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 8
    Attorneys for Plaintiffs
 9
                       UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
10
              WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE
11
    WORTHY HOTELS, INC., a
12
                                           NO.
    Washington corporation; THE
13
    DAVENPORT HOTEL, INC., a
                                           COMPLAINT AND DEMAND
    Washington corporation;
14
                                           FOR JURY TRIAL
    DAVENPORT COLLECTION
    PAYROLL, LLC, a Washington
15
    limited liability company;
16
    DAVENPORT HOTEL, LLC, a
    Washington limited liability company;
17
    DAVENPORT TOWER, LLC, a
18
    Washington limited liability company;
    HOTEL LUSSO, LLC, a Washington
19
    limited liability company;
20
    DAVENPORT HOTEL OPCO, LLC,
    a Washington limited liability
21
    company; DAVENPORT TOWER
    OPCO, LLC, a Washington limited
22
    liability company; HOTEL LUSSO
23
    OPCO, LLC, a Washington limited
24
25
    COMPLAINT AND DEMAND
                                                             Dunn & Black
                                                             A Professional Service Corp.
    FOR JURY TRIAL - 1
                                                             111 North Post, Suite 300
26
                                                              Spokane, WA 99201
                                                       VOICE: (509) 455-8711 • FAX: (509) 455-8734
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1	liability company; CONVENTION) CENTER HOTEL, LLC, a)		
2	Washington limited liability company;)		
3	GRAND HOTEL SPOKANE OPCO,) LLC d/b/a THE DAVENPORT)		
4	GRAND, a Washington limited)		
5	liability company; THE) CENTENNIAL, LLC, a Washington)		
6	limited liability company;)		
	CENTENNIAL OPCO, LLC, a		
7	Washington limited liability company;)		
8	and WORTHY ENTERPRISES, LLC,) a Washington limited liability)		
9	company,		
10	Plaintiffs,)		
11	vs.		
12			
13	COMPANY, a California corporation,		
14	Defendant.		
15)		
16			
17	Plaintiffs by and through their attorneys of record, Dunn & Black, P.S., allege as		
18	follows:		
19			
20	PARTIES, JURISDICTION, & VENUE		
21	1. Plaintiff Worthy Hotels, Inc. is a Washington corporation, duly licensed		
22	and doing business in the State of Washington with its principal place of business in		
23	Washington.		
24			
25	COMPLAINT AND DEMAND Dunn & Black		
	FOR JURY TRIAL - 2 A Professional Service Corp. 111 North Post, Suite 300		
26	Spokane, WA 99201 VOICE: (509) 455-8711 • FAX: (509) 455-8734		

- 2. Plaintiff The Davenport Hotel, Inc. is a Washington corporation, duly licensed and doing business in the State of Washington with its principal place of business in Washington.
- 3. Plaintiff Davenport Collection Payroll, LLC is a Washington limited liability company, duly licensed and doing business in the State of Washington with its principal place of business in Washington.
- 4. Plaintiff Davenport Hotel, LLC is a Washington limited liability company, duly licensed and doing business in the State of Washington with its principal place of business in Washington.
- 5. Plaintiff Davenport Tower, LLC is a Washington limited liability company, duly licensed and doing business in the State of Washington with its principal place of business in Washington.
- 6. Plaintiff Hotel Lusso, LLC is a Washington limited liability company, duly licensed and doing business in the State of Washington with its principal place of business in Washington.
- 7. Plaintiff Davenport Hotel OPCO, LLC is a Washington limited liability company, duly licensed and doing business in the State of Washington with its principal place of business in Washington.

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25 COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL - 3 26

- 8. Plaintiff Davenport Tower OPCO, LLC is a Washington limited liability company, duly licensed and doing business in the State of Washington with its principal place of business in Washington.
- 9. Plaintiff Hotel Lusso OPCO, LLC is a Washington limited liability company, duly licensed and doing business in the State of Washington with its principal place of business in Washington.
- 10. Plaintiff Convention Center Hotel, LLC is a Washington limited liability company, duly licensed and doing business in the State of Washington with its principal place of business in Washington.
- 11. Plaintiff Grand Hotel Spokane OPCO, LLC d/b/a The Davenport Grand is a Washington limited liability company, duly licensed and doing business in the State of Washington with its principal place of business in Washington.
- 12. Plaintiff The Centennial, LLC is a Washington limited liability company, duly licensed and doing business in the State of Washington with its principal place of business in Washington.
- 13. Plaintiff Centennial OPCO, LLC is a Washington limited liability company, duly licensed and doing business in the State of Washington with its principal place of business in Washington.

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COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL - 4

- 14. Plaintiff Worthy Enterprises, LLC is a Washington limited liability company, duly licensed and doing business in the State of Washington with its principal place of business in Washington.
- 15. The above identified Plaintiffs are herein referred to collectively as "Worthy".
- 16. Defendant Fireman's Fund Insurance Company ("Fireman's Fund") is a California corporation with its principal place of business in Illinois. Fireman's Fund is authorized to do business in and is doing business as an insurance company in Washington State. Fireman's Fund is registered with the Washington Office of the Insurance Commissioner license number 459.
- 17. Diversity exists between the Worthy Plaintiffs and Defendant Fireman's Fund, and Worthy's claims are for damages in excess of \$75,000 exclusive of interest, costs, and attorney fees. Therefore, the Court has proper jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332.
- 18. Defendant Fireman's Fund is licensed to do business and does business as an insurance company issuing insurance policies within the Western District of Washington. Therefore, venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391.
- 19. Worthy has complied with RCW 48.30.015(8)(a) and provided notice of the basis for this cause of action to Fireman's Fund and to the Office of the Insurance

Commissioner at least twenty days prior to filing these claims for violation of the Insurance Fair Claims Act, RCW 48.30.015.

20. Fireman's Fund has failed to resolve the basis for the action within the twenty-day notice period.

FACTS

21. Worthy realleges and incorporates by reference all preceding allegations as if fully stated herein.

A. Worthy's Business

- 22. Worthy owns and operates a number of local luxury hotels, including, without limitation, the Historic Davenport, Davenport Tower, Davenport Grand, Davenport Lusso, and The Centennial.
 - 23. In total, Worthy's various hotels offer 1,787 rooms in Washington State.
- 24. Worthy also owns and operates a number of connected and/or freestanding restaurants, retail outlets, and a spa, each of which is located in or around the different Worthy hotels.
- 25. Worthy's customer base can generally be characterized in one of three broad sectors: 1) group travel (contracted conventions/conferences, meetings, weddings, and other events); 2) special corporate/business travel (contracted accounts with preferred companies who have volumes of travel, e.g., Boeing, Microsoft, etc.); and

3) transient/leisure travel (all other individual reservations for leisure and some business travel).

- 26. Worthy's business is heavily reliant upon travelers, group gatherings, and local community events, including without limitation: concerts, live performances, athletic events, Bloomsday, Hoopfest, trade shows, conventions, conferences, meetings, community parades, and other large public events.
- 27. Consequently, Worthy purchased an all-risk property insurance policy from Defendant in order to protect Worthy from economic devastation caused by potential catastrophic events.

B. The Policy

- 28. Worthy purchased a Property-Gard Pinnacle Coverage Policy, Form 250000 01 13, for policy period July 15, 2019—July 15, 2020 (the "Policy"). Worthy renewed the Policy for the period July 15, 2020—July 15, 2021.
- 29. Worthy is a first-party insured under Defendant Fireman's Fund's insurance policy.
 - 30. Worthy paid all premiums for the coverage when due.
- 31. Defendant Fireman's Fund promised to "pay for the actual loss of business income and necessary extra expense [Worthy] sustain due to the necessary suspension of [Worthy's] operations during the period of restoration arising from

direct physical loss or damage to property at a location, or within 1,000 feet of such location, caused by or resulting from a covered cause of loss."

- 32. The Policy defines "Covered cause of loss" as "risks of direct physical loss or damage not excluded or limited in this Coverage Form."
- 33. "Suspension" means "the slowdown or cessation of [Worthy's] operations, or that a part or all of the described premises is rendered untenable."
- 34. The Policy defines "Operations" as "the usual and customary business activities in the conduct of your business occurring at the location, including the tenability of the premises."
- 35. The Policy includes, without limitation, Business Income Coverage, Extra Expense Coverage, Extended Business Income Coverage, Business Access Coverage, Civil Authority Coverage, and Communicable Disease Coverage.
- 36. The Policy issued by Defendant Fireman's Fund includes standard forms used by Fireman's Fund for all insureds having applicable coverage.
- 37. Plaintiff Worthy did not participate in the drafting or negotiation of the Policy or forms utilized by Fireman's Fund.

C. The Pandemic

38. In or about January 2020, the United States of America saw its first cases of persons infected by COVID-19.

- 39. On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency for COVID-19.
- 40. On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a worldwide pandemic.
- 41. In light of this pandemic, on February 29, 2020, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee issued Proclamation 20-5, declaring a State of Emergency for all counties in the state of Washington as a result of COVID-19.
- 42. Thereafter, Governor Inslee issued a series of certain proclamations and orders affecting many persons and businesses in Washington, whether infected with COVID-19 or not, requiring certain public health precautions.
- 43. On March 16, 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamations 20-13 and 20-14.
- 44. In order to preserve and maintain life, health, property, and the public peace, Proclamation 20-13 restricted people from congregating in any public venue for the purpose of public entertainment, recreation, food and beverage service, theater, fitness, and other similar activities. Proclamation 20-13 prohibited the onsite consumption of food and/or beverages in restaurants, food courts, bars, taverns, coffee shops, catered events, clubs, and other similar venues in which people congregate for the consumption of food or beverages.

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- 45. Proclamation 20-14 prohibited the gathering of more than 50 people unless such activities could comply with social distancing requirements established by the CDC or the Washington State Department of Health guidelines.
- 46. On March 23, 2020, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 20-25, "Stay Home Stay Healthy."
- 47. Governor Inslee's "Stay Home Stay Healthy" proclamation stated "the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic and its progression in Washington State continues to threaten the life and health of our people as well as the economy of Washington State and remains a public disaster affecting life, health or the public peace.."
- 48. The Proclamation continued, "...to help preserve and maintain life, health, property, or the public peace, and to implement the Stay Home—Stay Health Order described above, I hereby impose the following necessary restrictions on participation by all people in Washington State by prohibiting each of the following activities by all people and business throughout."
- 49. In order to preserve and maintain life, health, and property the "Stay Home Stay Healthy" proclamation required, in part, that "[a]ll people in Washington State shall immediately cease leaving their home or place of residence except: (1) to conduct or participate in essential activities, and/or (2) for employment in essential business services."

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- 50. The Proclamation continued, in part, "all people in Washington State, shall immediately cease participating in all public and private gatherings and multiperson activities for social, spiritual, and recreational purposes, regardless of the number of people involved...."
- 51. Governor Inslee's order was extended on multiple occasions until it was allowed to expire on May 31, 2020, as part of a new four-phased approach to "reopening" Washington under the Safe Start Washington Plan.
- 52. On or about June 27, 2020, Governor Inslee announced he was "pausing" all counties in Washington from continued progression in the phased Safe Start Washington Plan.
- 53. As of the date of filing this Complaint, Spokane County was still in Phase 2 of Governor Inslee's re-opening program, leading to significant continued business, travel, recreational, and gathering restrictions.

D. Worthy's Covered Losses

54. A growing body of evidence suggests that the virus transmits both through droplets, when someone sneezes and coughs, and aerosols, which are produced by normal breathing. Aerosols are particularly concerning, because unlike droplets, which stay airborne for only a few seconds, aerosols are water droplets suspended in air and can remain suspended for hours until gravity ultimately forces them to the nearest surface below. Consequently, aerosols can spread widely through airflow and settle on

surfaces hundreds of feet away from any infected individual. Thus, someone not even in the vicinity of an infected person can unknowingly touch an infected surface, later touch their face, and become infected.

- 55. A series of scientific studies and scholarly articles indicate that COVID-19 can remain alive on various surfaces for days and even weeks.
- 56. Moreover, no viable method of detecting or identifying contaminated surfaces is known to exist.
- 57. Worthy's businesses are highly susceptible to rapid person-to-person or property-to-person transmission of the virus due to the social and business gathering nature of Worthy's businesses.
- 58. As a premier luxury hotel provider in Washington State, Worthy's customer base is comprised of regional, national, and international travelers. From January 2020 through March 2020, Worthy's hotels sold over 14,000 rooms, many with double occupancy or more.
- 59. Worthy's national and international guests include customers from Seattle, New York, Florida, California, and China, all of which were known "hot spots" for early virus outbreaks.
- 60. On March 14, 2020, the first cases of the virus in Spokane County were confirmed.

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- 61. Upon information and belief, COVID-19 particles have been and/or were at risk of being physically present at or around Worthy's insured premises both airborne and on surfaces and items of property at or around Plaintiffs' premises during the time the Policies were in effect and remained physically present for up to 28 days.
- 62. Moreover, the Governor's orders prohibited much of Worthy's various business entities, including the onsite service of food and beverages. The orders also restricted most of Worthy's customer base, described above, from engaging in the activities that drive the Worthy business model.
- 63. On March 16, 2020, in response to the Governor's orders and due to the actual and/or risk of the presence of COVID-19 in and around its locations, Worthy was forced to close all but one of its hotels, as well as its restaurants, lounges, retail outlets, fitness centers, pools, and spa.
- 64. Plaintiff Worthy's properties sustained both risks of, and actual direct physical loss or damage to, property related to COVID-19 and/or the proclamations and orders.
- 65. Indeed, the actual and/or risk of the presence of the virus on and around Worthy's properties, confirmed by the Governor's orders, rendered Worthy's properties unsafe and unfit for their intended use.
- 66. Furthermore, the Governor's Stay Home Stay Healthy Order prohibited public access to a variety of locations, including, without limitation, the Convention

COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL - 13

Center, the Spokane Arena, the Performing Arts Center, and many other event locations within five miles of Worthy's insured properties, upon which Worthy relies to generate its business.

- 67. By its terms, the Governor's Order prohibited access to any location where the public gathers for social, religious, and non-essential business reasons in Washington State, where Worthy's properties are located.
- 68. Plaintiff Worthy's covered properties have been and continue to be closed and/or severely restricted as a result of the pandemic and resulting civil authority order, and much of its customer base has been forbidden or severely limited.
- 69. Worthy suffered the physical loss of use of the covered properties for their intended purpose caused by the risk and/or actual presence of COVID-19 on Worthy's insured properties and/or the Governor's Proclamations.
- 70. Plaintiff Worthy's property will continue to sustain both risks of and actual direct physical loss of use or damage to the properties covered by the Fireman's Fund Policy or Policies, including, but not limited to, Business Income Coverage, Extra Expense Coverage, Extended Business Income Coverage, Business Access Coverage, Civil Authority Coverage, and Communicable Disease Coverage.
- 71. As a result of the above, Plaintiff Worthy has experienced and will continue to experience significant financial losses covered by the Fireman's Fund Policy or Policies.

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E. Defendant's Wrongful Denial of Coverage

- 72. On or about May 14, 2020, Worthy filed a claim with Defendant Fireman's Fund for insured losses incurred by Worthy as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 73. On or about May 18, 2020, Fireman's Fund wrongfully and in bad faith denied Worthy's claim without first conducting any meaningful coverage investigation.
- 74. As a result of Fireman's Fund's wrongful conduct, Plaintiff Worthy has suffered damages, including attorney fees and costs, in an amount to be determined at trial.

FIRST CAUSES OF ACTION (Violation of Insurance Fair Conduct Act)

- 75. Worthy realleges and incorporates by reference all preceding allegations as if fully stated herein.
- 76. Worthy was a first-party insured under the Policy, number S 86 DZJ 80998266, issued by Fireman's Fund.
- 77. On or about May 14, 2020, Worthy submitted a first-party claim to Fireman's Fund.
- 78. In violation of RCW 48.30 et seq., Fireman's Fund unreasonably denied Worthy's claim for coverage or payment of benefits without first conducting any meaningful coverage investigation.

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- 79. Such unreasonable denial includes, without limitation, violations of WAC 284-30-330 and WAC 284-30-350.
- 80. As a direct and proximate result, Worthy has suffered monetary damages and will suffer monetary damages in the future in an amount to be proven at the time of trial.
- 81. Pursuant to RCW 48.30.015(2), Worthy is also entitled to an award of treble damages based upon a finding that Fireman's Fund unreasonably denied Worthy's claim for coverage.
- 82. Pursuant to RCW 48.30.015(3), Worthy is entitled to an award of reasonable attorney fees and actual and statutory litigation costs, including expert witness fees, based upon a finding that Fireman's Fund unreasonably denied Worthy's claim for coverage.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION (Bad Faith)

- 83. Worthy realleges and incorporates by reference all preceding allegations as if fully stated herein
- 84. At the time Worthy became an insured under the Policy, Worthy placed its trust in Fireman's Fund and its employees/representatives to act in good faith and in a reasonable manner in the event Worthy should ever make a claim against the Policy.
- 85. Fireman's Fund was in a fiduciary relationship with Worthy and was under a duty to deal fairly with its insured, including, without limitation, to engage in

COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL - 16

fair and equitable settlements where applicable; to engage in a prompt and thorough investigation of claims; and to use the skill, care, and knowledge of other claims representatives and underwriters practicing as insurance claims representatives and underwriters in evaluating and investigating claims made by the insured.

- 86. Fireman's Fund, in bad faith, failed to fully and completely investigate Worthy's claims in a prompt and thorough manner as required by law, and wrongfully and in bad faith denied coverage on Worthy's claims. Fireman's Fund acted in violation of Washington law, including, without limitation, RCW 48.30 et seq., WAC 284-30-330 and WAC 284-30-350.
- 87. As a direct and proximate result, Worthy has suffered monetary damages and will suffer monetary damages in the future in an amount to be proven at the time of trial including attorney fees and costs.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION (Negligence)

- 88. Worthy realleges and incorporates by reference all preceding allegations as if fully stated herein.
- 89. Fireman's Fund was in a fiduciary relationship with Worthy and was under a duty to deal fairly with its insured, including, without limitation, to engage in fair and equitable settlements where applicable; to engage in a prompt and thorough investigation of claims; and to use the skill, care, and knowledge of other claims

COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL - 17

representatives and underwriters practicing as insurance claims representatives and underwriters in evaluating and investigating claims made by the insured.

- 90. Fireman's Fund negligently failed to investigate Worthy's claim in a prompt and thorough manner as required by law and negligently denied coverage on Worthy's claims.
- 91. As a direct and proximate result, Worthy has suffered monetary damages and will suffer monetary damages in the future in an amount to be proven at trial.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Breach of Contract)

- 92. Worthy realleges and incorporates by reference all preceding allegations as if fully stated herein.
- 93. Fireman's Fund's denial of Worthy's claim for damages was in violation of the terms of the Policy and is a breach of the insurance contract, since the Policy clearly covers the losses incurred and imposed upon Fireman's Fund the duty to reimburse Worthy for such losses.
- 94. Fireman's Fund's denial of the claim breached the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing.
- 95. Fireman's Fund has breached the insurance contract under which Worthy was an insured under the Policy.

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96. As a direct and proximate result of such breaches, Worthy has incurred damages, including consequential and incidental damages, the exact extent of which will be proven at the time of trial. Worthy has incurred and will incur additional attorney fees and costs in order to seek coverage under this contract as a result of Fireman's Fund's breach. Fireman's Fund is liable for all such damages suffered by Worthy.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Violation of Consumer Protection Act)

- 97. Worthy realleges and incorporates by reference all preceding allegations as if fully stated herein.
- 98. Fireman's Fund engaged in unfair and deceptive acts and practices under the Washington Consumer Protection Act, RCW 19.86, et seq., and applicable insurance regulations promulgated by the Washington Insurance Commissioner in WAC 284-30 et seq.
- 99. Fireman's Fund's conduct is unlawful, unfair and deceptive. Furthermore, such conduct has the capacity to deceive a substantial portion of the purchasing public.
- 100. Worthy has suffered damages as a direct and proximate result of Fireman's Fund's unfair or deceptive acts or practices. Furthermore, Fireman's Fund's conduct impacts the public interest.

COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL - 19

101. As a direct and proximate result of Fireman's Fund's unfair and deceptive acts and practices, Worthy has sustained actual damages in an amount to be proven at the time of trial. Worthy is entitled to recover treble damages, litigation costs, and attorney fees pursuant to RCW 19.86.090.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Declaratory Judgment)

- 102. Worthy realleges and incorporates by reference all preceding allegations as if fully stated herein.
- 103. Worthy requests a declaratory ruling by the Court that Worthy is an insured covered by the Fireman's Fund's Insurance Policy and that Worthy is entitled to the benefits of the Policy, including, without limitation, payment for the losses sustained as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and associated civil authority orders.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Worthy Plaintiffs pray for the following relief:

- 1. For judgment against Fireman's Fund Insurance Company in an amount to be proven at trial;
- For treble damages as provided by applicable law, RCW 48.30.015
 and/or RCW 19.86.090;
 - 3. For interest provided by applicable law;

	4.	For attorney fees and costs, including expert witness fees as provided by
applic	able la	w and/or RCW 48.30.15, RCW 19.86.090, and <u>Olympic S.S. Co., Inc. v.</u>
Cente	nnial I	ns. Co., 117 Wn.2d 37, 811 P.2d 673 (1991);

- 5. For a declaration that the Worthy Plaintiffs are covered by Defendant's insurance policy for the losses; and
 - 6. For further relief the Court deems just and equitable.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by a jury in this case.

DATED this 13th day of October, 2020.

DUNN & BLACK, P.S.

/s/ RICHARD T. WETMORE

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