

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**SUSAN SPATH HEGEDUS, INC. d/b/a
KERN & CO.,**

Plaintiff,

vs.

**CHUBB LTD; and ACE FIRE
UNDERWRITERS INSURANCE
COMPANY,**

Defendants.

Case No. _____

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, SUSAN SPATH HEGEDUS, INC. d/b/a/ KERN & CO., brings this Class Action Complaint, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated (the “Class”), against Defendants, CHUBB LTD, AND ACE FIRE UNDERWRITERS INSURANCE COMPANY (together, “Chubb” or “Defendant”), alleging as follows:

NATURE OF THE CASE

1. This is a civil class action for declaratory relief and breach of contract arising from Plaintiff’s contract of insurance with the Defendant.
2. At the direction of local, state, and/or federal authorities, Plaintiff was forced to temporarily close its luxury interior design/retail furnishing business beginning on March 20, 2020, causing an interruption to and loss of Plaintiff’s business income.
3. Plaintiff and the Class purchased and paid for an “all-risk” Commercial Property Coverage insurance policy from Defendant, which provides broad property insurance coverage for all non-excluded, lost business income, including the losses asserted here.

4. Plaintiff submitted timely notice of its claim to Defendant, but Defendant has refused to provide the purchased coverage to its insured, and has denied Plaintiff's claim for benefits under the policy.

5. Defendant has similarly refused to, or will refuse to, honor its obligations under the "all-risk" policy(ies) purchased by Plaintiff and the other members of the putative Class of insureds.

PARTIES

6. Plaintiff, SUSAN SPATH HEGEDUS, INC. D/B/A/ KERN & CO., is a California corporation headquartered in California, and is a citizen of California. Plaintiff operates an interior design/retail furniture business and maintains an office 130 S. Cedros Avenue, Suite 100, Solana Beach, California 92075-1954. Plaintiff operates retail business locations at: 1) 130 S. Cedros Avenue, Suite 100, Solana Beach, California 92075-1954; and 2) 6016 La Granada, Rancho Santa Fe, California 92067 (together, the "Covered Property").

7. Defendant CHUBB LTD is a Swiss corporation with its principal place of business in Zurich, Switzerland and a domestic headquarters in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It owns subsidiaries, directly and indirectly, that issue, among other things, commercial property insurance.

8. Defendant ACE FIRE UNDERWRITERS INSURANCE COMPANY ("ACE FIRE") is a Pennsylvania corporation with its principal place of business in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and is a citizen of Pennsylvania. ACE FIRE is a subsidiary of CHUBB LTD.

JURISDICTION

9. This court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d), the Class Action Fairness Act, which affords federal courts with original jurisdiction over

cases where any member of the plaintiff class is a citizen of a state different from any defendant (*i.e.*, so-called “minimum diversity of citizenship,”) and where the amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs. Here, there exists minimal diversity of citizenship because Plaintiff (as well as some members of the Class) and Defendant are citizens of different states, and the aggregated claims of the putative Class members exceed \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

10. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because at all relevant times it has engaged in substantial business activities, including the maintaining of ACE FIRE’s headquarters, in Pennsylvania. Defendant has, at all relevant times, transacted, solicited, and conducted business in Pennsylvania through its employees, agents, and/or sales representatives, and derived substantial revenue from such business in Pennsylvania.

11. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because Defendant resides in this district and is subject to the Court’s personal jurisdiction with respect to this action, and a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this district.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff Purchased an “All-Risk” Policy of Property Insurance That Broadly Provides Coverage for Loss of Business Income, Among Other Things

12. Plaintiff purchased a contract of insurance from Defendant, whereby Plaintiff agreed to make payments (in the form of premiums) to Defendant in exchange for Defendant’s promise to indemnify Plaintiff for losses at the Covered Property, including, but not limited to, business income losses.

13. Plaintiff’s contract of insurance with Defendant bears Policy Number D52688619 (the “Policy”) and is effective for the period of January 21, 2020 to January 21, 2021 (the “Policy Term”). The Policy is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

14. Plaintiff paid all premiums owed to Defendant under the Policy, and Defendant accepted all such premiums from Plaintiff.

15. The Policy is a form policy issued by Defendant.

16. The Policy is an “all-risk” policy, which provides the broadest property insurance coverage available.

17. The Policy provides coverage for “direct physical loss of or damage to Covered Property . . . caused by or resulting from any Covered Cause of Loss.”

18. The Policy defines “Covered Cause of Loss” as “direct physical loss unless the loss is excluded or limited under [the Policy].”

19. The Policy does not define the phrase “direct physical loss of or damage”

20. However, the use of the disjunctive “or” in the phrase “direct physical loss of or damage to” means that coverage is triggered if either a physical loss of property or damage to property occurs. The concepts are separate and distinct and cannot be conflated.

21. Physical loss of, or damage to, property may be reasonably interpreted to occur when a covered cause of loss threatens or renders property unusable or unsuitable for its intended purpose or unsafe for normal human occupancy and/or continued use.

22. The Policy provides Plaintiff with, *inter alia*, various business income and extra expense coverages during the Policy Term.

23. Under the Policy, Defendant agrees to pay: **“the actual loss of Business Income you sustain due to the necessary suspension of your ‘operations’ during the ‘period of restoration.’ The ‘suspension’ must be caused by direct physical loss of or damage to property at the described premises.”** The Policy describes the covered premises as: 1) “130 S. Cedros Avenue, Suite 100, Solana Beach, California 92075-1954”; and 2) “6016 La Granada,

Rancho Santa Fe, California 92067, the Covered Property, and coverage is listed for “Business Income and Extra Expense” with a Limit of Insurance of “Actual Loss Sustained.”

24. Additional coverage is provided under the Policy for business income losses resulting from an “action of civil authority” which prohibits access to the Covered Property, related to a “Covered Cause of Loss” at property other than the Covered Property: **“When a Covered Cause of Loss causes damage to property other than property at the described premises, we will pay for the actual loss of Business Income you sustain and necessary Extra Expense caused by action of civil authority that prohibits access to the described premises”**

25. The Policy also provides coverage for **“actual loss of Business Income you sustain due to physical loss or damage at the premises of a dependent property or secondary dependent property caused by or resulting from any Covered Cause of Loss.”** The Policy defines **“Dependent Property”** as: **“[P]roperty owned by others whom you depend on to: a) deliver materials or services to you, or to others for your account . . . ; b) Accept your products or services; c) Manufacture your products for delivery to your customers under contract for sale; or d) Attract customers to your business.”** The Policy defines **“Secondary Dependent Property”** as: **“an entity which is not owned or operated by a dependent property and which: a) Delivers materials or services to a dependent property, which in turn are used by the dependent property in providing materials or services to you; or b) Accepts materials or services from a dependent property, which in turn accepts your materials or services.”**

26. Members of the Class also purchased a policy of insurance from Defendant providing for the same business income coverage, and using the same form policy provisions.

In Response to Covid-19, California and Other State Governments Issue Sweeping Orders Shutting Down “Non-Essential” Businesses

27. Severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (“COVID-19”) has spread, and continues to spread, rapidly across the United States and has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. See <https://www.health.harvard.edu/diseases-and-conditions/coronavirus-resource-center> (last accessed May 6, 2020).

28. The global COVID-19 pandemic is exacerbated by the fact that the deadly virus physically infects and stays on surfaces of objects or materials for many days.

29. According to a study published in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, COVID-19 is widely accepted as a cause of real physical loss and damage. It remains stable and transmittable in aerosols for up to three hours, up to four hours on copper, up to 24 hours on cardboard and up to two to three days on plastic and stainless steel. See <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/new-coronavirus-stable-hours-surfaces> (last accessed May 6, 2020).

30. Another study, published in the *Journal of Hospital Infection*, found: “Human coronaviruses can remain infectious on inanimate surfaces at room temperature for up to 9 days. At a temperature of 30°C or more the duration of persistence is shorter.” See <https://www.inverse.com/science/coronavirus-4-studies-explain-how-covid-19-sticks-to-surfaces> (last accessed May 6, 2020).

31. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, on March 4, 2020, California Governor, Gavin Newsom, declared a state of emergency for California.¹ On March 19, 2020, Governor

¹ <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.4.20-Coronavirus-SOE-Proclamation.pdf>

Newsom issued a statewide stay-at-home order,² which required “all individuals living in the State of California to stay at home or at their place of residence.”

32. The statewide March 19, 2020 stay-at-home order permitted exceptions for 16 critical infrastructure sectors identified by the federal government. Plaintiffs’ business does not match the criteria for any of these 16 sectors.³

33. On April 10, 2020, the County of San Diego entered a stay-at-home order⁴ noting that the order was issued “based on scientific evidence regarding the most effective approaches to slow the transmission of communicable diseases generally and COVID-19 specifically, as well as best practices currently known and available to protect vulnerable members of the public from avoidable risk of serious illness or death resulting from exposure to COVID-19” and that “the actions required by this Order are necessary to reduce the number of individuals who will be exposed to COVID-19, and will thereby slow the spread of COVID-19 in the county. By reducing the spread of COVID-19, this Order will help preserve critical and limited healthcare capacity in the county and will save lives.”

34. On May 7, 2020, Governor Newsom issued an order⁵ permitting a gradual statewide movement from Stage 1 to Stage 2, which entails a slow reopening of the state on a county by county basis.⁶ Stage 2 permits the reopening of offices where telework had not been possible.⁷

²<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/3.19.20-attested-EO-N-33-20-COVID-19-HEALTH-ORDER.pdf>

³ <https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19>

⁴<https://www.sduhsd.net/documents/Corona%20Virus/Health%20Officer%20Order%20COVID-19-%2004-10-20.pdf>

⁵<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/SHO%20Order%205-7-2020.pdf>

⁶<https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/5.4.20-Update-on-Californias-Pandemic-Roadmap.pdf>

⁷<https://covid19.ca.gov/roadmap/>

35. On May 13, 2020, the San Diego Sheriff's office noted that the statewide stay-at-home order continued to remain in place and that all non-essential business shall remain closed for the duration of the order. The notice did state that curbside retail may open as well as supply chains supporting essential business may open.

36. On May 21, 2020, San Diego County was permitted to move to Stage 2,⁸ however, the County of San Diego noted that all persons were to remain in their homes or at their place of business with limited exceptions.⁹

Most other states, including those in which the putative Class members reside and/or do business, have issued similar compulsory shut-down orders for "non-essential" businesses, or businesses deemed not to be "life sustaining."

37. The closure of all "non-life-sustaining businesses" evidences an awareness on the part of both state and local governments that COVID-19 causes loss of or damage to property. This is particularly true in places where business is conducted, as the contact and interaction necessarily incident to such businesses causes a heightened risk of the property becoming contaminated.

38. For example, a New York City Executive Order entered on March 16, 2020 specifically acknowledged that: "[COVID-19] physically is causing property loss and damage." See <https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/home/downloads/pdf/executive-orders/2020/eo-100.pdf> (last accessed May 6, 2020).

39. Similarly, in a March 16, 2020 proclamation, the City of New Orleans acknowledged COVID-19's "propensity to attach to surfaces for prolonged periods of time, thereby spreading from surface to person and causing property loss and damage in certain circumstances." See <https://nola.gov/mayor/executive-orders/emergency-declarations/03162020->

⁸<https://www.cbs8.com/article/news/local/san-diego-approved-by-the-state-for-stage-2-reopening/509-04b78b4c-48c1-4fb5-a170-5cc51d30e4e0>

⁹<https://www.sandiegocounty.gov/content/dam/sdc/hhsa/programs/phs/Epidemiology/HealthOfficerOrderCOVID19.pdf>

mayoral-proclamation-to-promulgate-emergency-orders-during-the-state-of-emergency-due-to-co/ (last accessed May 6, 2020).

40. In upholding the Governor of Pennsylvania’s Proclamation of a state-wide disaster and executive orders mandating the closure of businesses within Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court noted the significant risk of the spread of the COVID-19 virus, even in locations where the disease has not been detected:

Covid-19 does not spread because the virus is “at” a particular location. Instead it spreads because of person-to-person contact, as it has an incubation period of up to fourteen days and that one in four carriers of the virus are asymptomatic. Respondents’ Brief at 4 (citing Coronavirus Disease 2019, “Symptoms,” CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html> (last accessed 4/9/2020)). The virus can live on surfaces for up to four days and can remain in the air within confined areas and structures. *Id.* (citing National Institutes of Health, “Study suggests new coronavirus may remain on surfaces for days,” (Mar. 27, 2020) [https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/study-suggests-new-coronavirus-may-remain-surfaces-days_\(last accessed 4/9/2020\)](https://www.nih.gov/news-events/nih-research-matters/study-suggests-new-coronavirus-may-remain-surfaces-days_(last%20accessed%204/9/2020))) and Joshua Rabinowitz and Caroline Bartman, “These Coronavirus Exposures Might be the Most Dangerous,” *The New York Times* (Apr. 1, 2020) <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/01/opinion/coronavirus-viral-dose.html>).

Friends of DeVito v. Wolf, ___ A. 3d ___, 2020 WL 1847100, *15-16 (Pa. April 13, 2020).

41. Because the COVID-19 virus can survive on surfaces for up to fourteen days, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ultimately concluded that “any location . . . where two or more people can congregate is within the disaster area.”

Plaintiff Submits a Claim Under Its “All-Risk” Policy, and Defendant Wrongly Fails and Refuses To Honor Its Obligations Respecting Same

42. As a result of the orders governing Plaintiff, the Covered Property closed on March 20, 2020 and remained closed until May 22, 2020.

43. Plaintiff has incurred, and continues to incur, among other things, a substantial loss of business income and additional expenses covered under the Policy.

44. Plaintiff provided timely notice to Defendant of its claim for the interruption to its business.

45. Defendant denied Plaintiff's claim by letter dated April 24, 2020. The letter is attached hereto as **Exhibit B**. In its denial letter, Defendant posited that (i) Plaintiff's losses do not arise from "any direct physical loss or damage" and (ii) Plaintiff's claim is barred by the policy's so-called "Virus" Exclusion.

Contrary To Defendant's Position, Plaintiff's Losses Arise From Direct Physical Loss Or Damage

46. Plaintiff's Covered Property suffered "direct physical loss or damage" due to the Governor of California's Order (and other local governmental orders) mandating that Plaintiff discontinue its primary use of the Covered Property. The governmental orders, in and of themselves, constitute a Covered Cause of Loss within the meaning of the Policy.

47. Alternatively, and to the extent the governmental orders do not constitute a Covered Cause of Loss within the meaning of the Policy, the COVID-19 pandemic and the ubiquitous nature of the COVID-19 virus caused a direct physical loss of or damage to Plaintiff's Covered Property.

48. Further, and as an additional basis for coverage under the Policy, the ubiquitous nature of the COVID-19 virus caused direct physical loss of or damage to property other than Plaintiff's Covered Property, and such loss or damage resulted in an "action by civil authority" prohibiting access to Plaintiff's Covered Property, within the meaning of the Policy.

49. Additionally, Plaintiff's "dependent property" or "secondary dependent property" suffered direct physical loss or damage (as a result of the governmental shutdown orders or, alternatively, the ubiquitous nature of the COVID-19 virus), resulting in lost business income to Plaintiff, within the meaning of the Policy.

Contrary To Defendant's Position, The Virus Exclusion Does Not Apply

50. The Policy contains a coverage exclusion for losses caused by “any virus, bacterium or other microorganism that induces or is capable of inducing physical distress, illness or disease.” (the “Virus Exclusion”).

51. The Virus Exclusion does not preclude coverage for Plaintiff's claim under the Policy.

52. First, to the extent that the governmental orders, in and of themselves, constitute direct physical loss of or damage to Plaintiff's Covered Property, the Virus Exclusion simply does not apply.

53. Further, to the extent that the coverage under the policy derives from direct physical loss or damage caused by the COVID-19 virus, either to Plaintiff's Covered Property or to property other than Plaintiff's Covered property (including Plaintiff's “dependent property” or “secondary dependent property”), Defendant should be estopped from enforcing the Virus Exclusion, on principles of regulatory estoppel, as well as general public policy.

54. In 2006, two insurance industry trade groups, Insurance Services Office, Inc. (“ISO”) and the American Association of Insurance Services (“AAIS”), represented hundreds of insurers in a national effort to seek approval from state insurance regulators for the adoption of various virus exclusion provisions.

55. In their filings with the various state regulators (including California), on behalf of the insurers, ISO and AAIS represented that the adoption of the virus exclusion provisions were only meant to “clarify” that coverage for “disease-causing agents” has never been in effect, and was never intended to be included, in the property policies.

56. Specifically, in its “ISO Circular” dated July 6, 2006 and entitled “New Endorsements Filed to Address Exclusion of Loss Due to Virus or Bacteria,” ISO represented to the state regulatory bodies that:

While property policies have not been a source of recovery for losses involving contamination by disease-causing agents, the specter of pandemic or hitherto unorthodox transmission of infectious material raises the concern that insurers employing such policies may face claims in which there are efforts to expand coverage to create sources of recovery for such losses, contrary to policy intent.

57. Similarly, AAIS, in its “Filing Memorandum” in support of the adoption of virus exclusion provisions, represented:

Property policies have not been, nor were they intended to be, a source of recovery for loss, cost or expense caused by disease-causing agents. With the possibility of a pandemic, there is concern that claims may result in efforts to expand coverage to create recovery for loss where no coverage was originally intended . . .

This endorsement clarifies that loss, cost, or expense caused by, resulting from, or relating to any virus, bacterium, or other microorganism that causes disease, illness, or physical distress or that is capable of causing disease, illness, or physical distress is excluded . . .

58. The foregoing representations made by the insurance industry were false. By 2006, the time of the state applications to approve the virus exclusion provisions, courts had repeatedly found that property insurance policies covered claims involving disease-causing agents, and had held on numerous occasions that any condition making it impossible to use property for its intended use constituted “physical loss or damage to such property.”

59. The foregoing assertions by the insurance industry (including Defendant), made to obtain regulatory approval of virus exclusion provisions, were in fact misrepresentations and for this reason, among other public policy concerns, insurers should now be estopped from enforcing the Virus Exclusion to avoid coverage of claims related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

60. In securing approval for the adoption of virus exclusions by misrepresenting to the state regulators that such provisions would not change the scope of coverage, the insurance industry effectively narrowed the scope of the insuring agreement without a commensurate reduction in premiums charged. Under the doctrine of regulatory estoppel, the Court should not permit the insurance industry to benefit from this type of duplicitous conduct before the state regulators.

61. Upon information and belief, Defendant has denied, or will deny, other Class members' claims for coverage under their "all-risk" property damage policies issued by Defendant.

62. Defendant's denial of lost business income claims has left Plaintiff and the Class without vital coverage acquired to ensure the survival of their businesses during this temporary suspension of operations.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

63. Plaintiff brings this action individually and as a class action on behalf of the Class, defined as follows:

All policyholders in the United States who purchased commercial property coverage, including business or interruption income (and extra expense) coverage from Defendant and who have been denied coverage under their policy for lost business income after being ordered by a governmental entity, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to shut down or otherwise curtail or limit in any way their business operations.

64. Excluded from the Class are Defendant and its officers, directors, legal representatives, successors, subsidiaries, and assigns. Also excluded from the Class are any judicial officer presiding over this matter, members of their immediate family, and members of their staff.

65. The members of the Class are so numerous and geographically dispersed that joinder would be impracticable. Class members are readily identifiable from information and records in Defendant's possession, custody, or control.

66. There is a well-defined community of interest in the common questions of law and fact affecting the Class members. These common legal and factual questions include, but are not limited to:

- a. whether Defendant owed coverage to Plaintiff and the Class;
- b. whether any exclusions to coverage apply;
- c. whether Plaintiff and members of the Class are entitled to damages and, if so, the measure of such damages; and
- d. whether Plaintiff and members of the Class are entitled to equitable, declaratory and/or other relief, and if so, the nature of such relief.

67. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the absent class members and have a common origin and basis. Plaintiff and absent Class members are all injured by Defendant's refusal to afford the purchased coverage. Plaintiff's claims arise from the same practices and course of conduct giving rise to the claims of the absent Class members and are based on the same legal theories, namely the refusal to provide insurance coverage for the loss. If prosecuted individually, the claims of each Class member would necessarily rely upon the same material facts and legal theories and seek the same relief. Plaintiff's claims arise from the same practices and course of conduct that give rise to the other Class members' claims and are based on the same legal theories.

68. Plaintiff will fully and adequately assert and protect the interests of the absent Class members and has retained Class counsel who are experienced and qualified in prosecuting class

action cases similar to this one. Neither Plaintiff nor Plaintiff's attorneys has any interests contrary to or conflicting with the interests of absent Class members.

69. The questions of law and fact common to all Class members predominate over any questions affecting only individual class members.

70. A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this lawsuit because individual litigation of the absent Class members' claims is economically infeasible and procedurally impracticable. Class members share the same factual and legal issues and litigating the claims together will prevent varying, inconsistent, or contradictory judgments, and will prevent delay and expense to all parties and the court system through litigating multiple trials on the same legal and factual issues. Class treatment will also permit Class members to litigate their claims where it would otherwise be too expensive or inefficient to do so. Plaintiff knows of no difficulties in managing this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

71. Additionally, the prosecution of separate actions by individual Class members would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual Class members that would establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendant. Such individual actions would create a risk of adjudications that would be dispositive of the interests of other Class members and impair their interests. Defendant, through its uniform conduct, acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class as a whole, making declaratory relief appropriate to the Class as a whole.

COUNT I
DECLARATORY RELIEF

72. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth above.

73. The Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201(a), provides that in “a case of actual controversy within its jurisdiction . . . any court of the United States . . . may declare the rights and other legal relations of any interested party seeking such declaration, whether or not further relief is or could be sought.” 28 U.S.C. § 2201(a).

74. An actual controversy has arisen between Plaintiff and the Defendant as to the rights, duties, responsibilities and obligations of the parties in that Plaintiff contends and Defendant disputes and denies that the Policy provides coverage to Plaintiff for any current and future lost business income, subject to the limit of liability, for the temporary suspension of Plaintiff’s operations.

75. The Policy provides coverage for “direct physical loss of or damage to” the Covered Property.

76. Plaintiff’s loss of use, loss of access, and loss of functionality of the Covered Property when government shutdown orders made it unlawful for Plaintiff to fully access, use, and operate its business at the Covered Property, constitutes a direct physical loss of the Covered Property under the Policy. Alternatively, the ubiquitous nature of the COVID-19 virus caused direct physical loss of or damage to the Covered Property by preventing Plaintiff from using the Covered Property for its intended purpose.

77. Additionally, the government shutdown orders or, alternatively, the ubiquitous nature of the COVID-19 virus, caused direct physical loss of or damage to property other than the Covered Property, thereby invoking coverage under the Policy’s “Civil Authority” provision for “actual loss of Business or Rental Income . . . caused by action of civil authority that prohibits access to the described premises.”

78. Further, the government orders or, alternatively, the ubiquitous nature of the COVID-19 virus, caused direct physical loss of or damage to Plaintiff's "dependent property" or "secondary dependent property," thereby invoking coverage under the Policy's "Business Income From Dependent Properties" provision, which provides for the payment of lost Business Income/Extra Expenses when a Covered Cause of Loss damages "dependent property" or "secondary dependent property."

79. Plaintiff suffered lost Business Income as a result of damage to "dependent property" or "secondary dependent property" by a Covered Cause of Loss, within the meaning of the Policy. Plaintiff procures exotic art, special order and high-end luxury furnishings from local boutiques and international suppliers for her showrooms and interior design customers. Plaintiff was unable to complete existing orders / projects and has not been able to bid new jobs or supply new customers. Plaintiff's supply chain has experienced significant interruption and has caused Plaintiff to lose substantial business income.

80. The Policy constitutes a valid and binding agreement obligating the Defendant to indemnify Plaintiff for covered losses. Plaintiff has substantially performed or otherwise satisfied all conditions precedent to bringing this action and obtaining coverage pursuant to the Policy and applicable law, or alternatively, Plaintiff has been excused from performance by Defendant's acts, representations, conduct, or omissions.

81. Defendant has failed to indemnify Plaintiff for its covered losses.

82. No exclusion to coverage, including the Virus Exclusion, applies.

83. Plaintiff has suffered and continues to suffer a covered loss under the Policy.

84. Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the Class, seeks a Declaratory Judgment that there is coverage for its business interruption losses under the Policy.

COUNT II
BREACH OF CONTRACT

85. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation set forth above.

86. Plaintiff and Defendant entered into a contract of insurance; here, the Policy.

87. The Class members entered into a substantially identical policy with Defendant.

88. Under the Policy, Defendant agreed to indemnify Plaintiff and the Class for their business losses as a result of a covered loss.

89. Plaintiff and the Class members suffered a covered loss under the Policy.

90. Plaintiff and the Class members timely submitted a notice of claim and satisfied all conditions precedent to receiving the coverage it purchased from Defendant.

91. Defendant breached its contract with Plaintiff and the Class members by failing and refusing to provide the contracted for coverage.

92. Defendant's breach of the contract has caused Plaintiff and the Class to suffer damages in the amount of their unreimbursed business losses or their limits of liability, whichever is lower.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff herein prays as follows:

1) For a declaration that there is coverage under the Policy for the interruption to Plaintiff's business and the associated business income lost therefrom;

2) For damages, costs and attorney's fees; and

3) For such other relief as the Court may deem proper.

TRIAL BY JURY IS DEMANDED

Date: June 15, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gary F. Lynch

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