and coercion by
11 subjecting members of the Direct Abuse Class to sexual abuse and/or sexual assault
12 within the prison setting, failing to properly report the PREA violations, and/or
13 retaliating against PREA victims.

14 352. By the use of threats, intimidation and coercion, Defendants interfered with
15 the legal rights conferred by Cal. Penal Code § 3430 by denying the members of the
16 Damages Classes by providing trauma-informed gynecology care to a patient
17 population known to have experienced an exceedingly high rate of sexual, physical, or
18 emotional abuse prior to incarceration.

19 353. As a direct and proximate result the above-described conduct by DR. LEE,
20 KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20, the members of the Damages Classes
21 sustained injuries and damages including physical injury, emotional trauma and
22 retraumatization, and restricted or prolonged incarceration.

23 354. Plaintiffs are entitled to costs and reasonable attorneys’ fees in seeking
24 relief.

25 //

26 //

27 //

28 //

TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION
RALPH ACT [CAL. CIV. CODE § 51.7]
(For Damages)

(Plaintiff Jane Does # 1-5, CCWP, and the Damages Classes Against Defendants DR. LEE, KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20)

355. Plaintiffs restate and incorporate herein by reference the preceding and subsequent paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

356. California Civil Code § 51.7 prohibits acts of violence based on sex.

357. DR. LEE, KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 committed violent acts against the Direct Abuse Class.

358. A substantial motivating reason for Lee’s violent acts was their sex.

359. The Direct Abuse Class was harmed, and violent acts by DR. LEE, KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 were a substantial factor in causing their harm.

360. The conduct by DR. LEE, KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 was committed within the scope of their employment with CDCR and CCHCS. CDCR and CCHCS are vicariously liable for the conduct by DR. LEE, KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20.

ELEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION
CIVIL BATTERY
(For Damages)

(Plaintiff Jane Does # 1-5, CCWP, and the Damages Classes Against Defendants DR. LEE, KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20)

361. Plaintiffs restate and incorporate herein by reference the preceding and subsequent paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

362. DR. LEE, KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 intended to commit an act of unwanted contact and/or caused imminent apprehension of such an act against Plaintiff Class members. They did so by, *inter alia*:

- a. Isolating Plaintiff Class members in closed quarters and dismissing any bystanders; and
- b. Causing sexual contact.

1 363. DR. LEE, KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 did commit an
2 unwanted contact with Plaintiffs and each Direct Abuse Class member’s person or
3 property in a harmful or offensive manner, including, but not limited to, by causing
4 molestation or sexual contact between Lee and each Direct Abuse Class member.

5 364. The battery of Plaintiffs by DR. LEE, KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS
6 1-20 and the Received Treatment Damages Class members caused harm, including
7 physical, mental, and/or emotional harm of each Direct Abuse Class Member.

8
9 **TWELFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
10 **INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS**
11 **(For Damages)**

12 **(Plaintiff Jane Does # 1-5, CCWP, and the Damages Classes Against Defendants**
13 **DR. LEE, KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20)**

14 365. Plaintiffs restate and incorporate herein by reference the preceding and
15 subsequent paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

16 366. The extreme and outrageous conduct by Defendants DR. LEE, KUMAR,
17 and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 intentionally or recklessly caused severe emotional
18 distress to Plaintiffs and the Class members.

19 367. DR. LEE and KUMAR’s outrageous conduct was not the type of ordinary
20 gynecology examination or even rude or obnoxious behavior that patients should be
21 expected to tolerate. Rather, Lee’s conduct exceeded all possible bounds of decency.

22 368. DR. LEE and KUMAR acted with intent or recklessness, knowing that his
23 victims were likely to endure emotional distress given prisoners’ dependence on them
24 for medical care. In fact, they used this dependence to coerce patients into submitting to
25 DR. LEE’s abuse, and to prevent them from complaining. He did so with deliberate
26 disregard as to the high probability that severe emotional distress would occur.

27 369. The conduct by Defendants DR. LEE, KUMAR, and DOE
28 DEFENDANTS 1-20 caused suffering for Plaintiffs and the Class members at levels
that no reasonable person should have to endure.

THIRTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION
NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS
(For Damages)

(Plaintiff Jane Does # 1-5, CCWP, and the Damages Classes Against Defendants DR. LEE, KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20)

370. Plaintiffs restate and incorporate herein by reference the preceding and subsequent paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

371. DR. LEE assumed a duty toward Plaintiffs and the Class by virtue of entering into a doctor-patient relationship with them. KUMAR and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 had a duty of care towards Plaintiffs and the Class by way of having a medical staff-patient relationship with them.

372. The conduct by Defendants DR. LEE, KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 in abusing and assaulting the Direct Abuse Class, and in denying or withholding care to those in the Denial of Care Class, was negligent.

373. Both the Received Treatment Damages Class and Subclasses members and the Deterred Class members experienced serious emotional distress.

374. Negligence by Defendants DR. LEE, KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 was a substantial factor in causing emotional distress to both Classes.

FOURTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION
NEGLIGENCE

(Plaintiff Jane Does # 1-5, CCWP, and the Damages Classes against Defendants DR. LEE, KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20)

375. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the allegations contained in the previous paragraphs.

376. By seeking medical treatment from Lee in the course of his employment with CDCR and CCHCS, a special, confidential, and fiduciary relationship between Plaintiffs and DR. LEE and KUMAR was created, resulting in DR. LEE and KUMAR owing Plaintiffs a duty to use due care to ensure they received appropriate, non-abusive medical treatment as needed.

377. DR. LEE and KUMAR’s conduct in abusing Plaintiffs in the course of

1 their employment with CDCR and CCHCS and under the guise of rendering “medical
2 treatment” was negligent.

3 378. As a direct and/or proximate result of Defendants’ actions and/or inactions,
4 Plaintiffs and members of the Damages Classes were damaged.

5
6 **FIFTEENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
7 **INVASION OF PRIVACY (Cal. Const. Art. I Sec. 1)**
8 **(For Damages)**

9 **(Plaintiff Jane Does # 1-5, CCWP, and the Damages Classes against Defendants**
10 **MACOMBER, ELLIOT, DR. LEE, KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20)**

11 379. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the allegations contained in
12 the previous paragraphs.

13 380. Doctors must obtain informed consent in order to provide medical
14 treatment. “Consent is based on the disclosure of information and a sharing of
15 interpretations of its meaning by a medical professional. The accuracy of disclosure,
16 insofar as it is possible, is governed by the ethical requirement of truth-telling.”⁹

17 381. Plaintiffs, even as convicted prisoners, still retain a legally protected
18 interest in bodily privacy that prevents them from being viewed, touched, groped,
19 manipulated, tested, or otherwise intruded upon without cause.

20 382. Plaintiffs hold a reasonable expectation of privacy in that they will not be
21 required to permit sensitive areas to be viewed, touched, groped, manipulated, tested, or
22 otherwise intruded upon without cause.

23 383. Defendant DR. LEE examined Plaintiffs without obtaining informed
24 consent or by exceeding the scope of consent. Absent informed consent, Lee’s conduct
25 in viewing, physically manipulating, groping, and touching Plaintiffs’ bodies invaded
26 Plaintiffs’ privacy.

27 384. Defendant KUMAR assisted DR. LEE with his examinations without
28 informed consent by misrepresenting to patients the scope of his examinations,

⁹ American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Committee Opinion No. 439 (2009),
<https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Ethics/Informed-Consent>.

1 participating in his examinations knowing that he was not providing appropriate
2 gynecology care, and failing to intervene or assist on the patient's behalf when she
3 witnessed DR. LEE invade a patient's privacy.

4 385. DR. LEE, KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 intentionally intruded
5 into Plaintiffs' privacy in a manner that constituted a serious invasion of their privacy.

6 386. The intrusion by DR. LEE, KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20
7 would be highly offensive to a reasonable person.

8 387. Plaintiffs and the Direct Abuse Class were harmed.

9 388. The conduct by DR. LEE, KUMAR, and DOE DEFENDANTS 1-20 was a
10 substantial factor in causing harm to the members of the Damages Classes.

11 **JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

12 Plaintiffs hereby request a jury trial in this action on all claims that are triable.

13 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

14 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, individually and on behalf of all Class members, pray
15 that this Court:

- 16 1) Certify the Class, name Plaintiffs as representatives of the Class, and appoint
17 their lawyers as Class Counsel;
- 18 2) Enter judgment against Defendants in favor of Plaintiffs and the Class;
- 19 3) Issue a declaratory judgment that includes, but is not limited to, a declaration that
20 the acts, omissions, policies, and practices described above are in violation of the
21 constitutional and other rights of Plaintiffs;
- 22 4) Order injunctive and equitable relief including, but not limited to, an order
23 requiring Defendants MACOMBER, TOCHE, KELSO, KENT, ELLIOT, and
24 KEVIN to do the following at CIW: (1) adopt regulations and/or policies
25 mandating that CIW have a full-time, OB-GYN of the gender preferred by the
26 patient available to its incarcerated population; (2) adopt regulations and/or
27 policies mandating the presence of a chaperone and support person (of the gender
28 preferred by the patient) for all gynecology exams and procedures; (3) require

1 trauma-informed training for all OB-GYN's and medical staff involved with
2 gynecology care including PREA training and the definition of sexual
3 misconduct as it applies to gynecology care, trauma-informed gynecology care,
4 and mandated reporter requirements for sexual abuse by medical staff; (4) screen
5 all patients for histories of trauma from sexual and physical abuse and limit
6 access to such information to medical staff only; (5) limit routine pelvic and
7 breast/chest exams on asymptomatic women with histories of trauma from sexual
8 and physical abuse to prevent retraumatization; (6) adopt policies requiring
9 California Correctional Health Care Services to (a) expedite the processing of
10 health care grievances for allegations of sexual misconduct by medical staff, (b)
11 immediate removal of medical staff named as subjects pending investigation into
12 allegations of sexual misconduct, (c) immediate and simultaneous reporting of all
13 allegations of sexual misconduct by medical staff to the Warden, the PREA
14 Compliance Manager, the Associate Director of the Female Offender Programs
15 and Services, the Office of Internal Affairs, and the Office of the Inspector
16 General; (7) mandated training of all staff involved in the processing of all health
17 care grievances on PREA, the definition of staff sexual misconduct, and the
18 policies and procedures for expedited handling of all allegations of sexual
19 misconduct against medical staff; and (8) mandated review process and tracking
20 of all health care grievances filed at CIW for sexual misconduct against medical
21 staff;

- 22 5) Award Plaintiffs and the Class members damages for pain and suffering, and
23 compensatory and punitive damages;
24 6) Award Plaintiffs and the Class their reasonable attorneys' fees and costs;
25 7) Award Plaintiffs and the Class prejudgment interest on monetary damages to the
26 extent permitted by law; and

27 //

28 //

8) Order any further relief that the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: February 2, 2025

HADSELL STORMER RENICK & DAI LLP

JUSTICE FIRST

/s/ Morgan Ricketts

/s/ Jenny Huang

By: Morgan Ricketts
Dan Stormer

By: Jenny Huang
Yashna Eswaran

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