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SUPERIOR COURT OF WASHINGTON FOR SNOHOMISH COUNTY

TULALIP TRIBES OF WASHINGTON, federally recognized Indian Tribes, and TULALIP GAMING ORGANIZATION, an instrumentality and enterprise of Tulalip Tribes of Washington,

Plaintiffs

v.

(1) LEXINGTON INSURANCE COMPANY: (2) SUBSCRIBING UNDERWRITERS AT LLOYD'S - SYNDICATES: ASC1414, XLC 2003, TAL 1183, MSP 318, ATL 1861, KLN 510, AGR 3268;

(3) UNDERWRITERS AT LLOYD'S -SYNDICATE: CNP 4444;

(4) UNDERWRITERS AT LLOYD'S -ASPEN SPECIALTY INSURANCE COMPANY;

(5) HOMELAND INSURANCE COMPANY OF NY (ONE BEACON);

(6) HALLMARK SPECIALTY INSURANCE COMPANY;

(7) UNDERWRITERS AT LLOYD'S -SYNDICATES: KLN 0510, ATL 1861, ASC 1414, QBE 1886, MSP 0318, APL 1969, CHN 2015, XLC 2003;

(8) UNDERWRITERS AT LLOYD'S -

SYNDICATE: BRT 2987; (9) ENDURANCE WORLDWIDE INSURANCE Ltd t/as SOMPO INTERNATIONAL; (10) UNDERWRITERS

AT LLOYD'S - SYNDICATES: KLN 0510.

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COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT AND MONETARY DAMAGES

COMPLAINT - 1

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1	TMK 1880, BRT 2987, BRT 2988, CNP 4444,
2	ATL 1861, NEON WORLDWIDE PROPERTY CONSORTIUM, AUW 0609, TAL 1183, AUL
3	1274; (11) ARCH SPECIALTY INSURANCE
4	COMPANY; (12) EVANSTON INSURANCE COMPANY;
5.	(13) ALLIED WORLD NATIONAL ASSURANCE COMPANY
6	(14) LIBERTY MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,
7	Defendants.
	•
8	I. <u>Parties</u>
9	1. Plaintiff Tulalip Tribes of Washington ("TTW" or "Tribe") is a federally
١0	recognized Indian Tribe which owns/operates business properties insured by defendants,
11	which properties are physically located in Tulalip, Washington, in Snohomish County.
12	2. Plaintiff Tulalip Gaming Organization ("TGO") is an instrumentality and
13	enterprise of TTW, insured by defendants regarding business properties insured under
4	defendants' policies which properties are physically located in Tulalip, Washington, in
15	Snohomish County.
16	3. Defendant Lexington Insurance Company ("Lexington") is a corporation
١7	authorized to issue surplus line coverage under RCW Title 48, and which issued coverage to
18	plaintiffs pursuant to RCW Title 48. On information and belief plaintiffs allege Lexington
9	does business within Snohomish County.
20	4. Defendants Subscribing Underwriters at Lloyds ("Subscribing Underwriters")
21	are members of syndicates which include ASC1414, XLC 2003, TAL 1183, MSP 318, ATL
22	1861, KLN 510, AGR 3268; CNP 4444; KLN 0510, ASC 1414, QBE 1886, MSP 0318, APL
23	1969, CHN 2015, XLC 2003; TMK 1880, BRT 2987, BRT 2988; Neon Worldwide Property
24	Consortium, AUW 0609, TAL 1183, AUL 1274 all of whom are authorized to issue surplus
1-	COMPLAINT - 2 Ashbaugh Beal 701 FIFTH AVE., SUITE 4400 SEATTLE, WA 98104 T. 206.386.5900 F. 206.344.7400

lines coverage under RCW Title 48, and which issued coverage to plaintiffs pursuant to RCW Title 48. On information and belief plaintiffs allege Subscribing Underwriters do business within Snohomish County.

- 5. Defendant Aspen Specialty Insurance Company ("Aspen") is an insurance company authorized to issue surplus lines coverage under RCW Title 48, and which issued coverage to plaintiffs pursuant to RCW Title 48. On information and belief plaintiffs allege Aspen does business within Snohomish County.
- 6. Homeland Insurance Company of New York ("Homeland") is an insurance company authorized to issue surplus lines coverage under RCW Title 48, and which issued coverage to plaintiffs pursuant to RCW Title 48. On information and belief plaintiffs allege Homeland does business within Snohomish County.
- 7. Hallmark Specialty Insurance Company ("Hallmark") is an insurance company authorized to issue surplus lines coverage under RCW Title 48, and which issued coverage to plaintiffs pursuant to RCW Title 48. On information and belief plaintiffs allege Hallmark does business within Snohomish County.
- 8. Endurance Worldwide Insurance Ltd., t/as Sompo International ("Endurance") is an insurance company authorized to issue surplus lines coverage under RCW Title 48, and which issued coverage to plaintiffs pursuant to RCW Title 48. On information and belief plaintiffs allege Endurance does business within Snohomish County.
- 9. Arch Specialty Insurance Company ("Arch") is an insurance company authorized to issue surplus lines coverage under RCW Title 48, and which issued coverage to plaintiffs pursuant to RCW Title 48. On information and belief plaintiffs allege Arch does business within Snohomish County.

- 10. Evanston Insurance Company ("Evanston") is an insurance company authorized to issue surplus lines coverage under RCW Title 48, and which issued coverage to plaintiffs pursuant to RCW Title 48. On information and belief plaintiffs allege Evanston does business within Snohomish County.
- 11. Allied World National Insurance Company ("Allied") is an insurance company authorized to issue surplus lines coverage under RCW Title 48, and which issued coverage to plaintiffs pursuant to RCW Title 48. On information and belief plaintiffs allege Allied does business within Snohomish County. Defendants Lexington, Subscribing Underwriters, Aspen, Homeland, Hallmark, Endurance, Arch, Evanston and Allied are sometimes collectively referred to herein as the "non-Liberty defendants."
- 12. Liberty Mutual Fire Insurance Company ("Liberty") is an insurance company authorized to issue insurance under RCW Title 48, and which issued coverage to plaintiffs pursuant to RCW Title 48. On information and belief plaintiffs allege Liberty does business within Snohomish County.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 13. The non-Liberty defendants have each contractually consented to in personam jurisdiction. Liberty conducts business in Snohomish County and is subject to suit here.
- 14. One or more defendants reside in Snohomish County for venue purposes and venue is otherwise proper in Snohomish County.

III. INSURANCE TRANSACTIONS

15. On information and belief, plaintiffs allege that defendants entered into an agency relationship with Alliant Specialty Insurance Services, Inc., Alliant Underwriting Solutions/Tribal First, Alliant Insurance Services, Inc., and or affiliated entities ("Alliant") and/or AmWins Insurance Brokerage Service of California, LLC or its affiliates ("AmWins") COMPLAINT - 4

Ashbaugh Beal 701 FIFTH AVE, SUITE 4400 SEATTLE, WA 98104 T. 206.386.5900 F. 206.344.7400 whereby Alliant and/or AmWins (pursuant to RCW 48.15 with respect to the non-Liberty defendants), marketed, underwrote, negotiated and/or sold insurance policies and or insurance contracts to policyholders physically located within the State of Washington, including to the plaintiffs. Alliant issued the Liberty Policy from its Seattle office.

- 16. In its capacity as an authorized agent for each defendant, and pursuant to RCW 48.15, Alliant and/or AmWins marketed, negotiated, underwrote and/or sold certain property and business interruption insurance to plaintiffs through a Seattle based insurance broker, Brown and Brown of Washington, Inc. ("BBW"). With respect to all conduct alleged in this complaint, Alliant and/or AmWins was the authorized agent of each defendant herein, and in connection with all such matters pled herein, acted within the scope of their respective actual and/or apparent authority.
- 17. The policies sold to plaintiffs which are the subject of this dispute were solicited and/or negotiated by BBW from its Seattle office.
- 18. The non-Liberty policies sold to plaintiffs at issue in this case contain the following statement:

SURPLUS LINES DISCLOSURE

WASHINGTON

This contract is registered and delivered as a surplus line coverage under the insurance code of the state of Washington, Title 48 RCW. It is not protected by any Washington state guaranty association law.

- 19. The statement contained in the excerpt in paragraph 18 above that the contract is registered as a surplus lines coverage, is true.
- 20. Pursuant to RCW 48.01.020, RCW 48.01.060 and the policy language, the solicitation, negotiation, execution, registration, delivery, insuring and the transaction of all

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- 28. The premium charged to plaintiffs and paid by plaintiffs reflected the fact the policies are "all risk" policies, insuring direct physical loss caused by perils not excluded under the policy.
- 29. In the plaintiffs' Policies, the non-Liberty defendants chose to exclude direct physical loss caused by communicable disease, but limited that exclusion to direct physical loss to animals.
- 30. In the plaintiffs' Policies, the non-Liberty defendants chose to exclude direct physical loss caused by pathogenic material, but limited that exclusion to direct physical loss caused by "malicious use" thereof.
- 31. In March of 2020, defendants, through Alliant, published revisions for 2020-2021 policies to the coverage terms contained in the 2019-2020 version of the "TPIP" form contained in the 2019-2020 TGO policy. For the upcoming Tulalip policy year (2020-2021), the non-Liberty defendants, through Alliant, added the word "virus" to the contamination exclusion, and added the following "Communicable Disease" exclusion:

ENDORSEMENT 5

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE EXCLUSION

VI. This policy, subject to all applicable terms, conditions and exclusions, covers losses attributable to direct physical loss or physical damage occurring during the period of insurance.

Consequently and notwithstanding any other provision of this policy to the contrary, this policy does not insure any loss, damage, claim, cost, expense or other sum, directly or indirectly arising out of, attributable to, or occurring concurrently or in any sequence with a Communicable Disease or the fear or threat (whether actual or perceived) of a Communicable Disease.

- 2. For the purposes of this endorsement, loss, damage, claim, cost, expense or other sum, includes, but is not limited to, any cost to clean-up, detoxify, remove, monitor or test:
- 2.1. for a Communicable Disease, or
- 2.2. any property insured hereunder that is affected by such Communicable Disease.

3. As used herein, a Communicable Disease means any disease which can be transmitted by means of any substance or agent from any organism to another organism where:

3.1. the substance or agent includes, but is not limited to, a virus, bacterium, parasite or other organism or any variation thereof, whether deemed living or not, and 3.2. the method of transmission, whether direct or indirect, includes but is not limited to, airborne transmission, bodily fluid transmission, transmission from or to any surface or object, solid, liquid or gas or between organisms, and 3.3. the disease, substance or agent can cause or threaten damage to human health or human welfare or can cause or threaten damage to, deterioration of, loss of value of, marketability of or loss of use of property insured hereunder.

4. This endorsement applies to all coverage extensions, additional coverages, exceptions to any exclusion and other coverage grant(s).

All other terms, conditions and exclusions of the policy remain the same. LMA5393

32. The communicable disease exclusion in "Endorsement 5" is not part of the non-Liberty Policies at issue in this case, nor is the "virus" modification to the "contamination" exclusion for the 2020-2021 policy year.

33. In 1986, the Washington Supreme Court adopted the efficient proximate cause doctrine. In 1989, the Court ruled in Safeco v. Hirschmann that an insurer may not "contractually circumvent" the rule. Thirty years later, in violation of the decision in Safeco v. Hirschmann, defendants issued and sold insurance pursuant to the surplus lines provisions of RCW Title 48, which used policy language in an unlawful and deceptive attempt to make it appear to policyholders that its policy exclusions applied to defeat coverage whether or not one or more of those exclusions was the efficient proximate cause of a loss. This law became part of the policies when they were issued. Defendant Lexington unfairly and deceptively relied in its reservation of rights letter on policy language legally impermissible under Safeco v. Hirschmann.

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VI. THE LIBERTY MUTUAL EXCESS INSURANCE

- 34. Alliant prepared and issued a 394-page document to TGO (collectively the "Insurance Contract") in which TTW, TGO and other related entities are insured. The Insurance Contract constitutes "insurance" within the meaning of RCW 48.01.040 and constitutes an "insurance contract" within the meaning of WAC 284-30-320(7).
- 35. When the Insurance Contract was issued by Alliant to TGO, Alliant acted, inter alia, as the authorized agent of Liberty.
 - 36. On p. 29 of the Insurance Contract Alliant made the following representation:

This document outlines and summarizes the coverages, limits, sublimits, and deductibles for this Named Insured, and is subject to the policy wording being the 'TPIP USA Form No. 15, Tribal Terrorism Policy, Tribal Excess Boiler Policy and Specific Carrier Policies.' which forms an integral part of this insurance.

37. Immediately below the statement that TPIP Form 15 "forms an integral part of this insurance" the following language appears:

This document does not create, modify extend or otherwise affect the terms, conditions, provisions or exclusions as outlined in the Declaration Page or Insurance Policies that have subscribed to the 2019 Tribal Property Insurance Program Placement. To the extent there exists any discrepancy between this document and the Declaration Page or Insurance Policies referred to herein, the Declaration Page or Policies shall control.

- 38. The coverage promised in the Insurance Contract incepted July 1, 2019.
- As of July 1, 2019, Liberty had not issued the policy which was part of the 39. Insurance Contract.
- 40. There is no term in the Insurance Contract whereby the insurance promised to be provided by Liberty would be subject to any terms more restrictive than those contained in TPIP Form 15.

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- 41. As of July 1, 2019 when the insurance promised in the Insurance Contract incepted, neither TTW nor TGO had agreed to any limitation to the Insurance Contract which involved the issuance of a policy exclusion naming "virus" as an excluded peril.
- 42. As of July 1, 2019, a virus exclusion was not a term of the TPIP insurance promised in the Insurance Contract.
- 43. As of the date the insurance referenced in the Insurance Contract went into effect (July 1, 2019), and as of the date plaintiffs paid the insurance premium applicable to the Insurance Contract, the insurance promised in the Insurance Contract to be provided by Liberty was not subject to a virus exclusion.
- 44. Liberty purported to issue the Liberty Policy on September 16, 2019, some 75 days after the insurance promised in the Insurance Contracts went into effect, and approximately a month after the premium then due was paid.
- 45. The policy issued by Liberty on September 16, 2019 breached the Insurance Contract by inclusion of an exclusionary provision not part of the Insurance Contract, and which was not contained in the TPIP 15 form (stated in the Insurance Contract to be "an integral part of this insurance.")
- 46. Liberty's belated attempt to modify the insurance promised in the Insurance Contract through the inclusion of a virus exclusion in the Liberty Policy violated RCW 48.01.030 and is unenforceable.
- 47. To the extent Liberty has relied on the virus exclusion in the Liberty Policy in its ongoing refusal to pay policy benefits to plaintiffs, Liberty has committed an unfair and deceptive act or practice under RCW 19.86.020.

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violated RCW 48.18.240

VIII. <u>DEFENDANTS' CLAIM HANDLING VIOLATIONS</u>

- 56. It is a cornerstone of industry claim handling practice that an insurer (or its representatives) never place its own financial interests ahead of its insureds.
- 57. It is a cornerstone of industry claim handling practice that insurers and their representatives perform all tasks directly or indirectly related to the determination of liabilities under policies they issue in a fair and impartial manner.
- 58. It is a standard in the claims handling industry that insurers adopt and implement standards for the prompt investigation of claims.
- 59. It is a standard of the claim handling industry that insurers keep an open mind concerning coverage at all times before and after a claim or claims under its policies are made.
- 60. It is a standard of the claim handling industry that an insurer considers the good faith making of policy benefit advances when it is necessary that its investigation be conducted beyond 30 days from the making of a claim.
- 61. It is a standard in the claims handling industry that an insurer fully discloses all information to its policyholders as that information is uncovered in the insurer's investigation.
- 62. It is a standard in the claim handling industry that insurers and their representatives be actuated by good faith, abstain from deception, and practice honesty and equity in all claim handling work.
- 63. It is a standard in the claim handling industry that insurers and their claim representatives do not keep secrets from their policyholders.
- 64. It is a standard in the claims handling industry that insurers and their representatives not misrepresent pertinent facts or policy provisions.

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- 65. Unfair and deceptive acts or practices in trade or commerce are unlawful. One or more violations of the standards set forth in paragraph 56-64 are unfair and deceptive acts or practices in the business of insurance. Each defendant engaged in one or more violations of the standards recited in paragraphs 56-64 herein, and otherwise have unreasonably withheld (and continue to unreasonably withhold) coverage benefits promised under the policies and under the Insurance Contract.
- 66. With the exception of Lexington and Liberty, no other defendant has acknowledged the claim made by plaintiffs on May 5, 2020.
- 67. No defendant other than Lexington or Liberty has acknowledged plaintiffs' claims or furnished information concerning the representative who would perform the tasks necessary in the determination of liabilities under the policies and under the Insurance Contract, pursuant to WAC 284-30-320(9). No defendant other than Lexington or Liberty has communicated with plaintiffs concerning insurance coverage for plaintiffs' losses, from the date of plaintiff's claim through the filing of this suit.
- 68. On information and belief, plaintiffs allege each non-Liberty defendant developed a strategy prior to May 5, 2020, to resist claims under "Tribal First" insurance for business interruption efficiently and proximately caused by the Corona Virus.
- 69. On information and belief, plaintiffs allege that non-Liberty defendants herein acted in concert with one another to refuse business interruption benefits to plaintiffs, notwithstanding their failure to exclude virus or communicable disease as risks of direct physical loss and resulting business interruption.
- 70. On information and belief, plaintiffs allege that part of defendants' strategy in pursuing an ongoing refusal to pay claims under Tribal First policies has been to invest

monies which would otherwise be paid to plaintiffs as policy benefits for defendants' own account.

71. Plaintiffs have been damaged in an amount to be proven at time of trial, including consequential damages, in an amount in excess of \$100 million.

CAUSES OF ACTION

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION—BREACH OF CONTRACT

- 72. Plaintiffs reallege paragraphs 1-71 as though fully set forth herein.
- 73. The conduct of each defendant constitutes a breach of the policy(ies) of each and/or a breach of the Insurance Contract. Plaintiffs have been damaged directly and consequentially in an amount to be proven at trial, expected to substantially exceed \$100 million.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION—NEGLIGENCE

- 74. Plaintiffs reallege paragraphs 1-73 as though fully set forth herein.
- 75. It was reasonably forseeable to each insurer that the failure of each to conduct a fair and impartial investigation and to timely pay benefits due under the policy would harm and damage the business of plaintiffs. It was also reasonably forseeable that the concerted actions of each of the defendants to aid and abet other defendants in the wrongful denial of benefits under their respective policies would cause damage to plaintiffs beyond the mere breach of each defendant of its own individual policy or contract of insurance. Pursuant to RCW 4.22.070, each defendant is jointly and severally liable for plaintiffs' damages in an amount to be proven at trial, expected to substantially exceed \$100 million.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION—VIOLATION OF CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT

76. Plaintiff realleges paragraphs 1-75 as though fully set forth herein.

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1	iii. For prejudgment interest authorized by statute and law;
2	iv. For treble damages as allowed by statute;
3	v. For attorney's fees and other costs, as allowed under applicable law
4	statute, and/or recognized grounds of equity;
5	vi. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and equitable.
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7	DATED: July 10, 2020.
8	ASHBAUGH BEAL LLP
9	
10	By: Rick Beal
11	Richard T. Beal, Jr., WSBA #9203 rbeal@ashbaughbeal.com
12	Logan Peppin, WSBA #55704 lpeppin@ashbaughbeal.com
13	Attorneys for Plaintiffs
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