

91306
1108
22002

FEE WAIVED

PINNOCK & WAKEFIELD

A Professional Corporation
Theodore A. Pinnock, Esq.
David C. Wakefield, Esq.
Michelle L. Wakefield, Esq.
3033 Fifth Avenue, Suite 410
San Diego, CA 92103
Telephone: 619.858.3671
Facsimile: 619.858.3646

Bar #: 153434
Bar #: 185736
Bar #: 200424

FILED
LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT

OCT 01 2007

REC'D BY U.S. MAIL

OCT 01 2007

JOHN A. CLARKE, CLERK
[Signature]
BY N. TERRAZAS, DEPUTY

Attorneys for Plaintiff

L.A.S.C.-Northwest East

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Northwest District
Van Nuys Courthouse East - Civil and Small Claims**

JAMES F. COHAN;

Plaintiff,

v.

**Rite Aid; And DOES 1 THROUGH 10,
Inclusive**

Defendants.

Case No.

LC079273

CIVIL COMPLAINT:
DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES IN
PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS
[42 U.S.C. 12182(a) ET. SEQ; CIVIL
CODE 51, 52, 54, 54.1]

NAMED DEFENDANTS AND NAMED PLAINTIFF

1. Defendants are, and, at all times mentioned herein, were, a business or corporation or franchise organized and existing and/or doing business under the laws of the State of California. Property Owner: WEC 98G 2 LLC (Company/Corporation)
Mailing Address: C/O TPI #5542, P O BOX 8431, HARRISBURG, PA 17105
Property Address: 20141 SHERMAN WAY, LOS ANGELES, CA 91306 Company
Name: WEC 98G-2 LLC
Business Address: 6750 LBJ FREEWAY, STE 1100 DALLAS, TX 75240
Registered Agent: C T CORPORATION SYSTEM

1 2. Plaintiffs are further informed and believe and thereon allege that Defendants,
2 Rite Aid, are the owners, operators, and/or lessors of the real property, as well as the
3 business operated thereon.

4 3. The words "Plaintiffs" and "Plaintiff's Member" as used herein specifically
5 include the organization and TRIPPLE AAA ASSOCIATION FOR CHILDREN AND
6 ADULTS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, SUING ON BEHALF OF ITS
7 MEMBERS, JAMES H. COHAN; and persons associated with its Members who
8 accompanied Members to Defendants' facilities.

9 4. Defendants Does 1 through 10, were at all times relevant herein subsidiaries,
10 employers, employees, agents, of Defendants Rite Aid. Plaintiffs are ignorant of the true
11 names and capacities of Defendants sued herein as Does 1 through 10, inclusive, and
12 therefore sues these Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiffs will pray leave of the
13 court to amend this complaint to allege the true names and capacities of the Does when
14 ascertained.

15 5. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that Defendants and each
16 of them herein were, at all times relevant to the action, the owner, lessor, lessee,
17 franchiser, franchisee, general partner, limited partner, agent, employee, representing
18 partner, or joint venturer of the remaining Defendants and were acting within the course
19 and scope of that relationship. Plaintiffs are further informed and believe, and thereon
20 allege, that each of the Defendants herein gave consent to, ratified, and/or authorized the
21 acts alleged herein to each of the remaining Defendants.
22

23
24 **CONCISE SET OF FACTS**

25 6. Plaintiff has an impairment.

26 7. Defendants failed to provide auxiliary aids and services that are necessary to
27 ensure equal access to the goods, services, privileges, or accommodations that it offers.
28

1 Title 28, part 36.303 of Code of Federal Regulations states:

2 (a) General. A public accommodation shall take those steps that may be
3 necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied
4 services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals
5 because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services, unless the public
6 accommodation can demonstrate that taking those steps would
7 fundamentally alter the nature of the goods, services, facilities, privileges,
8 advantages, or accommodations being offered or would result in an undue
9 burden, i.e., significant difficulty or expense.

10 (b) Examples. The term "auxiliary aids and services" includes:

11 (1) Qualified interpreters, notetakers, computer-aided transcription
12 services, written materials, telephone handset amplifiers, assistive
13 listening devices, assistive listening systems, telephones compatible with
14 hearing aids, closed caption decoders, open and closed captioning,
15 telecommunications devices for deaf persons (TDD's), videotext displays,
16 or other effective methods of making aurally delivered materials available
17 to individuals with hearing impairments;

18 (2) Qualified readers, taped texts, audio recordings, Brailled materials,
19 large print materials, or other effective methods of making visually
20 delivered materials available to individuals with visual impairments;

21 (3) Acquisition or modification of equipment or devices; and

22 (4) Other similar services and actions.

23 (c) Effective communication. A public accommodation shall furnish
24 appropriate auxiliary aids and services where necessary to ensure effective
25 communication with individuals with disabilities.
26
27
28

1 Defendants failed to comply with Title 28, part 36.303 of Code of Federal Regulations as
2 it failed to provide Qualified readers, taped texts, audio recordings, Brailled materials, or
3 large print materials. Further, Defendants failed to remove architectural barriers.

4 8. Plaintiff's Member and Plaintiff(s) have physical impairments because their
5 conditions affect one or more of the following body systems: neurological,
6 musculoskeletal, special sense organs, and/or cardiovascular. Further, Plaintiff's
7 Member and Plaintiff(s) said physical impairments substantially limits one or more of the
8 following major life activities. In addition, Plaintiff's Member and Plaintiff(s) cannot
9 perform one or more of the said major life activities in the manner, speed, and duration
10 when compared to the average person. Moreover, Plaintiff's Member and Plaintiff(s) has
11 a history of or has been classified as having a physical impairment as required by 42
12 U.S.C. § 12102(2)(A).

13 9. Plaintiff's Members expressly intend to patronize the establishment and the
14 property that is the subject of this Complaint in the immediate future.

15 10. Plaintiff's Member was deterred from patronizing the facility.
16

17 **WHAT CLAIMS ARE PLAINTIFFS ALLEGING AGAINST EACH NAMED**
18 **DEFENDANT**

19 11. Defendants Rite Aid; and Does 1 through 10 will be referred to collectively
20 hereinafter as "Defendants."

21 12. Plaintiffs aver that the Defendants are liable for the following claims as alleged
22 below:
23

24 **DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES IN PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

25 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS- Claims Under The**
26 **Americans With Disabilities Act Of 1990**
27

1 Claim I

2 13. Based on the facts stated above, Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs on the
3 basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities,
4 privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation as
5 Defendants own, lease (or lease to), or operate a place of public accommodation in
6 violation of 42 U.S.C. §12182.

7 Claim II

8 14. Based on the facts stated above, Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs
9 directly, or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements, to a denial of the
10 opportunity of the individual or class to participate in or benefit from the goods, services,
11 facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of an entity in violation of 42
12 U.S.C. §12182.

13 Claim III

14 15. Based on the facts stated above, Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs as it
15 is discriminatory to afford an individual or class of individuals, on the basis of a disability
16 or disabilities of such individual or class, directly, or through contractual, licensing, or
17 other arrangements with the opportunity to participate in or benefit from a good, service,
18 facility, privilege, advantage, or accommodation that is not equal to that afforded to other
19 individuals in violation of 42 U.S.C. §12182.

20 Claim IV

21 16. Based on the facts stated above, Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs as it
22 is discriminatory to provide an individual or class of individuals, on the basis of a
23 disability or disabilities of such individual or class, directly, or through contractual,
24 licensing, or other arrangements with a good, service, facility, privilege, advantage, or
25 accommodation that is different or separate from that provided to other individuals.

26 Claim V

1 17. Based on the facts stated above, Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs as
2 Defendants failed to afford to an individual with a disability in the most integrated
3 setting appropriate to the needs of the individual in violation of 42 U.S.C. §12182.

4 Claim VI

5 18. Based on the facts stated above, Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs as
6 Defendants utilized standards or criteria or methods of administration that have the effect
7 of discriminating on the basis of disability; or that perpetuate the discrimination of others
8 who are subject to common administrative control in violation of 42 U.S.C. §12182.

9 Claim VII

10 19. Based on the facts stated above, Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs as it
11 is discriminatory to exclude or otherwise deny equal goods, services, facilities, privileges,
12 advantages, accommodations, or other opportunities to an individual or entity because of
13 the known disability of an individual with whom the individual or entity is known to have
14 a relationship or association in violation of 42 U.S.C. §12182. See *Niece v. Fitzner* 922 F.
15 Supp. 1208 (1996)

16 Claim VIII

17 20. Based on the facts stated above, Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs as
18 Defendants engaged in the specific prohibitions as stated in 42 U.S.C. §12182.

19 Claim IX

20 21. Based on the facts stated above, Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs as
21 Defendant failed to demonstrate that the removal of a barrier is not readily achievable,
22 and made such goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations
23 available through alternative methods in a segregated manner in violation of 42 U.S.C.
24 §12182.

25 Claim X

26 22. Based on the facts stated above, Defendants discriminated against Plaintiffs as
27
28

1 Defendants altered the use of their establishment in a manner that affected or could have
2 affected the usability of the facility or part thereof and failed to make alterations in such a
3 manner that, to the maximum extent feasible, the altered portions of the facility are
4 readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals
5 who use wheelchairs in violation of 42 U.S.C. §12183.

6 23. WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment and relief as hereinafter set forth.

7
8 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS - CLAIMS UNDER**
9 **CALIFORNIA ACCESSIBILITY LAWS**

10 **CLAIM I: Denial Of Full And Equal Access**

11 24. Based on the facts plead above and elsewhere in this complaint, Plaintiff's
12 Member and Plaintiff(s) was denied full and equal access to Defendants' goods, services,
13 facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations within a public accommodation
14 owned, leased, and/or operated by Defendants as required by Civil Code Sections 54 and
15 54.1.

16 **CLAIM II: Failure To Modify Practices, Policies And Procedures**

17 25. Based on the facts plead at ¶¶ 6-16 above and elsewhere herein this complaint,
18 Defendants failed and refused to provide a reasonable alternative by modifying its
19 practices, policies, and procedures in that they failed to have a scheme, plan, or design to
20 assist Plaintiffs and/or others similarly situated in entering and utilizing Defendants'
21 services as required by Civil Code § 54.1. Thus, Plaintiff's Member and Plaintiff(s) were
22 subjected to discrimination in violation of Civil Code § 54.1.

23 **CLAIM III: Violation Of The Unruh Act**

24 26. Based on the facts plead above and elsewhere herein this complaint and because
25 Defendants violated the Civil Code § 51 by failing to comply with 42 United States Code
26 § 12182(b)(2)(A)(iv) and 42 U.S.C. § 12183(a)(2), Defendants did and continue to
27 knowingly discriminate against Plaintiffs and persons similarly situated in violation of
28

1 Civil Code §§ 51, 52, and 54.1. Plaintiffs allege the access violations alleged here are so
2 obvious as to implicate at least a prima facie case of discriminatory intent.

3 27. Based on the facts plead above. Claims I, II, and III of Plaintiffs' Second Cause
4 Of Action above, and the facts elsewhere herein this complaint, Plaintiffs will suffer
5 irreparable harm unless Defendants are ordered to remove architectural, non-
6 architectural, and communication barriers at Defendants' public accommodation.
7 Plaintiffs allege that Defendants' discriminatory conduct is capable of repetition, and this
8 discriminatory repetition adversely impacts Plaintiffs and a substantial segment of the
9 disability community. Plaintiffs allege there is a state and national public interest in
10 requiring accessibility in places of public accommodation. Plaintiffs have no adequate
11 remedy at law to redress the discriminatory conduct of Defendants. Plaintiffs desire to
12 return to Defendants' places of business in the immediate future. Accordingly, the
13 Plaintiffs allege that a structural or mandatory injunction is necessary to enjoin
14 compliance with state civil rights laws enacted for the benefit of individuals with
15 disabilities.

16 28. Wherefore, Plaintiffs pray for damages and relief as hereinafter stated.
17

18 DEMAND FOR JUDGMENT FOR RELIEF:
19

- 20 A. For injunctive relief pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12188(a).
21 B. For attorneys fees pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988, 42 U.S.C. § 12205, and Cal.
22 Civil Code § 51, 52; 54.3;
23 C. A Jury Trial and;
24 D. For such other further relief as the court deems proper.


25 ///
26 ///
27 ///
28 ///
///

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

Respectfully submitted:

PINNOCK & WAKEFIELD, A.P.C.

Dated: September 4, 2007

By: 

THEODORE A. PINNOCK, ESQ.
MICHELLE L. WAKEFIELD, ESQ.
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, state bar number, and address):
 Theodore A. Pinnock, Esq. SBN: 153434
 PINNOCK & WAKEFIELD, A.P.C.
 3033 Fifth Avenue, Suite 410
 San Diego, CA 92103
 TELEPHONE NO.: (619) 858-3671 FAX NO.: (619) 858-3646
 E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): Pinnock99@aol.com
 ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Plaintiff

FOR COURT USE ONLY

FILED
 LOS ANGELES SUPERIOR COURT

OCT 01 2007

JOHN A. BLARKE, CLERK
 BY N. TEBRAZAS, DEPUTY

CASE NUMBER: 007927

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Los Angeles

STREET ADDRESS: 6230 Sylmar Avenue
 MAILING ADDRESS: 6230 Sylmar Avenue
 CITY AND ZIP CODE: Van Nuys, CA 91401
 BRANCH NAME: Van Nuys Courthouse East

PLAINTIFF/ PETITIONER: JAMES F. COLLINS
 DEFENDANT/ RESPONDENT: AUC AD- AND DCS 1 THROUGH 16, INCLUSIVE

ORDER ON APPLICATION FOR WAIVER OF COURT FEES AND COSTS

1. The application was filed on (date): A previous order was issued on (date):
2. The application was filed by (name): James F. Collins
3. IT IS ORDERED that the application is granted in whole in part (complete item 4 below).
 - a. No payments. Payment of all the fees and costs listed in California Rules of Court, rule 3.61, is waived.
 - b. The applicant shall pay all the fees and costs listed in California Rules of Court, rule 3.61, EXCEPT the following:

(1) <input type="checkbox"/> Filing papers.	(6) <input type="checkbox"/> Sheriff and marshal fees.
(2) <input type="checkbox"/> Certification and copying.	(7) <input type="checkbox"/> Reporter's fees* (valid for 60 days).
(3) <input type="checkbox"/> Issuing process and certification.	(8) <input type="checkbox"/> Telephone appearance (Gov. Code, § 68070.1 (c))
(4) <input type="checkbox"/> Transmittal of papers.	(9) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify code section):
(5) <input type="checkbox"/> Court-appointed interpreter.	

Reporter's fees are per diem pursuant to Code Civ. Proc., §§ 269, 274c, and Gov. Code, §§ 69947, 69948, and 72195.
 - c. Method of payment. The applicant shall pay all the fees and costs when charged, EXCEPT as follows:
 (1) Pay (specify): _____ percent. (2) Pay: \$ _____ per month or more until the balance is paid.
 - d. The clerk of the court, county financial officer, or appropriate county officer is authorized to require the applicant to appear before and be examined by the court no sooner than four months from the date of this order, and not more than once in any four-month period. The applicant is ordered to appear in this court as follows for review of his or her financial status:

Date:	Time:	Dept.:	Div.:	Room:
-------	-------	--------	-------	-------

 - e. The clerk is directed to mail a copy of this order only to the applicant's attorney or to the applicant if not represented.
 - f. All unpaid fees and costs shall be deemed to be taxable costs if the applicant is entitled to costs and shall be a lien on any judgment recovered by the applicant and shall be paid directly to the clerk by the judgment debtor upon such recovery.
4. IT IS ORDERED that the application is denied in whole in part for the following reasons (see Cal. Rules of Court, rules 3.50-3.63):
 - a. Monthly household income exceeds guidelines (Gov. Code, § 68511.3(a)(6)(B); form FW-001-INFO).
 - b. Other (Complete line 4b on page 2).
 - c. The applicant shall pay any fees and costs due in this action within 10 days from the date of service of this order or any paper filed by the applicant with the clerk will be of no effect.
 - d. The clerk is directed to mail a copy of this order to all parties who have appeared in this action.
5. IT IS ORDERED that a hearing be held.
 - a. The substantial evidentiary conflict to be resolved by the hearing is (specify):
 - b. The applicant should appear in this court at the following hearing to help resolve the conflict:

Date:	Time:	Dept.:	Div.:	Room:
-------	-------	--------	-------	-------

 - c. The address of the court is (specify):
 Same as above
 - d. The clerk is directed to mail a copy of this order only to the applicant's attorney or to the applicant if not represented.

NOTICE: If item 3d or item 5b is filled in and the applicant does not attend the hearing, the court may revoke or change the order or deny the application without considering information the applicant wants the court to consider.

WARNING: The applicant must immediately tell the court if he or she becomes able to pay court fees or costs during this action. The applicant may be ordered to appear in court and answer questions about his or her ability to pay fees or costs.

Date: Michael R. Hoff Clerk, by _____, Deputy
 JUDICIAL OFFICER (Clerk may GRANT in full a nondiscretionary fee waiver, see Cal. Rule of Court, rules 3.56.) Page 1 of 2

CONFIDENTIAL - SECURITY INFORMATION

1. The following information is being furnished to you for your information only. It is not to be disseminated outside your organization.

2. This information is being furnished to you for your information only. It is not to be disseminated outside your organization.

3. This information is being furnished to you for your information only. It is not to be disseminated outside your organization.

4. This information is being furnished to you for your information only. It is not to be disseminated outside your organization.

5. This information is being furnished to you for your information only. It is not to be disseminated outside your organization.

6. This information is being furnished to you for your information only. It is not to be disseminated outside your organization.

7. This information is being furnished to you for your information only. It is not to be disseminated outside your organization.

8. This information is being furnished to you for your information only. It is not to be disseminated outside your organization.

9. This information is being furnished to you for your information only. It is not to be disseminated outside your organization.

10. This information is being furnished to you for your information only. It is not to be disseminated outside your organization.

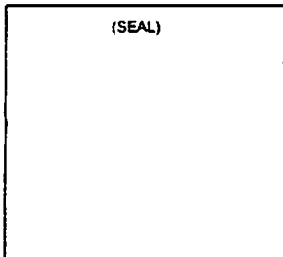
PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER (Name): JAMES F. COFFIN, V.	CASE NUMBER:
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT (Name): FIRE AID; AND DOES 1 THROUGH 10, INCORPORATED	

4b Application is denied in whole or in part (specify reasons):

CLERK'S CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that I am not a party to this cause and that a true copy of the foregoing was mailed first class, postage prepaid, in a sealed envelope addressed as shown below, and that the mailing of the foregoing and execution of this certificate occurred at (place): _____, California, on (date): _____

Clerk, by _____, Deputy



CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original on file in my office.

Date:

Clerk, by _____, Deputy