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7 *Attorneys for Plaintiffs Emmanuel Cornet,*
Justine De Caires, Grae Kindel, Alexis Camacho,
 8 *Jessica Pan, Emily Kim, Miguel Barreto,*
 9 *and Brett Menzies Folkins, on behalf of*
themselves and all others similarly situated

10
 11 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
 12 **SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

13 Case No. 3:22-cv-06857

14 EMMANUEL CORNET, JUSTINE DE
 CAIRES, GRAE KINDEL, ALEXIS
 15 CAMACHO, JESSICA PAN, EMILY KIM,
 MIGUEL BARRETO, and BRETT MENZIES
 16 FOLKINS, on behalf of themselves and all
 others similarly situated,

17
 18 Plaintiffs,

19 v.

20 TWITTER, INC.

21
 22 Defendant.

**SECOND AMENDED CLASS ACTION
 COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND**

1. BREACH OF CONTRACT
2. BREACH OF CONTRACT (THIRD-PARTY BENEFICIARY)
3. PROMISSORY ESTOPPEL
4. VIOLATION OF WARN ACT (29 U.S.C. §§ 2101 *ET SEQ.*)
5. VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA WARN ACT (CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 1400 *ET SEQ.*)
6. FAILURE TO PAY ALL WAGES AND BENEFITS IMMEDIATELY UPON TERMINATION (CAL. LAB. CODE §§ 201, 203 AND 227.3)
7. DECLARATORY JUDGMENT ACT, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-02

1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 1. Plaintiffs Emmanuel Cornet, Justine De Caires, Grae Kindel, Alexis Camacho,
3 Jessica Pan, Emily Kim, Miguel Barreto, and Brett Menzies Folkins file this Second Amended
4 Class Action Complaint against Defendant Twitter, Inc. (“Twitter”), on their own behalf and on
5 behalf of thousands of other Twitter employees, challenging the company’s breach of contract
6 with its workforce regarding benefits and severance, asserting claims of promissory estoppel,
7 challenging the company’s violation of the federal Worker Adjustment and Retraining
8 Notification Act, 29 U.S.C. § 2101 *et seq.* (the “WARN Act”), and the California WARN Act,
9 Cal. Lab. Code § 1400 *et seq.* (the “California WARN Act”), as well as failure to provide
10 employees’ final pay and benefits on the same day that they were terminated, in violation of the
11 California Labor Code §§ 201, 203, and 227.3.
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13 2. As described further below, multi-billionaire Elon Musk recently purchased
14 Twitter and immediately began laying off more than half of its workforce. Twitter employees
15 had been promised that, should layoffs occur after the sale of the company, they would be
16 entitled to the same benefits and severance that employees had previously received. However,
17 following Musk’s purchase of the company, Twitter reneged on this agreement.

18 3. In addition, Twitter began laying off employees without providing all of them
19 with the required notice under the federal and California WARN Acts.

20 4. Twitter employees had also been promised that, following the sale of the
21 company, they could continue working remotely for at least a year. However, after Musk’s
22 purchase of the company, he ordered that remaining employees would have to return to working
23 at the office (with few exceptions).

24 5. Twitter initially stated that laid off employees would receive severance
25 agreements the week of November 7, 2022. Plaintiffs are very concerned that employees will be
26

1 asked to sign away their rights without notice that they have legal claims to additional benefits
2 and severance and that these legal claims have already been filed on their behalf.

3 6. Indeed, another company owned by Elon Musk, Tesla, recently engaged in mass
4 layoffs without notice. That company attempted to obtain releases from laid off employees
5 without informing them of their rights under the federal or California WARN Acts. A federal
6 court subsequently ordered the company to provide employees notice of the claims that had been
7 filed on their behalf. See Lynch v. Tesla, Inc., 2022 WL 42952953, at *6 (W.D. Tex. Sept. 16,
8 2022).

9
10 7. Plaintiffs file this action, bringing claims of breach of contract, promissory
11 estoppel, and violation of the federal and California WARN Acts, as well as violations of the
12 California Labor Code §§ 201, 203, and 227.3, and seek to ensure that Twitter not solicit releases
13 of claims of any employees without informing them of the pendency of this action and their right
14 to pursue these claims.

15 8. Plaintiffs seek immediate injunctive relief, as well as a declaratory judgment
16 under the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-02, on behalf of themselves and all
17 similarly situated employees.

18 **II. PARTIES**

19 9. Plaintiff Emmanuel Cornet is an adult resident of San Francisco, California,
20 where he worked for Twitter from January 2021 until his layoff on November 1, 2022.

21 10. Plaintiff Justine De Caires is an adult resident of San Francisco, California, where
22 they have worked as an employee of Twitter assigned to Twitter's San Francisco office. On
23 November 4, 2022, Twitter informed Plaintiff De Caires that they have been laid off effective,
24 January 4, 2023.

25 11. Plaintiff Grae Kindel is an adult resident of Medford, Massachusetts, where they
26 have worked as an employee of Twitter assigned to Twitter's office in Cambridge,
27

1 Massachusetts. On November 4, 2022, Twitter informed Plaintiff Kindel that they have been laid
2 off effective January 4, 2023.

3 12. Plaintiff Alexis Camacho is an adult resident of Honolulu, Hawaii, where they
4 have worked as an employee of Twitter assigned to Twitter’s headquarters in San Francisco,
5 California. On November 18, 2022, Twitter informed Plaintiff Camacho that they would be
6 separated from the company effective January 20, 2023.

7 13. Plaintiff Jessica Pan is an adult resident of Alameda, California, where she has
8 worked as an employee of Twitter assigned to Twitter’s San Francisco office. On November 4,
9 2022, Twitter informed Plaintiff Pan that she has been laid off effective January 4, 2023.

10 14. Plaintiff Emily Kim is an adult resident of Seattle, Washington, where she has
11 worked as an employee of Twitter assigned to Twitter’s Seattle office. On November 4, 2022,
12 Twitter informed Plaintiff Kim that she has been laid off effective January 4, 2023. Plaintiff Kim
13 opted out of Twitter’s arbitration agreement.

14 15. Plaintiff Miguel Barreto is an adult resident of Brooklyn, New York, where he has
15 worked as an employee of Twitter assigned to Twitter’s New York office. On November 4, 2022,
16 Twitter informed Plaintiff Barreto that he has been laid off effective February 4, 2023. Plaintiff
17 Barreto opted out of Twitter’s arbitration agreement.

18 16. Plaintiff Brett Menzies Folkins is an adult resident of Seattle, Washington, where
19 he has worked as an employee of Twitter assigned to Twitter’s Seattle office. On November 16,
20 2022, Plaintiff Folkins was asked to decide if he agreed to Elon Musk’s ultimatum that any
21 remaining employees would have to “be extremely hardcore”, including “working long hours at
22 high intensity.” He and the remaining employees still working for Twitter were given until 5:00
23 P.M. Eastern time the following day, November 17, 2022, to click “yes” on a link to agree to this
24 vision Musk stated for “Twitter 2.0.” Plaintiff Folkins did not click yes. He was later informed
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1 that he would be separated from the company effective January 20, 2023. Plaintiff Folkins opted
2 out of Twitter’s arbitration agreement.

3 17. Plaintiffs bring this lawsuit as a Rule 23 class action on behalf of all affected
4 Twitter employees across the United States who have lost their jobs as a result of Twitter’s mass
5 layoffs.

6 18. Defendant Twitter, Inc. (“Twitter”) is a Delaware corporation, headquartered in
7 San Francisco, California.

8 **III. JURISDICTION**

9 19. This Court has jurisdiction over this proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and
10 29 U.S.C. § 2104(a)(5).

11 20. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1367 over Plaintiffs’
12 state law claims, because those claims derive from a common nucleus of operative facts with
13 Plaintiffs’ federal claims.

14 21. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Twitter, as it is headquartered in this
15 District and conducts substantial business operations in this District.

16 **IV. STATEMENT OF FACTS**

17 22. Twitter is a social media company that employs thousands of people across the
18 United States.

19 23. In April 2022, it was announced that multi-billionaire Elon Musk would be
20 purchasing the company.

21 24. Following this announcement, many employees raised concerns regarding the
22 company’s policies following this anticipated acquisition, including concerns of possible mass
23 layoffs.

24 25. In order to allay employees’ concerns and try to prevent them from leaving
25 Twitter to work at other companies, Twitter made various promises to employees.
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1 and Frustration Reign as Elon Musk Cuts Half of Twitter’s Staff, NEW YORK TIMES (November
2 4, 2022), <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/04/technology/elon-musk-twitter-layoffs.html>;
3 Sheila Dang, Paresh Dave and Hyunjoo Jin, After Elon Musk’s ultimatum, Twitter employees
4 start exiting, Reuters (November 18, 2022), [https://www.reuters.com/technology/after-elon-](https://www.reuters.com/technology/after-elon-musks-ultimatum-twitter-employees-start-exiting-2022-11-18/)
5 [musks-ultimatum-twitter-employees-start-exiting-2022-11-18/](https://www.reuters.com/technology/after-elon-musks-ultimatum-twitter-employees-start-exiting-2022-11-18/).

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7 34. Following his purchase of the company, Musk also announced that he was ending
8 Twitter’s remote work policy and that employees who were not laid off would need to begin
9 working at company offices, with few exceptions.

10 35. Twitter did not give 60 days’ advance written notice to all employees who were
11 being laid off, as required by the federal WARN Act, and for employees in California, the
12 California WARN Act. Nor were all affected employees given pay in substitution for federal or
13 California or WARN Act notice.

14 36. For example, Plaintiff Cornet was one of the first employees to be let go as part of
15 the mass layoff, on November 1, 2022. Twitter did not provide 60 days advance written notice
16 (or any advance notice at all) to Plaintiff Cornet regarding his layoff. Nor did Twitter offer pay to
17 Plaintiff Cornet in lieu of the notice.

18 37. Since Musk’s purchase of the company, other employees have also been laid off
19 without receiving 60 days (or any) advance written notice or any offer of pay in lieu of the notice.

20 38. In addition, Twitter did not provide full final pay, benefits, and expense
21 reimbursement to some California employees, such as Cornet, on their last day of employment,
22 as required by the California Labor Code.

23 39. For a number of employees who were laid off, Twitter did provide 60 days’ notice,
24 and it informed them that they would receive severance pay in the amount of one month’s pay.
25 Plaintiffs De Caires, Kindel, Pan, Kim, and Barreto were informed they would receive one
26 month’s pay as severance following their termination date on January 4, 2023, and Plaintiffs
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1 Camacho and Folkins were informed they would receive one month's pay following their
2 separation date of January 20, 2023.

3 40. However, Twitter's previous policy had provided for greater severance pay and
4 benefits for laid off employees. The previous policy had provided for at least two months' pay
5 (or more, depending on the employee's length of service), bonus plan compensation, cash value
6 of equity that would have vested within three months from the separation date, and a cash
7 contribution for health care continuation.
8

9 41. While Musk attempted to claim that the pay employees would receive during the
10 two months between their notification of layoff and their final separation date was severance pay,
11 this pay is not severance pay. Twitter appears to have offered this period of payment to some
12 employees (including Plaintiffs De Caires, Kindel, Camacho, Pam, Kim, Barreto, and Folkins) in
13 an attempt to comply with the federal or California WARN Act.

14 42. Employees (including Plaintiffs Cornet, De Caires, Kindel, Camacho, Pam, Kim,
15 Barreto, and Folkins) had reasonably relied to their detriment on Twitter's earlier promise that
16 employees subject to layoff after Musk's purchase of the company would receive at least as
17 favorable severance pay and benefits as they would have received prior to his purchase of the
18 company. Based on that promise, they did not seek or obtain employment elsewhere during the
19 uncertain time period prior to Musk's purchase of the company.

20 43. Likewise, employees who were not laid off following Musk's purchase of the
21 company also reasonably relied to their detriment on Twitter's earlier promise that they could
22 continue such benefits as working remotely after his purchase of the company. Plaintiff Camacho
23 reported to the San Francisco office but resided in Honolulu, Hawaii, which was possible based
24 upon Twitter's allowance for remote work. Employees such as Camacho were harmed based
25 upon Musk's sudden abolition of that remote work policy and were also harmed due to having
26 passed up the opportunity to search for other jobs when the job market was more favorable.
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1 44. Like many employees who were subject to layoffs shortly after Musk’s purchase
2 of the company, Plaintiffs De Caires, Pan, Kindel, Kim, and Barreto were locked out of their
3 company accounts on November 3, 2022, and then provided with notice on November 4, 2022,
4 that they were being laid off as of January 4, 2023. The documentation that Twitter provided to
5 these Plaintiffs stated that their severance package would only consist of a month’s base pay
6 following their termination, and that they would only receive the severance if they signed a
7 release of all claims.
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9 45. Twitter initially stated that it would distribute these releases to laid off employees
10 beginning the week of November 7, 2022. Plaintiffs are concerned that, absent court intervention,
11 Twitter will seek releases from laid off employees without informing them of their rights,
12 Twitter’s contractual, promissory, and statutory obligations, or the pendency of this case.
13 Plaintiffs therefore seek immediate relief to ensure that Twitter does not violate the law and then
14 seek to obtain releases from its thousands of employees who do not have notice of their rights or
15 the pendency of the claims brought here on their behalf.

16 46. Indeed, Elon Musk engaged in similar behavior with respect to mass layoffs
17 conducted earlier this year at another company he owns, Tesla. In the summer of 2022, Tesla
18 engaged in mass layoffs without providing advanced written notice as required by the federal and
19 California WARN Acts. Former Tesla employees brought a suit against Tesla for these violations.
20 See Lynch et al. v. Tesla, Inc., Civ. Act. No., 1:22-cv-00597-RP (W.D. Tex.). Tesla sought to
21 obtain full releases of all federal and California WARN Act claims in exchange for small
22 severance payments for less than the employees were legally entitled to, as alleged in the federal
23 lawsuit. (Tesla offered one or two weeks’ severance pay, rather than the 60 days’ pay required to
24 satisfy the federal and California WARN Acts). See Lynch, 2022 WL 4295295, at *1-4.) A
25 federal court ruled that Tesla’s conduct was “misleading because [the separation agreements] fail
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1 to inform potential class members of this lawsuit and the rights that they are potentially giving up
2 under the WARN Act.” Id. at *4.

3 47. In addition to the layoffs that Twitter began at the beginning of November, shortly
4 after Musk took control of the company, Twitter continued its layoffs for several weeks.

5 48. Many employees, including Plaintiff Folkins, were laid off on or about November
6 18, 2022, following Musk’s further attempt to cut the workforce by placing unreasonable
7 demands on employees.

8 49. It was widely reported that Musk was requiring some employees to work 12 hour
9 shifts, 7 days a week. Some employees were told: “The expectation is literally to work 24/7 to
10 get this out.” Some employees slept in Twitter offices while being required to work around the
11 clock. Grace Dean, BUSINESS INSIDER, Twitter staff have been told to work 84-hour weeks and
12 managers slept at the office over the weekend as they scramble to meet Elon Musk’s Tight
13 deadlines, reports say, (Nov. 1, 2022), [https://www.businessinsider.com/elon-musk-twitter-staff-](https://www.businessinsider.com/elon-musk-twitter-staff-layoffs-long-hours-shifts-work-jobs-2022-11)
14 [layoffs-long-hours-shifts-work-jobs-2022-11](https://www.businessinsider.com/elon-musk-twitter-staff-layoffs-long-hours-shifts-work-jobs-2022-11).

15
16 50. Then, on November 16, 2022, Musk sent the following message to remaining
17 Twitter employees:

18
19 Going forward, to build a breakthrough Twitter 2.0 and succeed in an increasingly
20 competitive world, we will need to be extremely hardcore. This will mean working long
21 hours at high intensity. Only exceptional performance will constitute a passing grade.

22 Twitter will also be much more engineering-driven. Design and product management will
23 still be very important and report to me, but those writing great code will constitute the
24 majority of our team and have the greatest sway. At its heart, Twitter is a software and
25 servers company, so I think this makes sense.

26 If you are sure that you want to be part of the new Twitter, please click yes on the link
27 below:

28 [LINK]

1 Anyone who has not done so by 5pm ET tomorrow (Thursday) will receive three months
2 of severance.

3 Whatever decision you make, thank you for your efforts to make Twitter successful.

4 Elon

5 51. This ultimatum from Musk was a furtherance of his plan to lay off a large portion
6 of Twitter's workforce. This ultimatum was intended to shed many more workers. Reportedly,
7 more than half of Twitter's remaining employees (as many as 2,000 or more employees) did not
8 click "yes" on the link provided. Grace Dean, BUSINESS INSIDER, Elon Musk's 'hardcore' work
9 ultimatum was a deliberate plan to push Twitter employees out after he was warned against
10 cutting more than 50% of staff (November 22, 2022), [https://www.businessinsider.com/elon-](https://www.businessinsider.com/elon-musk-twitter-layoffs-hardcore-ultimatum-email-fire-staff-resign-2022-11)
11 [musk-twitter-layoffs-hardcore-ultimatum-email-fire-staff-resign-2022-11](https://www.businessinsider.com/elon-musk-twitter-layoffs-hardcore-ultimatum-email-fire-staff-resign-2022-11) (reporting that "Elon
12 Musk actually wanted to lay off significantly more than half of Twitter's workforce" but "he
13 agreed to laying off just 50% to start"). This unreasonable ultimatum was expected to, and did,
14 result in further layoffs.

15 52. Plaintiff Folkins did not click "yes" on the link provided on Musk's ultimatum.
16 He was thereafter informed that his employment would end on January 20, 2023.

17 53. Plaintiff Camacho (who by that point had been placed on administrative leave and
18 did not have access to their Twitter email account) also did not click "yes". They were likewise
19 thereafter informed that their employment would end on January 20, 2023.

20 54. Employees who were notified that their employment would end as a result of not
21 having clicked "yes" on the link (including Plaintiffs Folkins and Camacho) were part of
22 Twitter's mass layoffs and are thus entitled to protections of the federal and California WARN
23 Acts, as well as severance pay and benefits they were promised, including severance pay and
24 benefits that had been promised to employees prior to Musk's acquisition of the company.
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1 common law doctrines, the pendency of this case filed on their behalf, and Plaintiffs' counsel's
2 contact information.

3 *

4 **JURY DEMAND**

5 Plaintiffs request a trial by jury on their claims.

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8 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request that this Court enter the following relief:

- 9 a. Declare and find that the Defendant is liable to Plaintiffs and other similarly situated
10 Twitter employees as the result of Defendant's breach of its contracts with its
11 employees;
- 12 b. Declare and find that the Defendant is liable to Plaintiffs and other and other similarly
13 situated Twitter employees as third-party beneficiaries, as the result of Defendant's
14 breach of its merger agreement;
- 15 c. Declare and find that the Defendant is liable to Plaintiffs and other and other similarly
16 situated Twitter employees under the doctrine of promissory estoppel;
- 17 d. Declare and find that the Defendant has violated the federal WARN Act, 29 U.S.C. §
18 2101 *et seq.* and the California WARN Act, Cal. Lab. Code §§ 1400 *et seq.*
- 19 e. Declare and find that the Defendant has violated the California Labor code §§ 201,
20 203, and 227.3;
- 21 f. Certify this case as a class action;
- 22 g. Enter declaratory relief and an injunction enjoining Twitter from seeking releases of
23 claims asserted herein from employees without first informing them of their rights
24 under the law, the pendency of this lawsuit, and contact information for Plaintiffs'
25 counsel;
- 26 h. Award compensatory damages, in an amount according to proof;
- 27

- 1 i. Award pre- and post-judgment interest;
2 j. Award reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and expenses; and
3 k. Award any other relief to which the Plaintiffs and other Twitter employees may be
4 entitled.
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7 Respectfully submitted,

8 EMMANUEL CORNET, JUSTINE DE CAIRES,
9 GRAE KINDEL, ALEXIS CAMACHO, JESSICA
10 PAN, EMILY KIM, MIGUEL BARRETO, and
11 BRETT MENZIES FOLKINS, on behalf of
12 themselves and all others similarly situated,

13 By their attorneys,

14 /s/ Shannon Liss-Riordan
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22 Dated: December 9, 2022
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Shannon Liss-Riordan, hereby certify that a true and accurate copy of this document was served on counsel for Defendant Twitter, Inc. via the CM/ECF system on December 9, 2022.

/s/ Shannon Liss-Riordan
Shannon Liss-Riordan

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