## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

BRIANA SIEGAL, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Case No. 1:20-cv-04306

Plaintiff,

v.

GEICO CASUALTY COMPANY, GEICO INDEMNITY COMPANY, and GEICO GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY, JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Defendants.

### **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff Briana Siegal ("Plaintiff"), by and through her attorneys and on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, hereby submits this Class Action Complaint against Defendants GEICO Casualty Company, GEICO indemnity Company, and GEICO General Insurance Company ("GEICO" or "Defendants"), and alleges as follows:

## PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

- 1. This case is filed to end GEICO's practice of unfairly profiting from the global COVID-19 pandemic. As of the date of this filing, the United States has confirmed well over 3 million coronavirus cases, and nearly 150,000 deaths. The State of Illinois alone has over 150,000 confirmed cases and more than 7,000 deaths. The numbers continue to rise.
- 2. Beginning in March 2020, states across the country, including Illinois, began to enforce strict social distancing measures to slow the spread of COVID-19. This included closing schools and businesses and instituting strict "stay-at-home" orders that prevented most individuals from leaving their homes for extended periods of time.

- 3. While many companies, industries, and individuals have suffered as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, auto insurers like GEICO have scored a windfall. Not surprisingly, as a result of state-wide social distancing and stay-at-home measures, there has been a dramatic reduction in driving, and an attendant reduction in driving-related accidents. As a result of this decrease in driving and accidents, the premiums charged by auto insurance companies during the COVID-19 pandemic, including GEICO, are unconscionably excessive. One published report calculates, very conservatively, that at least a 30% average refund of paid premiums would be required to make up for the excess amounts paid by consumers for just the period between mid-March and the end of April.
- 4. Despite full knowledge of these facts, GEICO has continued to charge and collect excessive premiums, and has failed to issue adequate refunds. The company's "GEICO Giveback" program is woefully inadequate to compensate for the excessive premiums that customers have paid as a result of COVID-19. The program applies a 15% discount on new and renewal auto insurance policies only. It does not apply to the premiums that the customer has already paid or will continue to pay on policies already existing at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. And even with respect to new and renewal policies, the 15% credit falls well short of what has been conservatively estimated as an adequate return of premiums.
- 5. To remedy Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiff brings this class action alleging violations of Illinois state law. Plaintiff seeks disgorgement of the ill-gotten gains obtained by GEICO to the detriment of its customers, all available damages, punitive damages, declaratory and injunctive relief, and all other available relief.

## **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 6. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d) because this is a class action in which the amount in controversy is over \$5,000,000 exclusive of interest and costs, and at least one member of the class is a citizen of a State different from Defendants.
- 7. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Defendants reside in this district, and because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in this district.

### **PARTIES**

- 8. Defendants GEICO Casualty Company, GEICO Indemnity Company, and GEICO General Insurance Company are Maryland corporations with their principal place of business in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Defendants sell personal automobile insurance in states around the country, including Illinois. GEICO issued personal auto, motorcycle, and/or RV insurance policies to Plaintiff and the members of the putative class during the relevant time period.
- 9. Plaintiff is an adult resident of Chicago, Illinois. Plaintiff has held two personal auto insurance policies purchased from GEICO during the time period relevant to this lawsuit. As described in more detail herein, as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic and corresponding drop in automobile use and traffic, the premiums paid by Plaintiff for these policies were unconscionably excessive. Despite this, GEICO failed to issue full refunds.

### FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS

## A. The Global COVID-19 Pandemic and State-Mandated Social Distancing Measures

- 10. In late December 2019, a cluster of cases of pneumonia was reported in Wuhan, China. A novel coronavirus was identified, which became known as SARS-CoV-2. The virus causes a disease called COVID-19. By mid-January, cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in the United States, and the virus quickly spread.
- 11. By mid-March, there were thousands of confirmed cases of COVID-19 across the United States and well over 100 in the State of Illinois alone.
- 12. Like many states around the country, Illinois responded to the worsening COVID-19 crisis with a series of measures designed to increase, and often mandate, social distancing in order to slow the spread of the virus.
- 13. On March 9, 2020, Governor J. B. Pritzker issued a disaster proclamation, declaring all counties in the State of Illinois a disaster area. Thereafter, the state rolled out a variety of social distancing measures that included, for example, the closing of schools, bars, restaurants, and casinos, and cancellation of all gatherings of 50 or more people.
- 14. On March 21, Governor Pritzker instituted a statewide stay-at-home order. With some exceptions, the order mandated that all individuals living within the State of Illinois were to stay at home or at their place of residence and were allowed to leave only for essential activities or other specified reasons. The order mandated that: "[a]ll travel, including, but not

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See COVID-19 Executive Order No. 8 § 1(1) (Mar. 20, 2020), https://www2.illinois.gov/Pages/Executive-Orders/ExecutiveOrder2020-10.aspx.

limited to, travel by automobile, motorcycle, scooter, bicycle, train, plane, or public transit, except Essential Travel and Essential Activities as defined herein, is prohibited." <sup>2</sup>

- 15. The stay-at-home order was scheduled to remain in place until April 7, 2020. However, due to the increasing severity of the COVID-19 crisis, Governor Pritzker extended the order until April 30, 2020, and again to May 29, 2020. Just as in the original stay-at-home order, the Governor ordered that "[a]ll travel, including, but not limited to, travel by automobile, motorcycle, scooter, bicycle, train, plane, or public transit, except Essential Travel and Essential Activities as defined herein, is prohibited." <sup>3</sup>
- 16. On May 5, 2020, Governor Pritzker unveiled "Restore Illinois," a plan to slowly reopen the state in five phases. But progress has been slow, and the state is still far from achieving full reopening and economic recovery. Indeed, even under the current stage—Phase 4 "Revitalization"—businesses in all industries are instructed to permit employees to work from home when it is possible to do so.

## B. GEICO Has Obtained a Windfall Due to the Dramatic Decrease in Automobile Use and Traffic Caused by COVID-19

17. Although businesses across the United States have almost uniformly suffered as a result of COVID-19, state-wide stay-at-home orders, and other social distancing measures, the auto insurance industry has benefited. In fact, auto insurance—a \$250 billion industry—stands to secure a windfall from COVID-19. The reason is simple. As one recent report put it: "With shelter-in-place restrictions and business closings, most people stopped driving or reduced their

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  Id. § 1(4).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See COVID-19 Executive Order No. 30 § 2(4) (Apr. 30, 2020), https://www2.illinois.gov/Pages/Executive-Orders/ExecutiveOrder2020-32.aspx.

driving dramatically. With fewer cars on the road, there were dramatically fewer accidents. Fewer motor vehicle accidents mean fewer auto insurance claims."<sup>4</sup>

18. Beginning in mid-March of 2020, the number of miles driven by individuals has dropped dramatically because of COVID-19. This includes the State of Illinois. Through the use of cell phone location data, it has been reported that vehicle miles traveled in Illinois dropped significantly from their January 2020 average in March and April of 2020:<sup>5</sup>

Date Range	Decrease in Miles Traveled
March 15 - March 21	-42%
March 22 - March 28	-67%
March 29 - April 4	-67%
April 5 - April 11	-67%
April 12 - April 18	-68%
April 19 - April 25	-64%

Upon information and belief, decreases in pre-COVID miles traveled continued in May, June, and July 2020, and will continue for the foreseeable future.<sup>6</sup>

19. Automobile accidents have also decreased. For example, the Illinois State Police reported that between April 1, 2020 and April 26, 2020 alone, statewide car crash rates dropped by more than half when compared to 2019 rates.<sup>7</sup> Although GEICO does not report crash

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See Center for Economic Justice & Consumer Federation of America, Personal Auto Insurance Premium Relief in the COVID-19 Era at 5 (May 7, 2020) ("CEJ/CFA Report"), <a href="https://consumerfed.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Auto-Insurance-Refunds-COVID-19-Update-Report-5-7-20.pdf">https://consumerfed.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Auto-Insurance-Refunds-COVID-19-Update-Report-5-7-20.pdf</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See id. at 6-8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> See id. at 2.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Mary Wisniewski, *With fewer people on the roads, crashes are down* — *but some drivers see lack of traffic as excuse to speed*, Chicago Tribune, May 1, 2020, <a href="https://www.chicagotribune.com/coronavirus/ct-coronavirus-speeding-up-crashes-down-20200501-vgr3yinpibh3xkmc45dmvxycwa-story.html">https://www.chicagotribune.com/coronavirus/ct-coronavirus-speeding-up-crashes-down-20200501-vgr3yinpibh3xkmc45dmvxycwa-story.html</a>.

statistics to the State of Illinois, a submission to Ohio regulators estimated a decline in claims frequency between 25% and 50%.

20. As a result of this dramatic decrease in driving and auto accidents, the rates set—and thus the premiums charged—by auto insurance companies during the COVID-19 pandemic, including GEICO, are unconscionably excessive. Auto insurance rates, including those set by GEICO, are intended to cover the claims and expenses that they expect to occur in the future, extrapolated from historical data. Thus, as explained in the recent joint report by the Center for Economic Justice and the Consumer Federation of America:

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, the assumptions about future claims underlying insurers' rates in effect on March 1 became radically incorrect overnight. When roads emptied, the frequency of motor vehicle accidents and insurance claims dropped dramatically and immediately. The assumptions in insurers' rates covering time-frames from mid-March forward about future frequency of claims became significantly wrong when the roads emptied because of Stay-At-Home orders and business closures starting in mid-March. The then-current rates became excessive not just for new policyholders going forward, but also for existing policyholders whose premium was based on now-overstated expectation about insurance claims.<sup>9</sup>

21. The excessive premiums collected by GEICO during the COVID-19 pandemic have led to a substantial windfall in profits. It has been reported that for the first quarter of 2020 alone, GEICO generated a pretax underwriting gain of \$984 million. <sup>10</sup> This was an increase of 27.8% from result for the same period in 2019.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Geico's claim frequency falling even faster than Q1 data shows, S&P Global (May 4, 2020), <a href="https://www.spglobal.com/marketintelligence/en/news-insights/latest-news-headlines/geico-sclaims-frequency-falling-even-faster-than-q1-data-shows-58431662">https://www.spglobal.com/marketintelligence/en/news-insights/latest-news-headlines/geico-sclaims-frequency-falling-even-faster-than-q1-data-shows-58431662</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> CEJ/CFA Report, *supra*, at 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Geico's claim frequency falling even faster than Q1 data shows, S&P Global (May 4, 2020), <a href="https://www.spglobal.com/marketintelligence/en/news-insights/latest-news-headlines/geico-s-claims-frequency-falling-even-faster-than-q1-data-shows-58431662">https://www.spglobal.com/marketintelligence/en/news-insights/latest-news-headlines/geico-s-claims-frequency-falling-even-faster-than-q1-data-shows-58431662</a>.

## C. GEICO Has Failed to Refund Excessive Premiums to Plaintiff and Other Policyholders in Illinois

- 22. According to conservative calculations by the Center for Economic Justice and the Consumer Federation of America based on motor vehicle accident data, at least a 30% minimum average premium refund to consumers would be required to correct the unfair windfall to auto insurance companies, including GEICO, just for the time period from mid-March through the end of April 2020.<sup>11</sup>
- 23. At all relevant times, GEICO has been aware of the excessive premiums that it has charged to and collected from policyholders in Illinois as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. GEICO has likewise been aware of its excessive profits. Despite this, GEICO has failed to adequately return these profits to its customers.
- 24. In spring 2020, GEICO announced the "GEICO Giveback." Under the program, GEICO will give customers a 15% credit on their personal auto insurance premiums, but only if they are new customers, or existing customers who renew their policy during the applicable time period. Specifically, the credit is given for six-month policies renewed or newly purchased between April 8, 2020 and October 8, 2020 and twelve-month policies renewed or newly purchased between April 8, 2020 and October 7, 2021.
- 25. GEICO's credit program is inadequate to compensate for the excessive premiums that its customers have paid as a result of COVID-19. For existing customers who renew their policies, the credit does not apply at all to excessive premiums that the customer paid on their previous policies. And even with respect to new and renewal policies, the 15% credit is nowhere

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> CEJ/CFA Report, *supra*, at 12-13.

near the minimum 30% average refund benchmark that has been conservatively estimated as an adequate refund of premiums.

- 26. With full knowledge that its refund program was inadequate, GEICO has falsely claimed to its customers that it is in fact providing substantial and full relief. For example, on its website, GEICO falsely claims that "shelter in place laws have reduced driving, and we are passing these savings on to our auto, motorcycle, and RV customers." GEICO does not disclose that its program does not, in fact, fully pass the company's saving on to its customers, and GEICO does not disclose the amount of its excessive profits.
- 27. Not surprisingly, GEICO's credit program has been met with immediate criticism. On April 13, 2020, the Consumer Federation of America gave GEICO's program a "D-" grade. 13 The CEJ/CFA report explains that GEICO's program "fails to match the relief to the relevant premium and policy," "doesn't provide relief for current policyholders," "fails to credit consumers for the current premium that has become excessive," and is "wrongly attempting to take credit for future and in most cases distant future rate reductions as if it were actually providing relief today to current policyholders." 14
- 28. In late 2019, Plaintiff purchased a renewal auto insurance policy from GEICO for the period beginning on December 1, 2019 and ending on June 1, 2020. Plaintiff paid \$945.57 in premiums for that policy. Plaintiff again renewed for the period beginning on June 1, 2020 and

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> FAQs About The Geico Giveback, <a href="https://www.geico.com/about/coronavirus/giveback/">https://www.geico.com/about/coronavirus/giveback/</a> (last visited July 21, 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Report Card to Date on the \$6.5 Billion+ Promised To Auto Insurance Customers as People Drive Less Due To COVID-19, Consumer Federation of America (April 4, 2020), <a href="https://consumerfed.org/press\_release/report-card-to-date-on-the-6-5-billion-promised-to-auto-insurance-customers-as-people-drive-less-due-to-covid-19/">https://consumerfed.org/press\_release/report-card-to-date-on-the-6-5-billion-promised-to-auto-insurance-customers-as-people-drive-less-due-to-covid-19/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> CEJ/CFA Report, *supra*, at 16.

ending on December 1, 2020. Premiums were \$900.66. With a "GEICO Giveback credit" of \$135.10, Plaintiff paid \$765.56 in premiums for that policy. Plaintiff's declarations page also reflects several other non-COVID discounts. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff never received these discounts.

- 29. Both policies described above were in effect during the time period during which most of the United States, including Illinois, was significantly impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic and during which stay-at-home orders, along with other measures and conditions, caused a widespread and dramatic decrease in automobile use and traffic. Despite this, GEICO only gave Plaintiff an inadequate 15% credit on her most recent renewal policy and no refund or credit for Plaintiff's previous policy.
- 30. Upon information and belief, thousands of other policyholders in Illinois have been injured by GEICO's policy and practice of charging and failing to refund excessive auto insurance premiums to policyholders due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

- 31. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and 23(b), Plaintiff brings this action individually and on behalf of all similarly situated individuals.
- 32. The proposed class is defined as follows: All Illinois residents who purchased personal automobile, motorcycle, or RV insurance from GEICO covering any portion of the time period from March 21, 2020 to the present.
- 33. The members of the class are so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. While the precise number of class members has not been determined at this time, upon information and belief, there are thousands of individuals in the class. The identities of the class members can be determined from GEICO's records.

- 34. There are questions of law and fact common to the class that predominate over questions solely affecting individual members.
  - 35. The common questions of law and fact include, but are not limited to:
    - a. Whether GEICO has a common policy or practice of charging and failing to fully refund excessive auto insurance premiums to policyholders due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
    - b. Whether GEICO's insurance rates and premiums were excessive;
    - c. Whether GEICO violated the covenant of fair dealing and good faith;
    - d. Whether the payment of full premiums by Plaintiff and the members of the putative class is excused by frustration of purpose;
    - e. Whether GEICO was unjustly enriched as a result of its charging and failure to fully refund excessive auto insurance premiums;
    - f. Whether GEICO's charging and failure to fully refund excessive auto insurance premiums offends public policy;
    - g. Whether GEICO's charging and failure to fully refund excessive auto insurance premiums is immoral, unethical, oppressive, or unscrupulous;
    - h. Whether GEICO has violated the ICFA through its charging and failure to fully refund excessive auto insurance premiums; and
    - i. the proper measure and calculation of damages.
- 36. The questions of law and fact listed above will yield common answers for Plaintiff and the class as to whether GEICO is liable for the alleged legal violations.
- 37. Plaintiff's claims are typical of those of the members of the class. Plaintiff, like other class members, was subject to the unlawful practices described herein.
- 38. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class and has retained counsel experienced in complex class action litigation.

- 39. Class treatment is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2) because GEICO has acted on grounds that apply generally to the class, so that final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief is appropriate with respect to the class.
- 40. This action is properly maintainable as a class action under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3) because questions of law or fact predominate over any questions affecting individual class members. A class action is superior to other methods in order to ensure a fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy because, in the context of similar litigation, individual plaintiffs often lack the financial resources to vigorously prosecute separate lawsuits in federal court against large corporate defendants. Class litigation is also superior because it will preclude the need for unduly duplicative litigation resulting in inconsistent judgments pertaining to GEICO's policies and practices. There will be no difficulties in managing this action.
- 41. In the alternative, class treatment is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(4) because this is a case in which class adjudication of particular issues would serve the interests of judicial economy.

## **CAUSES OF ACTION**

## **COUNT I**

Breach of Contract - Violation of the Covenant of Fair Dealing and Good Faith (On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Putative Class)

- 42. Plaintiff restates and incorporates by reference the above paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 43. Under Illinois law, a covenant of fair dealing and good faith is implied into every contract. A party is not permitted to engage in opportunistic advantage-taking, or lack of cooperation depriving the other contracting party of their reasonable expectations.

- 44. Plaintiff and the members of the putative class purchased insurance contracts from GEICO. GEICO's conduct as described herein constitutes opportunistic advantage-taking and lack of cooperation and is a violation of the covenant of fair dealing and good faith.
- 45. Plaintiff and the members of the putative class have been injured as a direct and proximate result of GEICO's unlawful conduct.

# COUNT II Unjust Enrichment (On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Putative Class)

- 46. Plaintiff restates and incorporates by reference the above paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 47. As a result of GEICO's charging and failure to fully refund excessive auto insurance premiums as described herein, GEICO has unjustly retained a benefit to the detriment of Plaintiff and the members of the putative class.
- 48. GEICO's retention of this benefit violates the fundamental principles of justice, equity, and good conscience.
- 49. Plaintiff and the members of the putative class have been injured as a direct and proximate result of GEICO's unlawful conduct.

## COUNT III

## Frustration of Purpose (On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Putative Class)

- 50. Plaintiff restates and incorporates by reference the above paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 51. At the time Plaintiff and the members of the putative class purchased auto insurance policies from GEICO, the full effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic were not reasonably foreseeable.

- 52. As a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the value of performance on the policies between Plaintiff and the members of the putative class—i.e., the payment of full premiums—has been totally or nearly totally destroyed by the frustrating event.
- 53. Plaintiff and the members of the putative class seek a declaration that full payment of premiums is no longer required, and that any excessive premiums paid to date must be disgorged by GEICO.

#### **COUNT IV**

## Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act – Unfairness (On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Putative Class)

- 54. Plaintiff restates and incorporates by reference the above paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 55. The Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act ("ICFA") makes unlawful:

Unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices, including but not limited to the use or employment of any deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation or the concealment, suppression or omission of any material fact, with intent that others rely upon the concealment, suppression or omission of such material fact, or the use or employment of any practice described in Section 2 of the "Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act", approved August 5, 1965,1 in the conduct of any trade or commerce are hereby declared unlawful whether any person has in fact been misled, deceived or damaged thereby.

### 815 ILCS 505/2.

- 56. GEICO's conduct, as described herein, violates the ICFA because it (1) offends public policy; (2) is immoral, unethical, oppressive, or unscrupulous; and (3) causes substantial injury to consumers.
- 57. GEICO's conduct offends public policy and is immoral, unethical, oppressive, or unscrupulous because, at least, GEICO's practices are intended to use, and in fact use, the global

COVID-19 pandemic as a means to obtain an unfair economic windfall at the expense of consumers and through unfair competition; GEICO has charged, has continued to charge, and has failed to fully refund unconscionably excessive premiums with full knowledge of the amount and extent of their excess; GEICO falsely claims to its customers that it is providing substantial and full relief through its refund program and does not disclose that its refund program does not, in fact, provide full relief; GEICO does not disclose the amount of its excessive profits to its customers; GEICO makes its premium refund program contingent on customers renewing their insurance policies; GEICO's conduct violates professional standards for rate-setting; and GEICO and its customers occupy unequal bargaining positions.

- 58. The injury caused by GEICO's charging and failure to fully refund excessive auto insurance premiums is substantial in light of very conservative calculations that a 30% minimum average premium refund to would be required to correct the unfair windfall just for the time period from mid-March through the end of April 2020.
- 59. Plaintiff and the members of the putative class have been injured as a direct and proximate result of GEICO's deceptive conduct in violation of ICFA.
- 60. Through its deceptive practices, GEICO has improperly obtained and continues to improperly obtain and retain money from Plaintiff and the members of the putative class.
- 61. Plaintiff therefore requests that this Court grant the relief enumerated below.

  Otherwise, Plaintiff and the members of the putative class may be irreparably harmed and/or denied an effective and complete remedy.

### COUNT V

## Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act – Deception (On Behalf of Plaintiff and the Putative Class)

- 62. Plaintiff restates and incorporates by reference the above paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 63. The Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act ("ICFA") makes unlawful:

Unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices, including but not limited to the use or employment of any deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation or the concealment, suppression or omission of any material fact, with intent that others rely upon the concealment, suppression or omission of such material fact, or the use or employment of any practice described in Section 2 of the "Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act", approved August 5, 1965,1 in the conduct of any trade or commerce are hereby declared unlawful whether any person has in fact been misled, deceived or damaged thereby.

### 815 ILCS 505/2.

- 64. GEICO's conduct, as described herein, violates the ICFA. With full knowledge that its COVID-19 refund program is grossly inadequate, GEICO falsely claims to its customers that it is providing substantial and full relief. GEICO does not disclose that its refund program does not, in fact, provide full relief, and GEICO does not disclose the amount of its excessive profits to its customers. Nor does GEICO disclose that its premiums are not based on an accurate assessment of risk.
- 65. GEICO intended for Plaintiff and the members of the putative class to rely on GEICO's misrepresentations and omissions of material facts by remaining customers of GEICO, renewing existing insurance policies from Defendant, and buying new insurance policies from GEICO.
- 66. Plaintiff and the members of the putative class have been injured as a direct and proximate result of GEICO's deceptive conduct in violation of ICFA.

- 67. Through its deceptive practices, GEICO has improperly obtained and continues to improperly obtain and retain money from Plaintiff and the members of the putative class.
- 68. Plaintiff requests that this Court grant the relief enumerated below. Otherwise, Plaintiff and the members of the putative class may be irreparably harmed and/or denied an effective and complete remedy.

## PRAYER FOR RELIEF

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the members of the putative class, prays for relief as follows:

- A. Certification of this action as a class action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23;
- B. The appointment of Plaintiff as class representative and her counsel as class counsel;
- C. A declaration that the practices complained of herein are unlawful and violate the laws of Illinois alleged herein;
- D. An injunction against Defendants from engaging in the unlawful practices complained of herein;
- E. Awarding Plaintiff and the members of the putative class their damages in an amount to be determined at trial, including compensatory damages, consequential damages, treble damages, punitive damages, and any other damages provided under relevant laws;
- F. Disgorgement of, restitution of, and/or imposing a constructive trust upon, the ill-gotten gains derived by Defendants from their unjust enrichment;
- G. An order awarding Plaintiff and the class attorneys' fees, costs, and expert costs;
- H. An order awarding Plaintiff and the members of the putative class pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, as allowed by law; and
- I. Such further relief as may be appropriate.

### **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: July 22, 2020 Respectfully Submitted,

By: /s/ Ryan F. Stephan

Ryan F. Stephan
James B. Zouras
Teresa M. Becvar
STEPHAN ZOURAS, LLP
100 N. Riverside Plaza, Suite 2150
Chicago, IL 60606
(312) 233-1550
(312) 233-1560 f
rstephan@stephanzouras.com
jzouras@stephanzouras.com
tbecvar@stephanzouras.com

Matthew H. Morgan, MN Bar No. 0304657\*
Robert L. Schug, MN Bar No. 0387013\*
Charles A. Delbridge, MN Bar No. 386639\*
NICHOLS KASTER, PLLP
4600 IDS Center
80 South Eighth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Tel: (612) 256-3200
Fax: (612) 215-6870
morgan@nka.com
schug@nka.com
cdelbridge@nka.com
(\*pro hac vice application forthcoming)

Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Putative Class

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, the attorney, hereby certify that on July 22, 2020, I filed the attached with the Clerk of the Court using the Court's electronic filing system, which will send such filing to all attorneys of record.

/s/ Ryan F. Stephan

## **ClassAction.org**

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: Class Action Claims GEICO Charged 'Excessive' Car Insurance Premiums Amid COVID-19 Pandemic