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Attorney for Plaintiff

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

CARRIE ALEXANDER, derivatively on
behalf of DOCUSIGN, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

DANIEL D. SPRINGER, ENRIQUE
SALEM, PETER SOLVIK, INHI CHO SUH,
MARY AGNES WILDEROTTER, TERESA
BRIGGS, BLAKE J. IRVING, JAMES
BEER, CAIN A. HAYES, CYNTHIA
GAYLOR, MICHAEL J. SHERIDAN, and
LOREN ALHADEFF,

Defendants,

and

DOCUSIGN, INC.,

Nominal Defendant.

Case No.

**VERIFIED SHAREHOLDER
DERIVATIVE COMPLAINT**

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 Plaintiff Carrie Alexander (“Plaintiff”), by and through Plaintiff’s undersigned attorneys,
2 derivatively on behalf of Nominal Defendant DocuSign, Inc. (“DocuSign” or the “Company”),
3 brings this Verified Shareholder Derivative Complaint against Daniel D. Springer (“Springer”),
4 Enrique Salem (“Salem”), Peter Solvik (“Solvik”), Inhi Cho Suh (“Suh”), Mary Agnes
5 Wilderotter (“Wilderotter”), Teresa Briggs (“Briggs”), Blake J. Irving (“Irving”), James Beer
6 (“Beer”), Cain A. Hayes (“Hayes”), Cynthia Gaylor (“Gaylor”), Michael J. Sheridan
7 (“Sheridan”), and Loren Alhadeff (“Alhadeff”) (collectively, the “Individual Defendants” and,
8 together with DocuSign, “Defendants”) for and among other things, their breaches of fiduciary
9 duties and violations of the federal securities laws.

10 Plaintiff’s allegations are based upon personal knowledge as to herself and her own acts,
11 and upon information and belief, including a review of publicly available information, including
12 filings by DocuSign with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”), press releases,
13 news reports, analyst reports, investor conference transcripts, publicly available filings in
14 lawsuits, and matters of public record. Plaintiff believes that substantial evidentiary support will
15 exist for the allegations set forth herein after a reasonable opportunity for discovery.

16 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

17 1. This is a shareholder derivative action brought against certain DocuSign officers
18 and members of DocuSign’s Board of Directors (the “Board”) that seeks to remedy wrongdoing
19 committed by the Individual Defendants between March 27, 2020 and June 13, 2022, inclusive
20 (the “Relevant Period”).

21 2. Nominal Defendant DocuSign is a software provider whose product facilitates the
22 signing and preparation of agreements and other documents. The DocuSign Agreement Cloud, a
23 software suite, allows users to generate, distribute, and sign agreements, and further offers
24 technological support for, among other things, negotiating agreements and collecting payments.

25 3. Throughout the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, DocuSign’s revenue
26 grew substantially. In fact, for six straight quarters, the Company experienced increased growth
27 in both revenue and billings.

1 4. Throughout the Relevant Period, Defendants assured investors that DocuSign’s
2 newfound growth was not solely the result of increased remote work and other pandemic
3 restrictions, but was in fact indicative of a new paradigm under which DocuSign would maintain
4 its rapid growth. For example, during a June 4, 2020 earnings call, Defendant Springer, the
5 Company’s Chief Executive Officer (“CEO”) at the time, stated that “even when the COVID-19
6 situation is behind us, we don’t anticipate customers returning to paper or manual-based
7 processes.”

8 5. The Individual Defendants also maintained that competition from other eSignature
9 product providers, such as Adobe, did not pose a significant threat to DocuSign’s growth
10 prospects. In addition, the Individual Defendants assured the investing public that sales of the
11 Company’s contract lifestyle management (“CLM”) product would help to drive continued
12 growth.

13 6. In reality, the Individual Defendants were aware, through communications with
14 customers, as well as through internal data collection, that most customers who began using
15 DocuSign after the COVID-19 had began did not intend to renew their contracts with DocuSign
16 once pandemic restrictions subsided, let alone expand their contracts with the addition of a CLM
17 product. The Individual Defendants were also aware that competition from Adobe’s cheaper
18 eSignature product was directly impacting DocuSign’s sales, and significantly decreased the
19 likelihood that DocuSign would be able to sustain the levels of growth it experienced during the
20 COVID-19 pandemic.

21 7. Despite possessing the above information, the Individual Defendants provided
22 misrepresentations and/or failed to disclose that: (1) much of DocuSign’s accelerated growth in
23 2020 and 2021 was directly attributable to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions rather than a
24 sustainable, increased shift in demand for the Company’s services; (2) demand for DocuSign’s
25 services was, in fact, waning as COVID-19 pandemic restrictions were lifted; and (3) both
26 competition from Adobe, as well as DocuSign’s difficulty in selling its CLM product, posed
27 significant hurdles to the sustainability of DocuSign’s newfound, COVID-19-driven growth.

1 8. As a result of the Individual Defendants' misrepresentations, DocuSign's share
2 price was artificially inflated throughout the Relevant Period, reaching a high of \$310.05 per share
3 on September 3, 2021.

4 9. The truth began to emerge in December 2021, when DocuSign disclosed a
5 significant drop in billings. At that point, Defendants began representing that such a slow-down
6 was expected and predictable. These representations stood in stark contrast to the representations
7 made earlier in the Relevant Period, when the Individual Defendants stated that increased demand
8 for DocuSign's products was the result of a "new normal."

9 10. Following this disclosure, the price of DocuSign common stock declined \$98.73
10 per share, or more than 42%, from a close of \$233.82 per share on December 2, 2021, to close at
11 \$135.09 per share on December 3, 2021.

12 11. The Individual Defendants made two further disclosures that fully revealed that
13 the Company's earlier growth during the COVID-19 pandemic was fueled by the pandemic. On
14 March 10, 2022, the Company announced its financial results for the fourth quarter of the 2022
15 fiscal year, reporting the lowest quarterly billings growth the Company had ever experienced as
16 a public Company. Then, on June 9, 2022, when announcing financial results for the first quarter
17 of the 2023 fiscal year, the Company revealed that it had experienced even lower billings growth
18 than the previous quarter, setting a new all time low as a public Company.

19 12. As the reality of DocuSign's prospects became clear over the next several days,
20 analysts weighed in, with many downgrading DocuSign's stock. As a result, the Company's share
21 price continued to drop, eventually closing at \$59.12 per share on June 13, 2022.

22 13. In light of the Individual Defendants' misconduct, the Company as well as
23 Defendants Springer, Sheridan, Gaylor, and Alhadeff were named as defendants in a federal
24 securities fraud class action lawsuit pending in the United States District Court for the Northern
25 District of California, captioned *Weston v. DocuSign, Inc., et al.*, 3:22-cv-00824 (N.D.Cal.) (the
26 "Securities Class Action.") The Securities Class Action has further subjected DocuSign to the
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1 need to undertake internal investigations and the need to implement adequate internal controls, as
2 well as exposed the Company to massive class-wide liability.

3 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4 14. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 because
5 Plaintiff's claims raise a federal question under Section 10(b) of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. §
6 78j(b)) and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder (17 C.F.R. § 240.10b-5), Section 20(a) of the
7 Exchange Act (15 U.S. 78t(a)), and Section 21D of the Exchange Act (15 U.S.C. §78u-4(f)).
8 Plaintiff's claims also raise a federal question pertaining to the claims made in the Securities Class
9 Action based on violations of the Exchange Act.

10 15. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff's state law claims pursuant
11 to 28 USC. §1367(a).

12 16. This derivative action is not a collusive action to confer jurisdiction on a court of
13 the United States that it would not otherwise have.

14 17. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1401 because
15 DocuSign's principal executive offices are located in this district, a substantial portion of the
16 transactions and wrongs complained of herein occurred in this District, and the Defendants have
17 received substantial compensation in this district by engaging in numerous activities that had an
18 effect in this District.

19 **PARTIES**

20 18. Plaintiff is a current shareholder of DocuSign and has continuously held DocuSign
21 stock at all relevant times.

22 19. Nominal Defendant DocuSign is a Delaware corporation and its principal
23 executive offices are located at 221 Main St., Suite 1550, San Francisco, California 94105. The
24 Company's common stock trades on NASDAQ under the ticker symbol "DOCU."

25 20. Defendant Springer has served as a Company director since 2017 and previously
26 served as the Company's CEO and President from 2017 until his resignation from the roles of
27 CEO and President in June 2022. According to the proxy statement filed on Schedule 14A with
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