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7			
8	SUPERIOR COURT OF	THE STATE OF	CALIFORNIA
9		NTY OF LOS ANG	
10	FRANKLIN ARMORY, INC., et al.,	Case No.: 20STC	
11			
12	Petitioners-Plaintiffs,	_	purposes to the Honorable y; Department 32]
13	V.	SEPARATE STA	ATEMENT OF
14	CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, et al.,		MATERIAL FACTS IN TO DEFENDANTS'
15	·	MOTION FOR	SUMMARY
16	Respondents-Defendants.	ADJUDICATIO	ON .
17		Hearing Date: Hearing Time:	July 10, 2024 8:30 a.m.
18		Department:	32
19		Judge:	Hon. Daniel S. Murphy
20		Action Filed: M	ay 27, 2020
21		FPC Date: Au	ugust 8, 2024 ugust 20, 2024
22		That Bate.	ugust 20, 2024
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In accordance with California Rule of Court 3.1350 and California Code of Civil Procedure section 437c, Petitioner-Plaintiff Franklin Armory, Inc., submits the following Response to Defendants' Separate Statement of Undisputed Material Facts in support of their Motion for Summary Adjudication.

ISSUE NO. 1 - DEFENDANTS ARE ENTITLED TO SUMMARY JUDGMENT

AS TO THE THIRD ALLEGED CAUSE OF ACTION FOR TORTIOUS

INTERFERENCE WITH CONTRACTUAL RELATIONS

Moving Party's Undisputed Material Facts and Alleged Supporting Evidence	Opposing Party's Response and Supporting Evidence
1. The Second Amended Complaint (SAC) alleges that on October 24, 2019, plaintiff sent a letter to former Attorney General Becerra, asserting that a defect in the Department of Justice (Department) online system for processing transfers of firearms rendered dealers unable to transfer its recently announced Title 1 firearm to its customers.	1. Undisputed.
(SAC, ¶ 69, Ex. C.)	
2. Jay Jacobson, President and an owner of Franklin Armory, testified that the Title 1 was designed with a 16 inch barrel and a padded buffer tube instead of a stock and without a stock, it would not be intended to be fired from the shoulder and thus not a rifle.	2. Undisputed.
(Jacobson Dep. p. 9:23-10:4, 21:12-15, 103:4-24, Ex. A to Lake Dec.)	
3. The Title 1 was a long gun. "Long gun" means any firearm that is not a handgun or a machine gun. (SAC, ¶¶ 23-24, Pen. Code, § 16865.)	3. Disputed as to accuracy insofar that the Franklin Armory, Inc. ("FAI") model Title 1 "is" a long gun, not "was" a long gun. Otherwise, undisputed.
4. On August 6, 2020, the legislature passed SB 118 which included amending the Penal Code Section 30515 definition of an assault weapon to add a "centerfire firearm that is not a rifle, pistol, or shotgun" that includes components in three categories. (Pen. Code, § 30515 (a)(9)-(11).) With this change in definition, the Title 1 was rendered a banned assault weapon.	4. Undisputed that on August 6, 2020, the legislature passed Senate Bill 118, which included amending the Penal Code section 30515 definition of an assault weapon to add a "centerfire firearm that is not a rifle, pistol, or shotgun" that includes components in three categories. Otherwise, disputed.
(SAC, ¶ 112, Mendoza Dec. i-1 11.)	With the change in definition pursuant to Penal Code section 30515, the FAI Title 1 model firearm was classified as an "assault weapon" under California law, the sale and transfer of such are regulated in the same manner as other "assault

1		weapons" under a more restrictive regulatory
$_{2}$		scheme but not "banned."
3 4		(Pen. Code, § 30515 (a)(9)-(11); Req. Jud. Ntc., Ex. 1 [Sen. B. 118, 2019-2020 Reg. Sess. (Cal. 2020)], pp. 60-64, Ex. 3 [Sen. B. 118, 2019-2020 Reg. Sess. (Cal. 2020) Bill History.)
5	5. The online system for the submission of	5. Undisputed.
6	information concerning the sale and transfer of firearms is known as the Dealer Record of Sale	
7	Entry System (DES) The DES is a web-based application used by California firearms dealers to	
8	submit firearm background checks to the Department to determine if an individual is	
9	eligible to purchase, loan, or transfer a handgun, long gun, and ammunition.	
10	(Cal. Code Regs., tit. 11, § 4200; citing Pen.	
11	Code, § 28205, Mendoza Dec., ¶ 3.)	
12	6. The alleged defect in the DES was that the gun type drop-down menu for long guns that a dealer	6. Disputed.
13	would select from while processing a transfer included only options for rifle, shotgun, or	The alleged defect within the DES is that its design failed to permit the transfer of the FAI
14	rifle/shotgun combination. Plaintiff alleges that since the Title 1 was not a "rifle" under the	model Title 1 firearm. This design flaw was made apparent because the gun-type drop-down menu
15	statutory definition, a dealer could not process a Title 1 for transfer unless the DES was modified	for long guns from which a dealer would select while processing a transfer was limited to include
16	to add an "other" option to this drop-down menu.	only options for rifle, shotgun, or rifle/shotgun combination, and not other types of firearms such
17	(SAC, ¶¶ 58 69, Ex C)j. jacobo	as the FAI model Title 1 firearm.
18		Plaintiff does not allege that since the Title 1 was not a "rifle" under the statutory definition, a
19 20		dealer could not process a Title 1 for transfer unless the DES was modified to add an "other" option to this drop-down menu. Modifying the DES to add an "other" option was but one way
21		the Defendants could correct the issue to allow the DES to facilitate the transfer of the FAI model Title 1.
22		
23		(SAC, ¶¶ 58 69, Ex C; Davis Decl., Ex. 4 [J. Davis Letter to Attorney General X. Becerra (Oct. 24, 2019)], p. 3.)
24	7. The SAC does not identify any statute or other	7. Disputed.
25	authority that requires that a firearm being processed for transfer in the DES fit the statutory	Under California Code of Regulations, title 11, §
26 27	definition of "rifle" in order to be processed as such.	4210, subdivision (b)(l)(6), firearm dealers are prohibited from entering inaccurate information within the system. Because dealers cannot
$\begin{bmatrix} 27 \\ 28 \end{bmatrix}$	(SAC.)	accurately submit the required information through the DES for "long guns" that "firearms

1 2		with an undefined subtype," they are prohibited from processing and accepting applications from purchasers of said firearms. (Pen. Code, § 28215,
3		subd. (c).)
4		(SAC at ¶¶ 61-62.)
5	8. Mr. Jacobson testified that there was no mention of any issue with the DES in the	8. Disputed.
6	Sacramento action filed by Franklin Armory against the State and former Attorney General	Jay Jacobson testified that he "did not believe there is" any mention of any issue with the DES
7	Becerra regarding the Title 1 and that he was unaware of any issue with the DES during that	in any of the complaints for the Sacramento action, which sought only declaratory relief
8	time. He testified that during the time the Sacramento action was pending, no one ever	establishing that the Title 1 was not an "assault weapon" under California law, as it was unknown
9	Expressed concern that the Title 1 could not be processed in the DES because 1t was not a rifle.	to Jay Jacobson until a month after the Sacramento matter was dismissed.
10	(Jacobson Dep. pp. 85:25-86:19, 87:8-88:7, 94:5-95:7, 96:10-19, 97:6-19.)	(Lake Decl, Ex. A [J. Jacobson Dep. (Nov. 14, 2023)], pp. 85:25-86:19, 87:8-88:7, 94:5-95:7,
11	35.7, 36.16 13, 37.6 13.9	96:10-19, 97:6-19.)
12	9. Mr. Jacobson testified as to his understanding that stockless firearms were processed in the DES	9. Disputed.
13	as rifles or shotguns respectively even though they did not meet the statutory definition for rifle	Jay Jacobson testified that he was informed by Blake Graham that Mossberg Cruisers had been
14	or shotgun.	processed through the DES as shotguns, even though Mossberg Cruisers do not have a stock.
15	(Jacobson Dep. pp. 40:16-25, 50:19-51:1, 57:6-58:10, 56:8-25, 60:21-61:8.)	He further testified that it would be fair to say, based on anecdotal information he had received
16		from some dealers, that some lower receivers, barreled receivers, and pistol grip shotguns had
17		been processed through the DES as either rifles or shotguns.
18 19		This was limited, however, to only certain
20		firearms using a specific method involving the use of the "Comment" section within the DES.
21		The DOJ remained silent as to its position on whether the FAI Title 1 model firearms could be
22		sold in California and how, in spite of Plaintiff's <i>repeated</i> requests for guidance.
23		(Lake Decl., Ex. A [J. Jacobson Dep. (Nov. 14, 2023)], pp. 40:16-25, 50:19-51:1, 57:6-58:10,
24		56:8-25, 60:21-61:8; Barvir Decl., Ex. 16 [J. Jacobson Dep. (Nov. 14, 2023), pp. 40:16-25,
25		45:8-25 50:19-51:1, 57:6-58:10, 56:8-25, 60:21-61:8; Jacobson Decl., ¶¶ 8-9 & Ex. 8 [Emails
26		between Jay Jacobson and firearms.bureau@doj.ca.gov (Oct. 8, 2019 – Oct.
27		21, 2019)]; Davis Decl., Ex. 4 [Letter from Jason A. Davis to Xavier Becerra (Oct. 24, 2019)];
28		David Decl., Ex. 5 [Emails between Jason A. Davis and Robert Wilson & P. Patty Li (Nov. 15,

1 2 3 4 5		2019-Nov. 26, 2019)]; Davis Decl., Ex. 6 [Email from Jason A. Davis, Counsel for Franklin Armory, Inc., to Luis Lopez, Robert Wilson, and Xavier Becerra, California Department of Justice (March 30, 2020)]); Barvir Decl., Ex. 11 [Mendoza Dep. (June 7, 2024)], p. 141:1-25; Barvir Decl., Ex. 16 [J. Jacobson Dep. (Nov. 14, 2023)], p. 176:4-21; Mendoza Decl., ¶10.)
6	10. Mr. Jacobson testified that the process for a California resident to purchase a Franklin Armory	10. Undisputed as to FAI products that are ordered online. Otherwise, disputed.
7	firearm would first require the person to purchase the firearm paying the full price. Franklin Armory	If purchased in-store, no law requires the
8	would then obtain an online verification number from the Department which would be provided to	purchases to be paid in full before beginning the background check; the balance may be paid upon
9	the California licensed dealer when shipping the firearm to them. The purchaser then would go into the dealer and provide background	pickup following the 10-day waiting period mandated by Penal Code § 26815.
10	information for the background check that would then be transmitted to the Department.	
11	(Jacobson Dep. p. 154:24-156:18; see also SAC,	
12	¶¶ 3, 35; Pen. Code, §§ 28050, subd. (b), 27555, subd. (a)(l).), Cal. Code Reg., tit. 11, § 4210,	
13	subd. (a)(6).)	
14	11. Plaintiff does not allege that anyone ever purchased a Title 1 firearm and attempted to	11. Undisputed.
15	process a transfer of the Title 1 in the DES through a licensed firearms dealer. Plaintiff	
16	alleges that individuals "placed deposits" for the Title 1 firearm.	
17 18	(SAC, ¶ 113.)	
19	12. Mr. Jacobson testified that the online deposits	12. Undisputed that Jay Jacobson testified that
20	were for \$5.00 and that the \$5.00 deposit was refundable and there was no requirement for any person placing a deposit to complete a purchase.	FAI did accept refundable \$5.00 deposits online. Otherwise, disputed.
21	When a person was going through the online deposit process, the purchase price of the Title 1	Deposit amounts for the FAI Title 1 model firearm were between \$5 dollars and the full
22	firearm did not appear on the screen. The price of the Title 1 was \$944.99. Mr. Jacobson testified	purchase price.
23	that plaintiff solicited submission of the deposits for the Title I without the intent of actually	(Jacobson Decl., ¶ 10 & Ex.10.)
24	shipping them at that point in time. Plaintiff stopped taking deposits on approximately August	When asked whether the full purchase price appeared on the screen, Mr. Jacobson confirmed
25	6, 2020.	that the full purchase price <i>did</i> appear on the screen when a customer went to FAI's website to
26	(Jacobson Dep. p. 116: 1-117: 17, 122:6- 123: 12, 124:11-20, 147:17-23, 130:12-131:1.)	make a deposit for the purchase of a FAI Title 1 model firearm.
27		Mr. Jacobson testified only that, "off the top of
28		his head," he believed the full purchase price of

1		the FAI Title 1 model firearm was \$944.99.
2 3 4 5		Mr. Jacobson testified that the list of deposits "demonstrates that we had these orders that we were going to ship." But he testified that they were then "unable to ship" the Title 1 firearms for which deposits were placed due to the DOJ's refusal to correct the DES defect that prohibited the processing of transfers for the FAI Title 1
		model firearm.
6 7		(Barvir Decl., Ex. 16 [Jacobson Dep. (Nov. 14, 2023), p. 116: 1-117: 17, 122:6- 123: 12, 124:11- 20, 147:17-23, 130:12-131:1; see also Jacobson
8		Decl., ¶¶ 10-11 & Ex. 10)
9 10		Objection was entered to this line of questioning as it called for a legal conclusion.
11		(Barvir Decl., Ex. 16 [J. Jacobson Dep. (Nov. 14, 2023), p. 117:6-9.)
12	13. The issue regarding the Title 1 was first	13. Undisputed.
13	brought to the attention of Bureau Director Allison Mendoza in the latter part of 2019. Prior to becoming Director in March, 2023, Director	
14	Mendoza served as Assistant Bureau Chief from	
15	2015 until March, 2023. (At some point, the title of this position changed to Assistant Bureau	
16	Director.) As the Assistant Bureau Chief/Director, she was responsible for managing	
17	all activities under the Bureau's Regulatory ranch including management and oversight of the DES.	
18	It is Director Mendoza's understanding that the three options in the "Gun Type" drop-down menu	
19	in the DES "Dealer Long Gun Sale" transaction type (rifle, rifle/shotgun combination, or shotgun)	
20	had remained the same since she became Assistant Bureau Chief in 2015.	
21	(Mendoza Dec., ¶¶ 1-3, 6-7.)	
22	14. Director Mendoza states that at some point	14. Undisputed that Director Mendoza gave this
23	after the latter part of 2019, the Bureau initiated a review to evaluate the resources required for a	testimony, otherwise disputed.
24	potential DES enhancement to add an "other" option in the "Gun Type" dropdown menu in the	Director Mendoza testified at her deposition that she didn't recall a decision that the change would
25	"Dealer Long Gun Sale" transaction type. This review required the leadership of the Bureau, in	not be made in 2020, and that she was not familiar with what specific level of priority was
26	collaboration with the Department's Application Development Bureau (ADB) and the Department's attorneys, to engage in a balancing	given to the project to add an "other" option to the dropdown menu.
27	of multiple factors and a weighing of competing	(Barvir Decl., Ex. 11 [Medoza Dep. (June 7,
28	priorities among the multiple proposed DES enhancement requests pending at that time. The	2024)], pp. 107:2-108:21; 109:9-13.)

1	Department also evaluated and weighed the	
2	allocation of available resources to such an enhancement, such as the number of personnel	
3	required, budgeting of the enhancement, and the time it would take to complete said enhancement.	
4	The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020 presented additional difficulties in being	
5	able to staff such a DES enhancement.	
6	(Mendoza Dec., ¶¶ 4-5, 8.)	
7	15. ADB undertook a review of what would be	15. Undisputed that Director Mendoza gave this
	required to add the "other" option and reported back that it would take many months to	testimony, otherwise disputed. At her deposition, Director Mendoza could recall no details about
8	implement this enhancement, and would require well over a dozen personnel, many of whom	this supposed ADB review, including simple distinctions such as whether it was in writing or
9	would have to be diverted from other projects. Implementing this DES enhancement would have	verbal.
10	required changes to many other applications and databases in addition to the DES.	Cheryle-Massaro-Florez testified that the priority given to the project was "highly critical."
11	(Mendoza Dec., ¶¶ 5, 9.)	Finally, in a letter dated January 8, 2020, sent to
12		Plaintiffs' counsel Jason Davis, the Department of Justice informed Plaintiffs that it is "currently
13		implementing the modifications necessary to
14		enable DES to process sales of the new Title 1 firearm.
15		(Barvir Decl., Ex. 11 [Mendoza Dep. (June 7,
16		2024)], pp. 138:4-22); Barvir Decl., Ex. 17 [Massaro-Florez Dep. 2 (Sept. 8, 2023)], pp.
17		36:2-13; Davis Decl., Ex. 7 [Letter from P. Patty Li to Jason A. Davis (Jan. 8, 2020)].)
18	16. ADB additionally explored the possibility of	16. Undisputed that Director Mendoza gave this
19	doing a DES enhancement that was reduced in scope, temporary, and applicable to only the Title	testimony, otherwise disputed. At her deposition, Director Mendoza could recall no details about
20	1 firearm. Under this proposal, a permanent enhancement would be implemented at a later	this supposed ADB review, including simple distinctions such as whether it was in writing or
21	date. ADB estimated such an enhancement would take a few months. ADB also advised that this	verbal. The same applied to her recollection of any supposed public safety concerns.
22	proposal would present operational difficulties in properly recording the sales and transfers of the	In a letter dated January 8, 2020 sent to Plaintiffs'
23	Title 1 firearm in the DES until a permanent	counsel Jason Davis, the Department of Justice
	enhancement was implemented. Such operational difficulties would have raised significant public	informed Plaintiffs that it is "currently implementing the modifications necessary to
24	safety concerns. These factors, including the public safety concerns, were discussed within the	enable DES to process sales of the new Title 1 firearm. While she mentioned competing
25	Department, which ultimately decided to not immediately proceed with the temporary DES	priorities as well, she also said the work would be done in "several months."
26	enhancement.	(Barvir Decl., Ex. 11 [Mendoza Dep. (June 7,
27	(Mendoza Dec., ¶¶ 5, 10.)	2024)], pp. 138:4-22; 145:15-146:1.); Davis Decl., Ex. 7 [Letter from P. Patty Li to Jason A.
28		Detail I and I and I to Justin I . I

1		Davis (Jan. 8, 2020)].)
2	17. Director Mendoza states that, after SB 118 was signed into law on August 6, 2020, which	17. Undisputed that Director Mendoza gave this testimony, otherwise disputed. At her deposition,
3 4	rendered the Title 1 Firearm a prohibited assault weapon, the Department decided, after weighing competing priorities among the multiple proposed	Director Mendoza blamed "resource needs", "funding", and "COVID" for why the "other" option was not added in 2020, before SB 118 was
5	DES enhancements pending at that time in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, to implement	enacted.
6	at a later date the DES enhancement that added an "other" option in the "Gun Type" drop-down	In a letter dated January 8, 2020, sent to Plaintiffs' counsel Jason Davis, the Department of
7	menu. This enhancement was completed on October 1, 2021.	Justice informed Plaintiffs that it is "currently implementing the modifications necessary to enable DES to process sales of the new Title 1
8	(Mendoza Dec., ¶ 11)	firearm.
9 10		(Barvir Decl., Ex. 11 [Mendoza Dep. (June 7, 2024)], p. 107:2-10); Davis Decl., Ex. 7 [Letter from P. Patty Li to Jason A. Davis (Jan. 8, 2020)].)
11	18. Cheryle Massaro-Florez, an Information	18. Disputed.
12	Technology Supervisor II who works in the Bureaus' firearms software developments unit,	Cheryle Massaro-Florez testified that she is an
13	oversaw the enhancement project to add the "other" option in the DES testified that the	Informational Technology Supervisor who works in the Bureau of Firearms' firearm software
14	project took approximately three months ending on October 1, 2021. Her entire staff of at least 12	development unit. She also testified that, within her unit, she oversaw two separate projects to
15 16	people worked on this project along with staff from the firearms application support unit and the Bureau. The project was done in four phases	make "enhancements" to the DES to add the "other" option to dropdown list.
17	including analysis, build, system integration and testing. The project required not only	She testified that the <i>first</i> enhancement was completed up to the point of beta testing and
18	modifications in the DES but several other applications and databases.	going live, but this initial enhancement was terminated for a reason unknown to her before
19	(Massaro-Florez Dep. 1 (12/28/21), Ex. to Lake Dec., pp. 18:12-21, 19:2-12, 30:19-31:10, 36:18-	going live. She testified that <i>second</i> enhancement took about three months to complete, ending on October 1, 2021.
20	37:25, 57:14-60:11, 61:13-62:5, 68:25-69:10, 91:3-92:21, 94:6-24.)	(Lake Decl., Ex. C [Massaro-Florez Dep. 1 (Dec.
21		28, 2021)], pp. 18:12-21, 19:2-12, 30:19-31:10, 36:18-37:25, 57:14-60:11, 61:13-62:5, 68:25-
22		69:10, 91:3-92:21, 94:6-24, 103:5-106:6; Barvir Decl, Ex. 18 [Massaro-Florez Dep. 2 (Sept. 8,
23		2023)], pp. 38:13-40:19, 41:18-19, 64:24-66:15; see also Barvir Decl., Ex. 14 [Leyva Dep. 2 (Jan. 11, 2024)], pp. 27:1-13, 28:17-31:13.)
25		11, 2024)], pp. 27.1-13, 20.17-31.13.)
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1 2 3	"a device, designed to be used as a weapon, from which is expelled through a barrel, a projectile by the force of an explosion or other form of combustion."	
4	(Pen. Code, § 16520; Verified SAC ¶ 22.)	
5	24. The State of California further divides the	
6	term "firearm" into two types for transfer regulation: long guns and handguns. Long	
7	guns are those firearms that do not qualify as handguns. For purposes of Penal Code section	
8	26860, "long gun" means any firearm that is not a handgun or a machinegun.	
9	(Pen. Code, § 16865.)	
10		
11	25. The FAI Title 1 model firearm is, under California's statutory definition, a "long gun."	
12	(Verified SAC, ¶¶ 23-24; Pen. Code, §	
13	16865.)	
14	26. Under the firearm classification "long gun," there are statutorily defined firearm subtypes,	
15	including but not limited to "rifles" and "shotguns."	
16		
17	(Pen. Code, § 17090 [defining "rifle"]; Pen. Code, § 17191 [defining "shotgun"].)	
18	27. The FAI Title 1 is a firearm lacking a	1
19	statutorily defined subtype, as its overall design renders the device a "firearm," but not	
20	a "handgun," "rifle," or "shotgun."	
21	(Pen. Code, §§ 16865, 16640, 16530, 17090, 17191; Verified SAC, ¶ 27; Davis Decl., Ex. 4	
22	[Letter from Jason A. Davis to Xavier Becerra (Oct. 24, 2019)], p. 3; Jacobson Decl., ¶ 2.)	
23	28. With limited exception, nearly all firearm	1
24	transfers within California must be processed through a dealer licensed by the United States,	
25	California, and the local authorities to engage in the retail sale of firearms. Upon	
26	presentation of identification by a firearm purchaser, a licensed California firearms	
27	dealer <i>shall</i> transmit the information to the Department of Justice	
28	<u>l</u>	
	10	- 1

1	(Pen. Code, §§ 26700, 27545, 2824, subd. (d).)
3	29. Under California law, every licensed firearms dealer shall keep a register or record of
4	electronic or telephonic transfer in which shall be entered certain information relating to the transfer of firearms. And "[t]he Department of
5	Justice shall prescribe the <i>form</i> of the register and the record of electronic transfer pursuant
6 7	to Section 28105." (Pen. Code, §§ 28100, 28155.)
8	30. California law requires the Attorney General
9	to permanently keep and properly file and maintain <i>all</i> information reported to the DOJ
10	pursuant to any law as to <i>firearms</i> and maintain a registry thereof.
11	Information that must be included in the registry includes the "manufacturer's name if
12	stamped on the firearm, model name or number if stamped on the firearm, and, if
13 14	applicable, the serial number, other number (if more than one serial number is stamped on the
15	firearm), caliber, <i>type of firearm</i> , if the firearm is new or used, barrel length, and color of the firearm, or, if the firearm is not a
16	handgun and does not have a serial number or any identification number or mark assigned to it, that shall be noted."
17 18	(Pen. Code, § 11106, subds. (b)(1)(A), (b)(1)(D).)
19	31. California law mandates that, for <i>all</i> firearms,
20	the register or the record of electronic transfer shall contain certain information, including but not limited to the type of fine area
21	but not limited to the type of firearm. (Penal Code § 28160, subd. (a).)
22	32. California law mandates that the DOJ <i>shall</i>
23 24	determine the <i>method</i> by which a dealer <i>submits</i> the firearm purchaser <i>information</i> to the DOJ.
25	(Pen. Code, § 28205, subd. (a).)
26	33. California law mandates that electronic
27	transfer of the required information be the sole means of transmission, though the DOJ is
28	authorized to make limited exceptions.
	11

1	(Pen. Code, § 28205, subd. (c).)
2	34. The method established by the DOJ under Penal Code section 28205, subdivision (c), for
3	the submission of purchaser information required by Penal Code section 28160,
4	subdivision (a), is known as the Dealers Record of Sale Entry System or the DES.
5	(Pen. Code, § 28205, subd. (c).); (Pen. Code,
6	§ 28155); Verified SAC ¶ 54.
7	35. The DES is a web-based application designed, developed and maintained by the DOJ and
8	used by firearm dealers to report the required information.
9	(Barvir Decl., Ex. 11 [Mendoza Dep. (Jun 7,
10	2024)], p. 24:16-25; Barvir Decl., Ex. 13 [Graham Dep. (Mar. 26, 2024)], p. 34:16-23;
11	35:17-36:6; Barvir Decl., Ex. 14 [Leyva Dep. 2 (Jan. 11, 2024)], p. 20:19-21:3; Barvir
12	Decl., Ex. 17 [Massaro-Florez Dep. 1 (Dec. 28, 2021)], p. 33:11-18.)
13	36. By law, firearm dealers are prohibited from
14	entering inaccurate information within the DES.
15	(Cal. Code Regs., title 11, § 4210, subd.
16 17	(b)(l)(6).)
18	37. By design, when the DES user is entering the designated information into the DES, they must enter information related to the gun type
19	(i.e., "long gun" or "handgun"). Upon selecting "long gun," the DES is designed to
20	and functions to populate a subset of fields. Before October 1, 2021, if a DES user
21	selected "long gun," the DES populated a list of just three options: "rifle," "rifle/shotgun,"
22	"shotgun." Before the DES user was permitted to proceed with the completion of
23	the form and submission of the required information to the DOJ, the DES required the
24	user select one of those three options. Unlike the subset of fields within the DES that
25	populate for "Color," "Purchaser Place of Birth," and Seller Place of Birth," each of
26	which contains a catch-all option for "Other," before October 1, 2021, the subset of fields
27	that populated when the DES user selected "long gun" as the "gun type," did not include
28	the option to select "Other." Thus, the DES system prevented licensed firearm dealers

1 2 3	from proceeding with the submission of information to the DOJ for the sale, transfer, or loan for certain firearms, including the FAI Title I model firearm.
4	(Davis Decl., Ex. 4 [J. Davis Letter to Attorney General X. Becerra (Oct. 24, 2019)],
5	pp. 2-3; Davis Decl., Ex. 6 [Emails between Jason A. Davis, Counsel for Franklin Armory,
6 7	Inc., and Robert Wilson & P. Patty Li (Nov. 15, 2019-Nov. 26, 2019)]; Davis Decl., Ex. 7 [Letter from P. Patty Li to Jason A. Davis (Jan. 8, 2020)].)
8	38. Without an alternative procedure for
9	submission of the purchaser and firearm information established by DOJ pursuant to
10	Penal Code section 28205, subdivision (c), the DES is the only method of submitting the
11	necessary information to permit the lawful transfer of the undefined "firearm" subtypes.
12	The DOJ has authorized DES users to process certain firearms without a defined firearm
13	subtype through the DES using the "Comment" section within the DES. The DOJ
14	remained silent as to its position on whether the FAI Title 1 model firearms could be sold
15	in California and how, in spite of Plaintiff's repeated requests for guidance.
16	(Lake Decl., Ex. A [J. Jacobson Dep. (Nov.
17	14, 2023)], pp. 40:16-25, 50:19-51:1, 57:6- 58:10, 56:8-25, 60:21-61:8; Barvir Decl., Ex.
18	16 [J. Jacobson Dep. (Nov. 14, 2023), pp. 40:16-25, 45:8-25 50:19-51:1, 57:6-58:10,
19	56:8-25, 60:21-61:8; Barvir Decl., Ex. 11 [Mendoza Dep. (June 7, 2024), p. 141:1-25;
20 21	Mendoza Decl., ¶10.)
22	39. Before October 1, 2021, dealers could not accurately submit the required information through the DES for "long guns" without
23	through the DES for "long guns" without statutorily defined "firearm" subtypes, so they were effectively barred from accepting and
24	processing applications from purchasers of such firearms, including FAI's Title 1 model
25	firearm.
26	(Pen. Code, § 28215, subd. (c); Davis Decl., Ex. 4 [J. Davis Letter to Attorney General X.
27	Becerra (Oct. 24, 2019)]; Davis Decl., Ex. 6 [Emails between Jason A. Davis, Counsel for
28	Franklin Armory, Inc., and Robert Wilson & P. Patty Li (Nov. 15, 2019-Nov. 26, 2019)];

1	Davis Decl., Ex. 7 [Letter from P. Patty Li to Jason A. Davis (Jan. 8, 2020)]; Jacobson
2	Decl., ¶¶ 4-5, 11 & Ex. 8; Barvir Decl., Ex. 12 [Gockel Dep. (April 22, 2023), pp. 74:12-25;
3	80:12-81:8; Barvir Decl., Ex. 16 [J. Jacobson Dep. (Nov. 14, 2023), pp. 118:2-11; 150:3-7;
4	159:11-16; .)
5	40. While state law mandates that the "type" of firearm (e.g., "long gun" or "handgun") must
6	be included in the register or the record of electronic transfer, no state statute mandates
7	that the firearm "subtype" (e.g., rifle, shotgun,
8	rifle/shotgun combination) be included. So the DOJ could have chosen to remove the
9	technological barrier within the DES that prevented licensed firearm dealers from
10	processing the transfer of FAI's Title 1 model firearms by enhancing the DES to allow the
11	user to proceed without selecting a firearm subtype.
12	(Pen. Code, §§ 28160, subd. (a), 28200-
13	28255.)
14	41. DOJ could have chosen to remove the technological barrier within the DES that
15	prevented licensed firearm dealers from processing the transfer of FAI's Title 1 model
16	firearms by authorizing an "alternative means" of submitting the required information
17	pursuant to the authority granted to the DOj under Penal Code section 28205, subd. (c),
18	including but not limited to instructing DES users to proceed by selecting preauthorized
19	designated options and identifying the firearm as an "other" in one of the "comment" fields
20	within the DES. The DOJ opted not to pursue that "fix."
21	(Pen. Code, § 28205, subd. (c); Lake Decl.,
22	Ex. A [J. Jacobson Dep. (Nov. 14, 2023)], pp. 40:16-25, 50:19-51:1, 57:6-58:10, 56:8-25,
23	60:21-61:8; Barvir Decl., Ex. 16 [J. Jacobson Dep. (Nov. 14, 2023), pp. 40:16-25, 45:8-25
24	50:19-51:1, 57:6-58:10, 56:8-25, 60:21-61:8; Barvir Decl., Ex. 11 [Mendoza Dep. (June 7,
25	2024), p. 141:1-25; Mendoza Decl., ¶10.)
26	42. FAI was notified by licensed California firearms dealers ("FFLs") that they would not
27	be able to process the transfer of FAI's Title 1 model firearm through the DES because they
28	could not accurately submit the required information for "long guns" without
	1/4

1	statutorily defined subtypes."
2	(Davis Decl., Ex. 4 [Letter from Jason A.
3	Davis to Xavier Becerra (Oct. 24, 2019)], p. 3; Barvir Decl., Ex. 16 [J. Jacobson Dep.
4	(Nov. 14, 2023)], pp. 175:7-12; 176:4-21; 177:2-8.)
5	43. The DOJ was aware that licensed firearm
6	dealers ("FFLs") had expressed concerns about attempting to transfer FAI's Title 1
7	model firearm "due to liability issues."
8	(Barvir Decl., Ex. 15 [J. Kim Dep. (Jan. 3, 2024)], pp. 20:17-22:12, 29:2-21, 31:15-
9	33:11, 42:20-43:18, 47:16-48:11, 49:2-50:15 & Exs. 2 & 4 [Email from Jennifer Kim to
10	Jason Sisney (June 24, 2020); see also Davis Decl., Ex. 4 [Letter from Jason A. Davis to
11	Xavier Becerra (Oct. 24, 2019)], p. 3.)
12	44. On or about October 24, 2019, counsel for
13	FAI sent a letter to then-Attorney General Xavier Becerra, formally notifying him and the DOL of the defect in the DES and the
14	the DOJ of the defect in the DES and the inability of FAI to transmit its Title I model
15	firearms to their customers because of that defect.
16	(Davis Decl., Ex. 4 [Letter from Jason A.
17	Davis to Xavier Becerra (Oct. 24, 2019)]; Verified SAC ¶ 66 & Ex. A.)
18	45. On or about October 24, 2019, counsel for
19	FAI sent a letter to then-Attorney General Xavier Becerra, formally notifying him and
	the DOJ that FAI had publicly announced the release of the Title 1 on or about October 15,
20	2019, generating a "substantial amount of interest." Counsel also informed Mr. Becerra
21	that FAI was taking orders for the Title 1 model firearm daily, but FAI was unable to
22	fulfill those orders due to the DES technological defect.
23	(Davis Decl., Ex. 4 [Letter from Jason A.
24	Davis to Xavier Becerra (Oct. 24, 2019)], p. 3; Verified SAC, Ex. A.)
25	46. When FAI's customers were placing orders to
26	purchase FAI Title 1 model firearms, the advertised full purchase price was \$944.99.
27	But because FAI knew that the DES defect
28	prevented transfers of the Title 1, FAI offered
ı	1

1	customers the opportunity to submit a refundable deposit toward the purchase of a
2	Title 1 to be completed once the DES defect was corrected. Payment of the deposit
3	essentially saved a "spot in line" for the deposit payors.
5	(Jacobson Decl, ¶ 10, Ex. 9; Barvir Decl.,
6	Barvir Decl., Ex. 12 [Gockel Dep. (April 22, 2024)], pp. 48:19-49:7; Ex. 16 [J. Jacobson
7	Dep. (Nov. 14, 2023), pp. 116:1-14; 124:17- 20; 131:16-22.)
8	47. FAI ultimately collected nearly 35,000 deposits from its thousands of customers,
9	including licensed firearms dealers, for the purchase of Title 1 model firearms. Those
10	deposits ranged in amount from \$5 to the full purchase price of the Title 1 model firearm.
11	(Jacobson Decl., ¶ 10; see, e.g., Opdahl-Lopez
12	Decl.)
13	48. Assuming the centerfire Title 1 model firearm could ever be lawfully transferred in
14 15	California, FAI was committed at the time it accepted deposits from customers to fulfill all orders for which people paid deposits. And
16	FAI remains committed to fulfilling those orders to this day.
17	(Jacobson Decl., ¶ 11 & Ex. 10; Barvir Decl., Ex. 16 [J. Jacobson Dep. (Nov. 14, 2023)], pp.
18	116:1-14; 124:17-20; 131:16-22.)
19	49. The DOJ was able to modify the DES to correct a similar deficiency reported
20	concurrently by FAI's counsel in the same letter dated October 24, 2019, within about a
21	month. Namely, the DES omitted the "United Arab Emirates" from the list of countries
22	available within the DES dropdown list for the countries for place of birth was confirmed
23	to have been corrected by the DOJ by November 26, 2019.
25	(Davis Decl., Ex. 4 [Letter from Jason A. Davis to Xavier Becerra (Oct. 24, 2019)]; Ex.
26	5 [Emails between Jason A. Davis and Robert Wilson & P. Patty Li (Nov. 15, 2019-Nov. 26,
27	2019)].)
28	50. On January 8, 2020, in response to FAI's October 24, 2019, letter, Attorney General

1 2	Becerra, through Deputy Attorney General P. Patty Li, wrote to counsel for FAI, confirming receipt of FAI's letter and informing FAI that
3	DOJ was working to fix the DES deficiency the letter described.
4	(Davis Decl., Ex. 7 [Letter from P. Patty Li, Deputy Attorney General, California
5	Department of Justice, to Jason A. Davis, Counsel for Franklin Armory, Inc. (Jan. 8,
6	2020)].)
7	51. Cheryle Massaro-Florez, an Informational Technology Supervisor who works in the
8	Bureau of Firearms' firearm software development unit, testified that she oversaw
9	two separate projects to make "enhancements" to the DES to add an "Other"
10	option to the dropdown list for "long gun" firearm subtypes. She testified that the first
11	enhancement was completed up to beta
12	testing, but just before going live, that first enhancement was terminated for a reason
13	unknown to her. She testified that the second enhancement took about three months to
14	complete, ending on October 1, 2021.
15	(Lake Decl., Ex. C [Massaro-Florez Dep. 1 (Dec. 28, 2021)], pp. 18:12-21, 19:2-12,
16	30:19-31:10, 36:18-37:25, 57:14-60:11, 61:13-62:5, 68:25-69:10, 91:3-92:21, 94:6-24,
17	103:5-106:6; Barvir Decl, Ex. 18 [Massaro-
	Florez Dep. 2 (Sept. 8, 2023)], pp. 38:13-40:19, 41:18-19, 64:24-66:15 & Ex. 9; see
18	also Barvir Decl., Ex. 11 [Mendoza Dep. (June 7, 2024)], Ex. 45.)
19	52. Just months after Deputy Attorney General Li
20	confirmed that the DOJ was working on a fix to the DES, on May 14, 2020, the DOJ
21	submitted Budget Change Proposal (prepared by then BOF Assistant Director Allison
22	Mendoza) to the Department of Finance,
23	requesting "\$128,000 Dealers' Record of Sale Special Account in 2020-21, \$862,000 in
24	2021-22, and \$14,000 annually thereafter to regulate assault weapons that are currently not
25	defined as a rifle, pistol, or shotgun." The proposal was "intend[ed] to fix current
26	loopholes in statute that allow[ed] manufacturers to make weapons that
27	circumvent the intention of assault weapon laws."
28	(Barvir Decl., Ex. 11 [Mendoza Dep. (June 7,

1 2	2020), Ex. 42 [May 14, 2020 Budget Change Proposal].)	
3	53. As part of the Budget Change Proposal, the DOJ also requested "[budget] trailer bill language necessary to implement this	
4	proposal." Attached to the proposal, as Attachment 1, was "Proposed Trailer Bill	
5	Language: Other Firearm Registration." That proposed language would ultimately be	
6	adopted via Senate Bill 118 ("SB 118").	
7	(Barvir Decl., Ex. 11 [Mendoza Dep. (June 7, 2024), Ex. 42 [May 14, 2020 Budget Change	
8	Proposal]; Barvir Decl., Ex. 15 [J. Kim Dep. (Jan. 3, 2024)], pp. 20:17-22:12, 25:17-28:6,	
9	29:2-21, 35:22-39:11, 49:2-50:15, 69:19- 71:18 & Exs. 2 & 4; Req. Jud. Ntc., Ex. 1 [SB]	
10	118], Ex. 2 [AB 88].)	
11 12	54. SB 118 was adopted by Legislature on August 4, 2020, and it was approved by the Governor on August 6, 2020.	
13	(Req. Jud. Ntc., Ex. 3.)	
14 15	55. SB 118 amended the Penal Code section 30515 definition of an "assault weapon" to include, for the first time, a "centerfire firearm that is not a rifle, pistol, or shotgun" that	
16	includes components in three categories.	
17 18	(Pen. Code, § 30515, subd. (a)(9)-(11); Req. Jud. Ntc., Ex. 1 [SB 118], Ex. 2 [AB 88].)	
19	56. Because SB 118 was adopted as a "budget trailer bill," the change in law took effect	
20	immediately upon signature by the Governor without the 2/3 vote of the Legislature	
21	required to adopt "policy bills" as "urgency legislation" and without the need to make a	
22	special finding of urgency.	
23	(Barvir Decl., Ex. 15 [J. Kim Dep. (Jan 3, 2024)], p. 50:14-58:9, 75:23-77:2; Cal. Const., art. IV, § 8, subd. (b).)	
24	57. Allison Mendoza, the current Director of the	
25	California Department of Justice, Bureau Firearms, testified that she could not think of	
26	another piece of firearm-related legislation that was adopted via the "budget trailer bill"	
27 28	process and that it was not a common practice.	
20		

1 2	(Req. J. Ntc., Ex. 1 [SB 118], Ex. 2 [AB 88].); Barvir Decl., Ex. 11 [Mendoza Dep. (June 7, 2020), pp. 43:10-13.)
3	58. SB 118 was designed to target the FAI Title 1
4	model firearm and prevent its sale. Department of Finance staffers'
5	communications about the bill expressly identified both FAI and the Title 1, and they identified no other manufacturer or firearm by
6	identified no other manufacturer or firearm by name.
7	(Barvir Decl., Ex. 15 [J. Kim Dep. (Jan. 3, 2024)], pp. 58:10-60:25, 62:25-10, 66:25-
8	68:24, 71:9-72:20, 75:1-77:25 & Exs. 2 & 4; Req. Jud. Ntc., Ex. 1 [SB 118].)
9	
10	59. It was not until October 1, 2021, that the DOJ finally completed the "enhancement" to the
11	DES adding the option to select "Other" from the dropdown list for "long gun" subtypes, finally allowing DES users to process the
12	transfer of firearms without a defined subtype.
13	Barvir Decl., Ex. 11 [Mendoza Dep. (June 7, 2024)], pp. 128:7-11; Barvir Decl., Ex. 18
14	[Massaro-Florez Dep. 1 (Dec. 28, 2021)], pp. 34:10-17; 42:7-8; Barvir Decl., Ex. 19 [Leyva
15	Dep. 1 (Dec. 29, 2021)], pp. 39:15-22, 40:9-17, 45:10-25, 46-47, 48:16-25, 61:5-62,
16	67:4-73, 74:1, 95:8-25, 108:3-25, 109 & Exs. 3, 6, 7, and 8.)
17	
18	60. The enhancement to the DES came too late to allow for the lawful transfer of centerfire FAI
19	Title 1 model firearms, which had been designated as "assault weapons" effective
20	August 6, 2020, and could not be lawfully registered with the DOJ unless they were
21	possessed on or before September 1, 2020.
22	(Req. Jud. Ntc., Exs. 1, 3; Pen. Code, § 30515, subd. (a)(9)-(11).)
23	61. FAI could not lawfully transfer the FAI Title
24	1 model firearm to its deposit-paying customers before the enactment and enforcement of SP 118 (Penal Code section
25	enforcement of SB 118 (Penal Code section 30515, subd. (a)(9)-(11)) because the DES
26	enhancement adding "Other" to the "long gun" subtype dropdown list was not made
27	until October 1, 2021.
28	(Jacobson Decl., ¶ 11; Barvir Decl., Ex. 11 [Mendoza Dep. (June 7, 2024)], pp. 128:7-11;

1 2 3 4	Barvir Decl., Ex. 18 [Massaro-Florez Dep. 1 (Dec. 28, 2021)], pp. 34:10-17; 42:7-8; Barvir Decl., Ex. 19 [Leyva Dep. 1 (Dec. 29, 2021)], pp. 39:15-22, 40:9-17, 45:10-25, 46-47, 48:16-25, 61:5-62, 67:4-73, 74:1, 95:8-25, 108:3-25, 109 & Exs. 3, 6, 7, and 8.)
5 6 7 8	62. FAI suffered economic damage in the form of millions of dollars in lost profits because it could not lawfully complete the sale of and transfer the FAI Title 1 model firearm to its thousands of deposit-paying customers before the enactment and enforcement of SB 118 (Penal Code section 30515, subd. (a)(9)-(11).
9 10	(Jacobson Decl., ¶¶ 10-12, Ex. 10; Barvir Decl., Ex. 16 [J. Jacobson Dep. (Nov. 14, 2023)], pp. 138:19-142:14.)
11 12	63. To date, a very small minority of the thousands of individuals who made a deposit have asked for a refund.
13	(Jacobson Decl., ¶ 14.)
14	64. There is currently a class action lawsuit pending in federal district court, brought on behalf of the thousands of person who made
15	earnest-money deposits for the purchase of one or more FAI Title 1 model firearms,
16 17	against Attorney General Rob Bonta, Luis Lopez, and the California Department of Justice. The plaintiffs seek equitable relief,
18	including injunctive relief ordering [d]efendants to allow the members of the [c]lass to submit the statutorily required
19	firearm purchaser information through DES for, complete the transfer of, take possession
20	of, and register pursuant to Penal Code section 30900(c) those Title 1 firearms for which they
21 22	made earnest money deposits before August 6, 2020, notwithstanding the fact that these firearms were not possessed by the [c]lass
23	members before September 1, 2020."
24	(First Amended Complaint at 7, 40, <i>Briseno v. Bonta</i> , C.D. Cal. Case No. 21-cv-09018 (Feb.
25	4, 2022); Opdahl-Lopez Decl., ¶¶ 3-8.) Fourth Cause of Action: Tortious Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage
26	65. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference
27 28	Plaintiff's Undisputed Material Facts Nos. 21-64.
	20

Fifth Cause of Action: Negligent Interference	e with Prospective Economic Advantag
66. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by Plaintiff's Undisputed Material Facts Nos. 21-64.	
Date: June 26, 2024	MICHEL & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
	Chara mc
	Anna M. Barvir Attorneys for Petitioners-Plaintiffs

PROOF OF SERVICE 1 2 STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES 3 I, Laura Palmerin, am employed in the City of Long Beach, Los Angeles County, California. I 4 am over the age eighteen (18) years and am not a party to the within action. My business address is 180 5 East Ocean Boulevard, Suite 200, Long Beach, California 90802. 6 On June 26, 2024, I served the foregoing document(s) described as 7 SEPARATE STATEMENT OF UNDISPUTED MATERIAL FACTS IN OPPOSITION TO **DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY ADJUDICATION** 8 9 on the interested parties in this action by placing [] the original 10 [X] a true and correct copy thereof by the following means, addressed as follows: 11 Kenneth G. Lake 12 Deputy Attorney General Email: Kenneth.Lake@doj.ca.gov 13 Andrew Adams 14 Email: Andrew.Adams@doj.ca.gov California Department of Justice 15 300 South Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013 16 Attorney for Respondents-Defendants 17 X (BY ELECTRONIC MAIL) As follows: I served a true and correct copy by electronic 18 transmission through One Legal. Said transmission was reported and completed without error. 19 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is 20 true and correct. 21 Executed on June 26, 2024, at Long Beach, California. 22 ann falen 23 Laura Palmerin 24 25 26 27 28