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11 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
12 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
13 **SAN JOSE**

14  
15 ARI NACHISON, SHANNA  
16 NACHISON, DERRICK  
17 GALLAGHER, ABIGAIL  
18 GALLAGHER, ERIC LINK,  
19 MIRANDA LINK, ELLIOT WEINER,  
and RACHEL FEIT, on behalf of  
themselves and all others similarly  
situated,

20 Plaintiffs,

21 v.

22 AMERICAN AIRLINES, INC.,  
23 Defendant.

Case No. 5:24-cv-00530-PCP

**NOTICE OF MOTION AND  
MOTION TO DISMISS  
COMPLAINT [FED. R. CIV. P.  
12(B)(2), FED. R. CIV. P.  
12(B)(6)]; MEMORANDUM OF  
POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN  
SUPPORT**

Hearing Date: May 2, 2024  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Courtroom: 8  
Judge: Hon. P. Casey Pitts

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**NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION**

TO THE COURT, PLAINTIFFS, AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on May 2, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as this matter may be heard in Courtroom 8 of the above Court, located on the 4th Floor of the Robert F. Peckham Courthouse, at 280 South First Street, San Jose, CA 95113, Defendant American Airlines, Inc. (“American”) will and does move, pursuant to Rule 12(b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, to dismiss the claims asserted by Plaintiffs Derrick Gallagher, Abigail Gallagher, Eric Link, Miranda Link, Elliott Weiner, and Rachel Feit. In addition, American will and does move, pursuant to Rule 12(b)(6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, to dismiss Plaintiffs’ claim for unjust enrichment.

American’s motion to dismiss the claims brought by Derrick Gallagher, Abigail Gallagher, Eric Link, Miranda Link, Elliott Weiner, and Rachel Feit is made on the basis that this Court lacks personal jurisdiction over these plaintiffs’ claims against American.

American’s motion to dismiss Plaintiffs’ second cause of action is made on the basis that Plaintiffs’ unjust enrichment claim is preempted by the Airline Deregulation Act (“ADA”).

This Motion is based on this Notice of Motion and Motion, the supporting Memorandum of Points and Authorities, all pleadings and papers on file with the Court in this action, and on such other matters as may be presented to the Court at or before the hearing of this Motion.

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Dated: March 4, 2024

MARK W. ROBERTSON  
O'MELVENY & MYERS LLP

By: /s/ Mark W. Robertson  
Mark W. Robertson  
Attorneys for Defendant  
American Airlines, Inc.

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**MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Plaintiffs assert claims for breach of contract and unjust enrichment, alleging that American Airlines impermissibly terminated their frequent flyer accounts after they opened “multiple” credit cards to obtain frequent flyer miles. The actual facts will show that Plaintiffs committed fraud and abuse, which fully justified American terminating their membership in the AAdvantage program, per that program’s terms and principles of contract law. But even under their version of events, it is clear that Plaintiffs are suing to restore frequent flyer miles that they obtained through gamesmanship—namely, promotional offers directed to *other* people.

American moves to dismiss the claims of six of the named Plaintiffs—Derrick Gallagher, Abigail Gallagher, Eric Link, Miranda Link, Elliott Weiner, and Rachel Feit—for lack of personal jurisdiction. American is neither headquartered in California nor does it have its principal place of business in California, so there is no basis for general jurisdiction. And specific jurisdiction is lacking because those Plaintiffs’ claims do not arise out of or relate to conduct in this forum. They are suing a non-California defendant on contracts that were entered into and allegedly breached outside California. Their unjust enrichment claims suffer from the same defect: they are based on conduct and alleged injuries occurring entirely outside this State.

American also moves to dismiss Plaintiffs’ second cause of action for unjust enrichment because it is preempted by the Airline Deregulation Act (the “ADA”). Plaintiffs allege that, under state law, “[i]t would be inequitable and unjust for [American] to retain the benefits it received by unlawfully terminating Plaintiffs’ AAdvantage accounts.” (FAC ¶ 268.) That is not true, but as a matter of law, the ADA prohibits such a claim in the first place.

The Supreme Court has explained the scope of ADA preemption in three decisions, which together hold that the ADA preempts state-law claims related to

1 the rates, routes, or services of an air carrier—with the sole exception being a claim  
2 for breach of contract based on a carrier’s own, self-imposed undertakings. Courts  
3 applying these decisions—including in this District—consistently hold that the  
4 ADA preempts unjust enrichment claims.

## 5 **II. PLAINTIFFS’ ALLEGATIONS**

6 American “provides air travel to passengers in the United States both  
7 domestically and internationally.” (FAC ¶ 15.) American is incorporated in  
8 Delaware and its headquarters is located in Fort Worth, Texas. (*Id.* ¶ 10.) Plaintiffs  
9 are former members of American’s “frequent flyer reward program called the  
10 AAdvantage program (‘AAdvantage’).” (*Id.* ¶¶ 2-9, 16.) Only Plaintiffs Ari and  
11 Shanna Nachison were California residents when their accounts were terminated.<sup>1</sup>  
12 (*Id.* ¶¶ 54, 80.) Plaintiffs Eric Link and Miranda Link are currently residents of  
13 Michigan, (*id.* ¶¶ 148, 166), and Elliot Weiner and Rachel Feit are currently  
14 residents of Connecticut, (*id.* ¶¶ 182, 204). Neither the Links nor the Gallaghers  
15 nor Weiner nor Feit allege that they resided in California when they opened their  
16 AAdvantage accounts or when their accounts were terminated. (*See id.* ¶¶ 148,  
17 166, 182, 204.)

18 Traditionally, members of frequent flyer programs purchase tickets for air  
19 travel and their accounts are credited with the number of “miles” that they earn  
20 based on those tickets/flights. (*Id.* ¶ 20.) Members’ accounts, however, can also be  
21 credited with bonus miles in other ways, including as relevant here, by obtaining an  
22 American-branded credit card. (*Id.* ¶ 21.)

23 Plaintiffs are former AAdvantage members whose memberships were  
24 terminated by American due to “violations of the General AAdvantage Program  
25 Conditions ... related to the accrual of ineligible miles and benefits; through fraud,  
26 misrepresentation and/or abuse of the AAdvantage Program.” (*Id.* ¶¶ 74, 92, 118,

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27  
28 <sup>1</sup> Derrick Gallagher and Abigail Gallagher are currently California residents, but were residents of Missouri when their accounts were terminated. (*Id.* ¶¶ 98, 125.)



1 143, 161, 199, 220, 224.) Plaintiffs allege that “Citibank (‘Citi’) and Barclays are  
2 co-branding partners” that issue American-branded credit cards. (*Id.* ¶ 22.)  
3 Plaintiffs allege that they opened “multiple” American-branded credit cards, though  
4 they do not specify how many “multiple” is. (*Id.* ¶¶ 59, 67, 85, 103, 111, 130, 138,  
5 153, 187, 194, 209.)<sup>2</sup>

6 Plaintiffs applied for these “credit card accounts under [their] own name and  
7 social security number” and claim they “did not engage in fraud when applying for  
8 and opening” these credit card accounts. (*Id.* ¶¶ 52, 59, 67, 85, 103, 111, 130, 138,  
9 153, 171, 187, 194, 209.) They concede, however, that they used promotional  
10 offers that were sent to friends and family members—i.e., that were not sent to  
11 them—in opening these accounts, without which they would not have received  
12 miles for opening multiple accounts. (*Id.* ¶¶ 57, 83, 101, 128, 185, 207.)<sup>3</sup>

13 They assert two causes of action. First, Plaintiffs allege breach of contract.  
14 According to Plaintiffs, they had a contractual entitlement to remain in the  
15 AAdvantage program that American breached when it “terminated Plaintiffs’  
16 AAdvantage accounts.” (*Id.* ¶ 43.) Plaintiffs provide a link to the AAdvantage  
17 Terms & Conditions, which are available on American’s website, but they do not  
18 quote any of the contractual language—much less explain what provision of the  
19 Terms & Conditions they allege American somehow breached.

20 Second, Plaintiffs allege unjust enrichment. Plaintiffs allege, upon  
21 information and belief, that American “accepted and retained the benefits conferred  
22

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23 <sup>2</sup> In a period of approximately two and a half years, Eric Link opened 20 American-branded credit  
24 cards and received 19 bonuses for which he was ineligible, totaling 1,095,000 improperly  
acquired miles.

25 <sup>3</sup> While Plaintiffs allege that their “friends and family members” gave them their promotional  
26 offers, some of these “friends and family members” were not real people. Rather, they were  
27 made-up names used to defraud American into opening AAdvantage accounts for people who did  
28 not exist to generate a promotional offer that could then be used to obtain bonus miles by  
Plaintiffs.

1 by Citi and Barclays” and that “[i]t would be inequitable and unjust for [American]  
2 to retain these benefits from Citi and Barclays.” (*Id.* ¶¶ 263, 265.) They similarly  
3 allege that American “profited from its unlawful decision to terminate Plaintiffs’  
4 AAdvantage accounts” and that “[i]t would be inequitable and unjust for  
5 [American] to retain the benefits it received by unlawfully terminating Plaintiffs’  
6 AAdvantage accounts.” (*Id.* ¶¶ 266, 268.)

### 7 **III. ARGUMENT**

8 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(2) governs motions to dismiss for lack  
9 of personal jurisdiction. Plaintiffs “bear[] the burden of demonstrating that  
10 jurisdiction is appropriate.” *Schwarzenegger v. Fred Martin Motor Co.*, 374 F.3d  
11 797, 800 (9th Cir. 2004). In assessing whether a defendant is subject to personal  
12 jurisdiction, courts engage in a two-pronged inquiry—(1) whether personal  
13 jurisdiction is permitted under the forum state’s long-arm statute; and (2) whether  
14 personal jurisdiction complies with constitutional due process. *See Williams v.*  
15 *Yamaha Motor Co.*, 851 F.3d 1015, 1020 (9th Cir. 2017) (citing Fed. R. Civ. P.  
16 4(k)(1)(A)). California authorizes its courts to exercise personal jurisdiction “to the  
17 full extent that such exercise comports with due process.” *Id.* (citing Cal. Civ.  
18 Proc. Code § 410.10). Accordingly, “the jurisdictional analyses under California  
19 state law and federal due process are the same.” *Axiom Foods, Inc. v. Acerchem*  
20 *Int’l, Inc.*, 874 F.3d 1064, 1067 (9th Cir. 2017) (brackets and quotations omitted).

21 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) permits a motion for “failure to  
22 state a claim upon which relief can be granted.” “Threadbare recitals of the  
23 elements of a cause of action, supported by mere conclusory statements, do not  
24 suffice.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009). Nor must the Court “accept  
25 as true a legal conclusion couched as a factual allegation.” *Id.* Indeed, “the tenet  
26 that a court must accept as true all of the allegations contained in a complaint is  
27 inapplicable to legal conclusions.” *Id.*

28

1           **A. Plaintiffs Derrick Gallagher, Abigail Gallagher, Eric Link,**  
 2           **Miranda Link, Elliot Weiner, and Rachel Feit Cannot Establish**  
 3           **That This Court Has Personal Jurisdiction Over Their Claims.**

4           To establish that the exercise of jurisdiction over American is consistent with  
 5 due process, a plaintiff must establish that the requirements of either general  
 6 jurisdiction or specific jurisdiction are met. *See Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. v. Super.*  
*Ct.*, 582 U.S. 255, 262 (2017). Six of the plaintiffs here cannot do so.

7           **1. The Gallaghers, Links, Weiner, and Feit Cannot Establish**  
 8           **General Jurisdiction.**

9           In order to establish that the Court has general jurisdiction over American,  
 10 Plaintiffs must show that American’s “affiliations with [California] are so  
 11 ‘continuous and systematic’ as to render [American] essentially at home in  
 12 [California].” *Daimler AG v. Bauman*, 571 U.S. 117, 127 (2014). A corporation is  
 13 typically considered “at home” only where it is incorporated or has its principal  
 14 place of business. *Id.* at 137; *AM Trust v. UBS AG*, 681 F. App’x 587, 588 (9th Cir.  
 15 2017). “This is an exacting standard, as it should be, because a finding of general  
 16 jurisdiction permits a defendant to be haled into court in the forum state to answer  
 17 for any of its activities anywhere in the world.” *Schwarzenegger*, 374 F.3d at 801.

18           This Court lacks general jurisdiction over American because it is not  
 19 incorporated in California and does not have its principal place of business here.  
 20 Rather, as Plaintiffs admit, American is incorporated in Delaware and its principal  
 21 place of business is in Texas. (FAC ¶ 10.) “[F]or jurisdictional purposes,  
 22 [American] is a citizen of the States of Delaware and Texas.” (*Id.*) Accordingly,  
 23 Plaintiffs have not met their burden of demonstrating general jurisdiction.

24           **2. The Gallaghers, Links, Weiner, and Feit Cannot Establish**  
 25           **Specific Jurisdiction.**

26           American also is not subject to specific personal jurisdiction as to these  
 27 Plaintiffs’ claims. Courts may “exercise specific jurisdiction over a non-resident  
 28 defendant only when three requirements are satisfied: (1) the defendant either

1 purposefully directs its activities or purposefully avails itself of the benefits  
2 afforded by the forum’s laws; (2) the claim arises out of or relates to the  
3 defendant’s forum-related activities; and (3) the exercise of jurisdiction comports  
4 with fair play and substantial justice, i.e., it is reasonable.” *Williams*, 851 F.3d at  
5 1023 (internal quotation marks and citation omitted). Plaintiffs cannot satisfy this  
6 standard because their claims have *no* nexus to California.

7 **a. These Six Plaintiffs’ claims do not arise out or relate to**  
8 **conduct in California.**

9 Where, as here, nonresident plaintiffs bring suit based on defendant’s forum-  
10 related activities, “a defendant’s general connections with the forum are not  
11 enough.” *Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.*, 582 US at 264. There must be an “adequate  
12 link between the State and the nonresidents’ claims.” *Id.*

13 Here, there is no link between these Plaintiffs’ claims and California. The  
14 Links, Weiner, and Feit are not California residents. (*See* FAC ¶¶ 148, 166, 182,  
15 204.) The Links reside in Michigan, and both Weiner and Feit reside in  
16 Connecticut. (*Id.*) Although the Gallaghers currently reside in California, they  
17 resided in Missouri when their AAdvantage accounts were terminated. (*Id.* ¶¶ 98,  
18 125.) None of these Plaintiffs alleges that he or she opened an AAdvantage  
19 program account in California or opened Citi-AAdvantage credit cards in  
20 California. (*See id.* ¶¶ 98-222.) And none challenges actions that American took  
21 in California. They do not allege that American instituted the credit-card reward  
22 program from California or terminated AAdvantage memberships in California.  
23 (*See id.* ¶¶ 148, 166, 182, 204.) In short, there is no connection between this forum  
24 and these six Plaintiffs’ claims. They allege only that American is registered to do  
25 business in California and maintains a base in California, (*id.* ¶ 12), but those  
26 activities are unrelated to Plaintiffs’ claims and thus are insufficient to establish  
27 specific jurisdiction.

28

1                   **b. Specific personal jurisdiction over the Nachisons’**  
 2                   **claims does not establish jurisdiction over the other**  
 3                   **Plaintiffs’ claims.**

4                   These Plaintiffs have sued alongside the Nachisons who were California  
 5 residents at the time their AAdvantage accounts were terminated, but that does not  
 6 change the outcome. Specific jurisdiction as to one plaintiff does not establish  
 7 jurisdiction for other plaintiffs, even those asserting “identical claims brought by  
 8 the State’s residents.” *Ford Motor Co. v. Mt. Eighth Judicial Dist. Ct.*, 592 U.S.  
 9 351, 369 (2021). That is the core holding of *Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. v. Superior*  
 10 *Court*, 582 U.S. 255 (2017). There, the California Supreme Court had held that it  
 11 could exercise personal jurisdiction over nonresidents’ claims against the  
 12 manufacturer of the prescription drug, Plavix, “because the claims of the  
 13 nonresidents were similar in several ways to the claims of California residents (as to  
 14 which specific jurisdiction was uncontested).” *Id.* at 260. The Supreme Court  
 15 reversed. “The mere fact that other plaintiffs were prescribed, obtained, and  
 16 ingested Plavix in California—and allegedly sustained the same injuries as did the  
 17 nonresidents—does not allow the State to assert specific jurisdiction over the  
 18 nonresidents’ claims.” *Id.* at 265. What was needed—and what was missing—was  
 19 “a connection between the forum and the specific claims at issue.” *Id.*

20                   Just as with the nonresident plaintiffs in *Bristol Myers*, because there is no  
 21 connection between California and these six Plaintiffs’ claims, personal jurisdiction  
 22 is lacking. *Id.* Here, Plaintiffs do not—and cannot—allege that California has any  
 23 connection with the claims asserted by the Gallaghers, the Links, Weiner, or Feit.

24                   **B. Plaintiffs’ Unjust Enrichment Claim Is Preempted By The ADA.**

25                   **1. The ADA Preempts State-Law Claims Relating To Air**  
 26                   **Carriers’ Rates, Routes, Or Services.**

27                   Congress enacted the ADA “[t]o ensure that the States would not undo  
 28 federal deregulation” of the airline industry. *Morales v. Trans World Airlines, Inc.*,  
 504 U.S. 374, 378 (1992). The ADA’s express purpose is “to leave largely to

1 airlines themselves, and not at all to States, the selection and design of market  
2 mechanisms appropriate to the furnishing of airline transportation services. . . .”  
3 *American Airlines, Inc. v. Wolens*, 513 U.S. 219, 228 (1995). Congress determined  
4 that “maximum reliance on competitive market forces would best further efficiency,  
5 innovation, and low prices as well as variety and quality of air transportation  
6 services.” *Morales*, 504 U.S. at 378 (citation, quotations, brackets, and ellipses  
7 omitted).

8 The ADA includes a preemption clause providing that a state “may not enact  
9 or enforce a law, regulation, or other provision having the force and effect of law  
10 related to a price, route, or service of an air carrier.” 49 U.S.C. § 41713. The  
11 phrase “relating to” is “a broad one—‘to stand in some relation; to have bearing or  
12 concern; to pertain; refer; to bring into association with or connection with’—and  
13 the words thus express a broad pre-emptive purpose.” *Morales*, 504 U.S. at 383  
14 (internal citation omitted). Any state law claim “having a connection with or  
15 reference to airline rates, routes, or services” is preempted under the ADA. *Id.* at  
16 384 (internal quotations omitted). The Supreme Court has twice reaffirmed the  
17 ADA’s “broad preemptive purpose.” *See Wolens*, 513 U.S. at 228–29; *Northwest,*  
18 *Inc. v. Ginsberg*, 572 U.S. 273, 280 (2014). All such state laws are preempted as  
19 applied to air carriers—including laws of general application, not just those that are  
20 specific to air carriers. In *Morales*, for example, the Supreme Court held that the  
21 ADA preempts state-law consumer protection statutes prohibiting deceptive  
22 advertising, when those statutes are applied to air fare advertising and frequent flyer  
23 programs. *Id.* at 387–90. In doing so, the Supreme Court rejected as “utterly  
24 irrational” the “notion that only state laws specifically addressed to the airline  
25 industry are pre-empted.” *Id.* at 386.

26 In *Wolens*, the Supreme Court held that the ADA does *not* preempt breach of  
27 contract claims “seeking recovery solely for the airline’s alleged breach of its own,  
28 self-imposed undertakings.” *Wolens*, 513 U.S. at 228. There, the plaintiffs (like



1 the Plaintiffs here) were “participants in American Airlines’ frequent flyer program,  
2 AAdvantage,” who brought suit challenging “cutbacks on the utility of credits  
3 previously accumulated,” which they alleged violated the Illinois Consumer Fraud  
4 and Deceptive Business Practices Act and constituted a breach of contract. *Id.* at  
5 225. The Court held that the ADA preempted the plaintiffs’ claims under the  
6 Consumer Fraud Act because it “serves as a means to guide and police the  
7 marketing practices of the airlines; the Act does not simply give effect to bargains  
8 offered by the airlines and accepted by airline customers.” *Id.* at 228. The Court  
9 further held, however, that “the ADA permits state-law-based court adjudication of  
10 routine breach-of-contract claims” because the ADA’s preemption clause “stops  
11 States from imposing their own substantive standard with respect to rates, routes, or  
12 services, but not from affording relief to a party who claims and proves that an  
13 airline dishonored a term the airline itself stipulated.” *Id.* at 232–33. “This  
14 distinction between what the State dictates and what the airline itself undertakes  
15 confines courts, in breach-of-contract actions, to the parties’ bargain, with no  
16 enlargement or enhancement based on state laws or policies external to the  
17 agreement.” *Id.* at 233.

18 In *Northwest, Inc. v. Ginsberg*, 572 U.S. 273 (2014), the Supreme Court  
19 made clear just how limited the *Wolens* exception to ADA preemption for breach of  
20 contract claims is. There, the plaintiff brought a claim for breach of the implied  
21 covenant of good faith and fair dealing based on Northwest’s termination of his  
22 membership in its frequent-flyer program. The Court began by addressing  
23 “whether, as respondent now maintains, the ADA’s pre-emption provision applies  
24 only to legislation enacted by a state legislature and regulations issued by a state  
25 administrative agency but not to a common-law rule like the implied covenant of  
26 good faith and fair dealing.” *Id.* at 281. The Court had “little difficulty rejecting  
27 this argument. To begin, state common-law rules fall comfortably within the  
28 language of the ADA pre-emption provision.” *Id.* “Exempting common-law

1 claims would also disserve the central purpose of the ADA.” *Id.* at 283. “What is  
2 important, therefore, is the effect of a state law, regulation, or provision, not its  
3 form, and the ADA’s deregulatory aim can be undermined just as surely by a state  
4 common-law rule as it can by a state statute or regulation.” *Id.* Accordingly, the  
5 Court held that the plaintiff’s claim for breach of the implied covenant of good faith  
6 and fair dealing under Minnesota law “must be regarded as a state-imposed  
7 obligation” and thus is preempted by the ADA. *Id.* at 286.

8 **2. Plaintiffs’ Unjust Enrichment Claim Relates To Rates And**  
9 **Services Of An Air Carrier.**

10 Plaintiffs’ unjust enrichment claim reaches beyond American’s voluntary,  
11 self-imposed undertakings; if it did not, it would be entirely duplicative of the  
12 breach-of-contract claim. By definition, then, the unjust enrichment claims are  
13 preempted by the ADA. Indeed, consistent with Supreme Court precedent, the  
14 Northern District of California has repeatedly held that claims for unjust enrichment  
15 that relate to an air carrier’s rates or services are preempted by the ADA. In *Hakimi*  
16 *v. Societe Air France, SA*, Case No. 18-cv-01387-JSC, 2018 WL 4826487 (N.D.  
17 Cal. Oct. 4, 2018), the Court granted the defendants’ motion with prejudice, finding  
18 the plaintiff’s unjust enrichment claim to be preempted by the ADA. The Court  
19 explained: “Defendants insist that the unjust enrichment claim is pre-empted by the  
20 ADA because it inherently looks outside the four corners of the parties’ agreement.  
21 The Court agrees. Under California law, a claim for unjust enrichment imposes a  
22 state-created obligation outside the parties’ private agreement.” *Id.* at \*4. Quoting  
23 California caselaw, *Hakimi* noted that a claim for unjust enrichment is ““*created by*  
24 *the law without regard to the intention of the parties.*”” *Id.* (emphasis in original;  
25 quoting *FDIC v. Dintino*, 167 Cal. App. 4th 333, 346 (2008)). *Hakimi* explained  
26 that “[a] common law claim that disregards the intent of the parties results in an  
27 ‘enlargement or enhancement based on state laws or policies external to the  
28 agreement.’” *Id.* (quoting *Wolens*, 513 U.S. at 233). “In sum, because any remedy



1 for unjust enrichment would impose an obligation created by California law  
2 without considering the parties’ bargain, the unjust enrichment claim is pre-empted  
3 by the ADA.” *Id.* at \*5.

4 The Northern District of California reached the same conclusion in *Shrem v.*  
5 *Southwest Airlines Co.*, Case No. 15-cv-04567-HSG, 2016 WL 4170462 (Aug. 8,  
6 2016). In that case, “Defendant argue[d] that Plaintiffs’ non-contract claims—  
7 fraud, negligence, and unjust enrichment—[we]re preempted under the ADA.” *Id.*  
8 at \*2. Again, the Court agreed. “The invocation of state remedies furthers a state  
9 policy that those who are wronged should have individualized access to the courts  
10 to remediate that wrong. And, it is the imposition of that state policy that would  
11 constitute forbidden state enforcement, in violation of the ADA’s preemption  
12 provision . . . .” *Id.* at \*4 (citation, quotations, and brackets omitted).

13 “Accordingly, the Court conclude[d] that Plaintiffs’ claims for negligence, fraud,  
14 and unjust enrichment [we]re preempted under the ADA, and that the *Wolens*  
15 exception d[id] not apply.” *Id.*

16 Courts outside this District likewise routinely hold that state-law claims for  
17 unjust enrichment are preempted by the ADA. *See, e.g., Brown v. United Airlines,*  
18 *Inc.*, 720 F.3d 60, 71 (1st Cir. 2013) (“Unjust enrichment claims do not fall within  
19 the *Wolens* exception. Virtually by definition, unjust enrichment turns on sources  
20 external to any agreement between the parties—such as considerations of equity  
21 and morality—and is predicated on the *lack* of any agreement. A fortiori, the  
22 *Wolens* exception does not apply.”) (citation and quotations omitted); *Buck v.*  
23 *American Airlines, Inc.*, 476 F.3d 29, 32, 37 (1st Cir. 2007) (affirming dismissal of  
24 unjust enrichment claim as preempted by the ADA); *Lehman v. USAIR Group, Inc.*,  
25 930 F. Supp. 912, 915–16 (S.D.N.Y. 1996) (granting USAIR’s Rule 12(b)(6)  
26 motion to dismiss and Continental’s Rule 12(c) motion for judgment on the  
27 pleadings and dismissing unjust enrichment claims based on ADA preemption).

28

1                   **3.     Leave To Amend Should Be Denied.**

2             Leave to amend would be futile here because the ADA preempts unjust  
3 enrichment claims as a matter of law. There is no set of facts that Plaintiffs could  
4 allege that would change the legal conclusion that an unjust enrichment claim is  
5 based on public policies imposed by state law—not a mechanism for enforcing the  
6 parties’ agreement with no enhancement or enlargement. Indeed, Plaintiffs already  
7 have a mechanism for enforcing the parties’ agreement: their first cause of action  
8 for breach of contract, which is not at issue in this motion. Their claim for unjust  
9 enrichment, however, cannot be saved. That is why, when courts in this District  
10 have granted Rule 12(b)(6) motions to dismiss unjust enrichment claims based on  
11 ADA preemption, they have done so with prejudice. *See Hakimi*, 2018 WL  
12 4826487 at \*5 (“In sum, because any remedy for unjust enrichment would impose  
13 an obligation created by California law without considering the parties’ bargain, the  
14 unjust enrichment claim is pre-empted by the ADA.... As no amendment could  
15 cure these defects, these claims are also dismissed with prejudice.”); *Shrem v.*  
16 *Southwest Airlines Co.*, 2016 WL 4170462, at \*4 (“[T]he Court concludes that  
17 Plaintiffs’ claims for negligence, fraud, and unjust enrichment are preempted under  
18 the ADA, and that the *Wolen* exception does not apply. The Court GRANTS  
19 Defendant’s motion to dismiss counts two through four with prejudice.”).

20             **IV.    CONCLUSION**

21             For these reasons, American respectfully requests that the Court dismiss  
22 Plaintiffs’ second cause of action for unjust enrichment, and all claims brought by  
23 Plaintiffs Derrick Gallagher, Abigail Gallagher, Eric Link, Miranda Link, Elliott  
24 Weiner, and Rachel Feit.

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Dated: March 4, 2024

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