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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

DO NO HARM; STUDENTS FOR  
FAIR ADMISSIONS; and KELLY MA-  
HONEY, individually and on behalf of  
others similarly situated,

*Plaintiffs,*

v.

DAVID GEFFEN SCHOOL OF  
MEDICINE AT UCLA; UNIVERSITY  
OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES;  
REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY  
OF CALIFORNIA; MARIA ANGUI-  
ANO, ELAINE BATCHLOR, JOSIAH

Case No. 2:25-cv-4131

**CLASS ACTION  
COMPLAINT**

1 BEHARRY, CARMEN CHU, MI-  
2 CHAEL COHEN, GARETH ELLIOT,  
3 HOWARD GUBER, JOSE HERNAN-  
4 DEZ, NANCY LEE, RICHARD LEIB,  
5 HADI MAKARECHIAN, ANA MA-  
6 TOSANTOS, ROBERT MYERS,  
7 LARK PARK, JANET REILLY,  
8 MARK ROBINSON, GREGORY  
9 SARRIS, AND JONATHAN SURES  
10 JENNIFER LUCERO, GAVIN NEW-  
11 SOM, ELENI KOUNALAKIS, ROB-  
12 ERT RIVAS, TONY THURMOND,  
13 GEOFFREY PACK, AND ALFONSO  
14 SALAZAR, each in their personal and  
15 official capacities as Regents; MI-  
16 CHAEL DRAKE, in his personal and  
17 official capacities as the President of the  
18 UC System and Regent; JULIO  
19 FRENK, in his personal and official ca-  
20 pacities as the Chancellor of UCLA;  
21 STEVEN DUBINETT, in his personal  
22 and official capacities as the Dean of  
23 David Geffen School of Medicine at  
24 UCLA; JENNIFER LUCERO, in her  
25 personal and official capacities as the  
26 Associate Dean of Admissions of David  
27 Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA;  
28 ALICE KUO, RUSSELL BUHR, MA-  
NUEL CELEDON, GARY HOL-  
LAND, CAROLYN HOUSER, CHRIS-  
TINE MYO, FAYSAL SAAB, each in  
their personal and official capacities as  
members of the Admissions Oversight  
and Policy Committee of David Geffen  
School of Medicine at UCLA; and  
MEMBERS OF THE ADMISSIONS  
COMMITTEE, in their personal and of-  
ficial capacities as members of the Ad-  
missions Committee of David Geffen  
School of Medicine at UCLA,

*Defendants.*

## NATURE OF ACTION

1. Plaintiffs—Do No Harm; Students for Fair Admissions; and Kelly Mahoney, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated—bring this civil action under the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment, Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §1981, and the Unruh Civil Rights Act to stop the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and various UCLA officials from engaging in intentional discrimination on the basis of race and ethnicity in the admissions process.

2. In 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court reminded universities what has always been true: “Racial discrimination is invidious in all contexts.” *SFFA v. Harvard*, 600 U.S. 181, 214 (2023) (cleaned up). The right to “public education ‘must be made available to all on equal terms’” without regard to race. *Id.* at 204 (quoting *Brown v. Bd. of Educ.*, 493 U.S. 483, 493 (1954)). Race-based admissions “demean[] the dignity and worth of a person” by judging them “by ancestry instead of by his or her own merit and essential qualities.” *Id.* at 220 (cleaned up). The U.S. Constitution prohibits public universities from using race “as a factor in affording educational opportunities.” *Id.* at 204.

3. But UCLA didn’t need that reminder. Long before *Harvard*, the people of California passed Proposition 209, which banned the consideration of race in university admissions. The California Constitution now unambiguously states: “The State shall not discriminate against, or grant preferential treatment to, any individual or

1 group on the basis of race ... in the operation of ... public education.” Cal. Const. art.  
2 I, §31(a).

3  
4 4. But California’s universities have never liked Prop 209, at least the part  
5 that bans them from giving admissions preferences to blacks. The University of Cali-  
6 fornia System has campaigned for Prop 209’s repeal. And behind the scenes, its admis-  
7 sions offices have reintroduced the intentional consideration of race.

8  
9 5. Indeed, the UC System’s illegal use of race is currently being challenged  
10 in another case pending before this Court. *Students Against Racial Discrimination v. Regents*  
11 *of the Univ. of Cal.*, No. 8:25-cv-192-JWH-JDE (C.D. Cal.).

12  
13 6. UCLA’s medical school has adopted an “Anti-Racism Roadmap,” under  
14 which it racially balances its medical-student population.

15  
16 7. Consistent with its racial goals, Geffen made Jennifer Lucero dean of ad-  
17 missions in 2020. Lucero is an outspoken advocate for using race to make admission  
18 and hiring decisions in medical schools and hospitals. As dean of admissions, Lucero  
19 wields significant influence over Geffen’s admissions policies and practices, the ap-  
20 pointment of the admissions committee members, the committee’s deliberations, and  
21 admission decisions.

22  
23 8. Whistleblowers with first-hand knowledge of Lucero’s admissions prac-  
24 tices have now come forward. They report that, under the guise of “holistic” review,  
25 Geffen requires applicants to submit responses that are intended to allow the Com-  
26 mittee to glean the applicant’s race, which the medical school later confirms via  
27  
28

1 interviews. Lucero and her handpicked committee members routinely and openly dis-  
2 cuss race (and racial proxies) and use race as a factor to make admission decisions.  
3 Lucero berates and belittles committee members who raise concerns about admitting  
4 minority students because of their race despite low GPAs and MCAT scores. At UCLA  
5 Medical School, race is not only a factor but often decisive—above GPA and MCAT  
6 scores—in making admission decisions.  
7

8  
9 9. The numbers show that UCLA is engaged in intentional racial balancing.  
10 Between 2020 and 2023, the percentage of white and Asian applicants to Geffen was  
11 consistently around 73% of the total applicant pool. Yet the percentage of matriculants  
12 to Geffen who are white and Asian plummeted: 65.7% in 2020, 57.1% in 2021, 57.8%  
13 in 2022, and 53.7% in 2023.  
14

15 10. UCLA has withheld key admissions data from the public and its own  
16 internal oversight body. UCLA has also effectively shut down its own internal probe  
17 into its admissions practices by insisting on non-disclosure agreements from the par-  
18 ticipants in the admissions process. Geffen's apparent illegal use of race has even  
19 prompted the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to begin an investiga-  
20 tion into its admissions practices.  
21

22  
23 11. This much is clear: UCLA's illegal racial discrimination has harmed and  
24 is continuing to harm applicants, including Plaintiffs and their members. In this race-  
25 based system, all applicants are deprived of their right to equal treatment and the  
26  
27  
28

1 opportunity to pursue their lifelong dream of becoming a doctor because of utterly  
2 arbitrary criteria. Plaintiffs are entitled to relief.

### 3 **PARTIES**

4 12. Plaintiff Do No Harm is a nationwide membership organization of  
5 healthcare professionals, students, patients, and policymakers who want to protect  
6 healthcare from radical, divisive, and discriminatory ideologies. Do No Harm's pur-  
7 pose is to keep these ideologies out of medical education, clinical practice, and research  
8 fields.  
9

10 13. Do No Harm has at least one member who applied to Geffen, was re-  
11 jected, and is able and ready to reapply if a court orders Defendants to stop discrimi-  
12 nating and to undo the effects of its past discrimination.  
13

14 14. Plaintiff Students for Fair Admissions is a voluntary membership organ-  
15 ization formed for the purpose of defending human rights and civil liberties, including  
16 the right of individuals to equal protection under the law, through litigation and other  
17 lawful means. SFFA is a nonprofit membership group of tens of thousands of individ-  
18 uals across the country who believe that racial preferences in school admissions are  
19 unfair, unnecessary, and unconstitutional.  
20

21 15. SFFA has at least one member who will apply to Geffen.  
22

23 16. Plaintiff Kelly Mahoney is a college graduate who applied to, and was  
24 rejected from, Geffen.  
25  
26  
27  
28

1           17. Defendant the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA is a medical  
2 school within UCLA and the UC System.

3           18. Defendant the University of California, Los Angeles, is a state university  
4 within the UC System.

5           19. Defendant the Regents of the University of California is a state agency  
6 that operates the UC System. Under Article IX, §9 of the California Constitution, the  
7 regents have the “full powers of organization and government” over the UC System,  
8 including the UCLA Medical School. Cal. Const. art. IX, §9(a).

9           20. Defendants Maria Anguiano, Elaine Batchlor, Josiah Beharry, Carmen  
10 Chu, Michael Cohen, Gareth Elliot, Howard Guber, Jose Hernandez, Nancy Lee,  
11 Richard Leib, Hadi Makarechian, Ana Matosantos, Robert Myers, Lark Park, Janet  
12 Reilly, Mark Robinson, Gregory Sarris, and Jonathan Sures are appointed regents of  
13 the UC System and are sued in their personal and official capacities.

14           21. Defendants Gavin Newsom, Eleni Kounalakis, Robert Rivas, Tony  
15 Thurmond, Geoffrey Pack, and Alfonso Salazar are ex officio regents of the UC Sys-  
16 tem and are sued in their personal and official capacities.

17           22. Defendant Michael V. Drake is the president of the UC System and an  
18 ex officio regent of the UC System. Drake has the “full authority and responsibility  
19 over the administration of all affairs and operations” of the UC System. Drake has  
20 been the UC President since 2020. Drake is sued in his personal and official capacities.

1           23. Defendant Julio Frenk is the chancellor of UCLA. Frenk is responsible  
2 for administration and operation of the UCLA campus, including Geffen, and oversees  
3 all UCLA faculty personnel and staff, including Geffen faculty and staff. Frenk is sued  
4 in his personal and official capacities.  
5

6           24. Defendant Steven Dubinett has served as the Dean of UCLA Medical  
7 School since 2023 and as its interim dean between 2021 and 2023. Dubinett is respon-  
8 sible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of Geffen. Dubinett reports to Frenk.  
9 Dubinett is sued in his personal and official capacities.  
10

11           25. Defendant Jennifer Lucero has been the Associate Dean of Admissions  
12 at UCLA Medical School since 2020. Lucero has significant input on the appointment  
13 of the Admissions Committee, and she sits on and deliberates with the Admissions  
14 Committee. Lucero also sits on the Admissions Policy and Oversight Committee as an  
15 ex officio member and has significant influence over Geffen's admissions policies.  
16 Lucero reports to Dubinett. Lucero is sued in her personal and official capacities.  
17  
18

19           26. Defendants Alice Kuo, Russell Buhr, Manuel Celedon, Gary Holland,  
20 Carolyn Houser, Christine Myo, and Faysal Saab are faculty members who sit on Ge-  
21 ffen's Admissions Oversight and Policy Committee, which develops and reviews ad-  
22 missions policies, monitors implementation of admissions policies and outcomes, and  
23 oversees the execution and adherence to the policies. The members are appointed by  
24 Geffen's Faculty Executive Committee. They are each sued in their personal and offi-  
25 cial capacities.  
26  
27  
28



27. Defendants Members of the Admissions Committee of David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA are faculty members who sit on the Admissions Committee. The names and identities of the members of the Admissions Committee are currently unknown to Plaintiffs. These members are appointed by the Faculty Executive Committee with significant input from the Dean of Admissions. The Admissions Committee is responsible for screening and interviewing applicants, ranking them, and making admission decisions. They are sued in their personal and official capacities.

## **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

28. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1331 and §1367(a).

29. Venue is proper in the Central District of California under 28 U.S.C. §1391 because Defendants reside here and a substantial part of the events and omissions giving rise to the claim occurred here.

## **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

### **I. UCLA Medical School's Admissions Process**

30. UCLA Medical School is highly selective. Each year, Geffen receives between 11,000 and 14,000 applicants yet matriculates roughly 175 medical students.

31. Geffen's matriculants have an average GPA of 3.8 and average MCAT score of 514.

32. UCLA chooses to let applicants apply to Geffen up to three times total. And although medical schools can allow for transfers, Geffen chooses not to accept transfers.

1           33.    Geffen reviews applications and makes admission decisions through its  
2 Admissions Committee, which consists of approximately 20-30 faculty members.  
3 Committee members can serve up to three five-year terms. About five medical students  
4 also sit on the Admissions Committee to provide input on admission decisions. UCLA  
5 does not make public who sits on the admissions committee.  
6

7           34.    The Admissions Committee's application-review process for the tradi-  
8 tional M.D. track generally takes place in the following steps: primary application, sec-  
9 ondary application, interview, committee deliberation, and decision.  
10

11           35.    ***Primary Application.*** Applicants submit a primary application through  
12 the American Medical College Application Service, which is run by the Association of  
13 American Medical Colleges.  
14

15           36.    AMCAS sends the applicant's primary application to the applicant's des-  
16 ignated medical schools. Applicants pay \$175 for the first designated school and \$46  
17 for each subsequently designated school.  
18

19           37.    The primary application contains the applicant's biographical infor-  
20 mation (including race), citizenship status, family income, academic background, un-  
21 dergraduate GPA, MCAT score, internship and volunteer experience, and personal  
22 statement.  
23

24           38.    Geffen receives an applicant's primary application through AMCAS and  
25 uses the primary application to initially screen applicants. It purportedly removes the  
26 checkbox information for race and ethnicity.  
27  
28

1           39.   Geffen requires applicants to take AAMC’s PREview Exam, which at-  
2           tempts to measure applicants’ professional readiness and situational judgment. The  
3           PREview Exam is a multiple-choice test that purports to measure applicants’ cultural  
4           awareness, cultural humility, empathy and compassion, and interpersonal skills, among  
5           others. The PREview Exam was created by diversity-affairs officers from various med-  
6           ical schools, whom AAMC calls its “DEI constituents,” to “level the playing field” for  
7           applicants deemed historically underrepresented in medicine. It does so by stressing  
8           factors other than academics.  
9

10  
11           40.   It costs \$100 to take the PREview Exam. The PREview Exam scores  
12           initially get reported to UCLA as part of the applicant’s primary application. Geffen  
13           again asks about the PREview Exam in the secondary application.  
14

15           41.   ***Secondary application.*** After primary review, select applicants receive an  
16           invitation to submit a UCLA-specific secondary application.  
17

18           42.   The secondary application asks the applicant to submit several open-  
19           ended responses. For instance, in 2024, Geffen asked a series of questions, including  
20           the following: “Do you identify as being part of a group that has been marginalized  
21           (examples include, but are not limited to LGBTQIA, disabilities, federally recognized  
22           tribe) in terms of access to education or healthcare? If you answered “Yes” ..., describe  
23           how this inequity has impacted you or your community and how educational disparity,  
24           health disparity and/or marginalization has impacted you and your community.”  
25  
26  
27  
28

1           43. To submit the secondary application, the applicant must pay a fee to Ge-  
2       ffen. In 2025, the secondary-application fee is \$100. For previous application cycles,  
3       the secondary-application fee was \$95.  
4

5           44. After the secondary review, select students get an opportunity to inter-  
6       view with faculty members. The interviews are conducted either in person or remotely  
7       by video.  
8

9           45. After the interviews, the Admissions Committee deliberates on the appli-  
10      cations together.  
11

12          46. After the committee deliberates, it ranks the applicants and makes final  
13      admission decisions on who to admit.

14          47. At each step of the process—primary review, secondary review, inter-  
15      view, and committee deliberation—the Admissions Committee purports to review  
16      each application holistically. Harvard, UNC, and virtually all other elite universities that  
17      openly considered race in admissions before *Harvard* likewise use holistic admissions.  
18      *Cf.* 600 U.S. at 257 (Thomas, J., concurring) (“Harvard’s ‘holistic’ admissions policy  
19      began in the 1920s when it was developed to exclude Jews.”). Notwithstanding *Har-*  
20      *vard*, AAMC has encouraged medical schools like UCLA to continue using holistic  
21      review to “boost racial diversity.”  
22  
23  
24

## 25           **II. UCLA Medical School uses race as a factor in admissions.**

26          48. In defiance of state and federal law, UCLA uses race as a factor in admis-  
27      sions. Both the UC System and Geffen have publicly expressed their intent to racially  
28

1 balance the class. Geffen’s dean of admissions, Lucero, both publicly and privately said  
2 she uses race as a factor in making admission decisions. And whistleblowers confirm  
3 that the admissions committee, either led or intimidated by Lucero, use all available  
4 methods to glean an applicant’s race, openly discuss applicants’ race, and use race to  
5 hold students to different standards based on race.  
6

7  
8 49. In *Harvard*, the UC System submitted an amicus brief stating that it “im-  
9 plemented numerous and wideranging race-neutral measures designed to increase ...  
10 racial diversity.” The UC System also said although “Proposition 209 barred consider-  
11 ation of race in admissions decisions at public universities in California,” its competitor  
12 universities outside of California “must retain the ability to engage in the ... consider-  
13 ation of race” under *Grutter v. Bollinger*, 539 U.S. 306 (2003). That would have made it  
14 more difficult for the UC System to attract minority students. Indeed, this position  
15 makes no sense unless the UC System was still using race and needed that practice to  
16 be lawful under federal law.  
17

18  
19 50. Similarly, in 2024, the UC System said that “system- and campus-level  
20 strategies and innovations are being piloted or have been implemented” to “achieve  
21 representational diversity in its student body.”  
22

23 51. The UC System further adopted the “UC 2030 Capacity Plan,” with the  
24 goal of having its student bodies “better reflec[t] California’s racial/ethnic ... diver-  
25 sity.” Drake, the UC System President, wanted “intentional” “growth” in terms of  
26 making “graduate students ... better reflect and tap the talent of underrepresented  
27  
28

1 populations who represent the majority of Californians.” To support this goal of  
2 “mov[ing] the needle on the diversity of graduate students,” the Regents “requested  
3 graduate professional programs” to “present race/ethnicity data on students and fac-  
4 ulty, along with diversity plans within the program.”

5  
6 52. The UC System meticulously measures its racial outcomes in a variety of  
7 ways, including by closely tracking the racial demographics of its students.  
8

9 53. In 2020, Geffen adopted the “Anti-Racism Roadmap” with the purpose  
10 of creating a “path toward racial justice, equity, diversity and inclusion.”  
11

12 54. Under the roadmap, Geffen instituted sweeping policies concerning race  
13 in its operations.

14 a. Geffen re-defined “merit” to include “diversity and inclusion initiatives.”

15 b. Geffen committed itself to increasing BIPOC employees and chairs  
16 among its faculty and created a special pathway for BIPOC postdoctoral  
17 trainees, fellows, and residents to become faculty.  
18

19 c. Geffen committed itself to creating special opportunities for BIPOC re-  
20 searchers to present seminars, present research, and otherwise participate  
21 in research opportunities, including by providing “minority supplements”  
22 to NIH grants.  
23

24 d. Geffen vowed that the medical-student body “should reflect the popula-  
25 tion of State of California” and adopted a strategic plan to “increase the  
26 number of URiM students.” The term “URiM” stands for  
27  
28

1 underrepresented in medicine. Its proponents consider all lacks to be un-  
2 derrepresented and all whites and Asians to be overrepresented.

3  
4 e. Geffen vowed collaboration among the Admissions Committee, the Ad-  
5 missions Policy Oversight Committee, and Faculty Executive Committee  
6 to “review and improve diversity to reflect the population of the State of  
7 California.”

8  
9 f. Geffen sought the participation of “diverse” medical students and its Eq-  
10 uity, Diversity, and Inclusion Office in the admissions process to further  
11 its racial goals.

12  
13 g. Geffen also explained how it would monitor the racial numbers in the  
14 admissions process. It explained that it would engage in “strategic plan-  
15 ning to improve diversity for all UCLA Health professional students using  
16 data-driven, evidence-based approaches.” In addition, it would “collect  
17 and publicly report data on diversity in all school programs.”

18  
19 55. Geffen’s Anti-Racism Roadmap has separately been incorporated into  
20 the school’s diversity statements, which the Admissions Committee applies in review-  
21 ing each application.

22  
23 56. In 2020, Geffen named Lucero its Dean of Admissions. Lucero is also  
24 the Vice Chair of DEI efforts at UCLA Health, the hospital system affiliated with  
25 Geffen.  
26  
27  
28

1           57. Lucero is an outspoken advocate for using race as a factor in admissions  
2 and hiring in medical school and healthcare. Lucero has stated her view that every part  
3 of society—including academic medicine—is structurally racist. Lucero has stated her  
4 view that racism affects admission decisions and impedes DEI efforts. Lucero has also  
5 stated her view that comments like “We want diversity, but we also want qualified  
6 people” are biased and racist.  
7

8           58. Lucero has stated in articles and public interviews that it’s important to  
9 racially diversify medical-school admissions, residencies, and leadership positions in  
10 medicine. As Dean of Admissions, Lucero has significant influence over the appoint-  
11 ment of Admissions Committee members. Lucero has remade the Admissions Com-  
12 mittee to be, what she calls, a “brave space” that both looks racially diverse and is  
13 where the committee members feel free to further DEI efforts.  
14

15           59. Consistent with Lucero’s beliefs, Geffen’s current “Guiding Principles  
16 for Student Representation” state that the chair of the Admission Committee will en-  
17 sure that medical students who identify as BIPOC are placed on the committee to  
18 provide their input on admissions.  
19

20           60. Given the UC System’s and Geffen’s explicit desire to racially balance the  
21 student body, and with Lucero at the helm, the Admissions Committee makes admis-  
22 sion decisions by using race as a factor.  
23

24           61. Lucero and her handpicked Admissions Committee take advantage of  
25 UCLA’s holistic-review procedure to uncover and then use applicants’ race.  
26  
27  
28



1           62. Lucero and the Admissions Committee routinely admit black applicants  
2 with below-average GPA and MCAT scores—even significantly below-average  
3 scores—while requiring whites and Asians to have near-perfect scores to even be seri-  
4 ously considered.

5  
6           63. Lucero and the Admissions Committee explicitly discuss and use appli-  
7 cants' race. On one occasion when the Committee was deliberating on a black appli-  
8 cant with a significantly below-average GPA and MCAT score, Lucero stated: "Did  
9 you not know African-American women are dying at a higher rate than everyone else?"  
10 "We need people like this in the medical school."

11  
12           64. Committee members report that the bar for underrepresented minorities  
13 is "as low as you could possibly imagine" and that the Committee "completely disre-  
14 gards grades and achievements" for those applicants.

15  
16           65. Lucero regularly bullies and berates members of the Admissions Com-  
17 mittee who voice concerns about admitting below-average black applicants by labeling  
18 them as "privileged" and implying that they are racist.

19  
20           66. Another time when the Committee rejected a Native American applicant,  
21 Lucero berated the Committee and made the members sit through a two-hour lecture  
22 on Native American history taught by Lucero's sister.

23  
24           67. Lucero and the Admissions Committee regularly glean the applicants'  
25 race through direct and indirect means. The secondary application even asks questions  
26  
27  
28

1 designed to uncover applicants' race. The interviews further enable the committee to  
2 know applicants' race and ethnicity.

3  
4 68. Statistical evidence obtained through public-records requests confirm  
5 that Lucero and the Admissions Committee are using race.

6  
7 69. Despite consistently making up a large percentage of the total applicant  
8 pool, the percentage of white and Asian students who matriculate at UCLA Medical  
9 School has dropped precipitously since Lucero took over as dean.

10  
11 70. In 2020, white applicants constituted 36.71% of the total applicant pool.  
12 Yet only 30.29% of the matriculants were white.

13  
14 71. In 2021, white applicants constituted 35.02% of the total applicant pool.  
15 Yet only 27.43% of the matriculants were white.

16  
17 72. In 2022 white applicants constituted 34.64% of the total applicant pool.  
18 Yet only 26.59% of the matriculants were white.

19  
20 73. In 2023, white applicants constituted 32.83% of the total applicant pool.  
21 Yet only 24% of the matriculants were white.

22  
23 74. In 2020, Asian applicants constituted 37.83% of the total applicant pool.  
24 Yet only 35.43% of the matriculants were Asian.

25  
26 75. In 2021, Asian applicants constituted 37.13% of the total applicant pool.  
27 Yet only 29.71% of the matriculants were Asian.

28  
76. In 2022, Asian applicants constituted 39.34% of the total applicant pool.  
Yet only 31.21% of the matriculants were Asian.

1           77. In 2023, Asian applicants constituted 40.79% of the total applicant pool.  
2 Yet only 29.71% of the matriculants were Asian.

3           78. A disproportionately higher number of black applicants matriculated to  
4 Geffen in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.

5           79. In 2020, black applicants made up 7.06% of the applicant pool. Yet 8%  
6 of the matriculants were black.

7           80. In 2021, black applicants made up 8.93% of the applicant pool. Yet  
8 11.43% of the matriculants were black.

9           81. In 2022, black applicants made up 7.64% of the applicant pool. Yet  
10 9.83% of the matriculants were black.

11           82. In 2023, black applicants made up 7.86% of the applicant pool. Yet  
12 14.29% of the matriculants were black.

13           83. Geffen's matriculants have an average GPA of 3.8 and average MCAT  
14 of 514. Nationally, the average GPA for white matriculants was a 3.8 and the average  
15 MCAT was 512.4, while Asian matriculants had an average GPA of 3.83 in and an  
16 average MCAT of 514.3. Yet black matriculants had an average GPA of 3.59 and an  
17 average MCAT of 505.7.

18           84. Geffen closely guards the GPA and MCAT scores for its matriculants.  
19 And it does not make the GPAs or MCAT scores of matriculants available to the pub-  
20 lic. Geffen has stubbornly refused to produce full MCAT scores, even in response to  
21 a public-records request. For years, Geffen's administration even refused to provide  
22

1 admissions data to the faculty oversight board. UCLA's refusal to turn over this infor-  
2 mation confirms that the data would show large racial preferences.

3  
4 85. Lucero's and the Admissions Committee's illegal use of race in admis-  
5 sions was known, and caused grave concern, among Geffen's faculty members.

6 86. After receiving multiple complaints for years, UCLA's internal Discrimi-  
7 nation Prevention Office, charged with ensuring compliance with Title VI and other  
8 laws, sought to investigate Lucero and Geffen's admissions practices.

9  
10 87. Four members of the Admissions Committee initially agreed to partici-  
11 pate in that investigation. But the Admissions Committee had required its members to  
12 sign a nondisclosure agreement barring any discussion of the committee's delibera-  
13 tions. When these four members wrote to Geffen's administration (including Dubi-  
14 nett) seeking written assurance that they would not be retaliated against for cooperating  
15 with the internal probe, the administration refused to give them that assurance. Ge-  
16 ffen's administration thus effectively shut down UCLA's internal probe.

17  
18  
19 88. Geffen's use of race in admissions has now prompted HHS to open an  
20 investigation.

21  
22 **III. UCLA's racial discrimination has harmed and continues to harm**  
23 **Plaintiffs.**

24 89. Do No Harm has at least one member who is ready and able to apply to  
25 Geffen, including DNH-Member A.

26 90. DNH-Member A is white, a U.S. citizen, and a recent college graduate.  
27  
28

1           91.     DNH-Member A applied to Geffen in 2024.

2           92.     DNH-Member A had a 3.88 cumulative college GPA and scored 526 on  
3 the MCAT, which was in the 100th percentile. He completed all necessary courses.  
4

5           93.     DNH-Member A submitted both the primary and secondary applications  
6 to Geffen. DNH-Member A paid the primary-application fee and the secondary-ap-  
7 plication fee. DNH-Member A also incurred the cost of taking the PREview Exam.  
8

9           94.     Despite his stellar academic achievements, DNH-Member A was rejected  
10 by Geffen.

11           95.     If a court were to order Defendants to stop discriminating and issue an  
12 injunction undoing the effects of their prior discrimination, DNH-Member A is able  
13 and ready to reapply to Geffen, including by applying to transfer.  
14

15           96.     SFFA has at least one member who will apply to Geffen.

16           97.     SFFA-Member 1 is female, half-Asian and half-white, a U.S. citizen who  
17 graduated from a high school in California, and a current college student. She will sat-  
18 isfy all requirements to attend medical school.  
19

20           98.     SFFA-Member 1 has a GPA of 3.4. Her science grades are near the 90th  
21 percentile of her class this semester. SFFA-Member 1 has worked as a health aide at a  
22 resident-care home and has managed multiple businesses even at a young age. SFFA-  
23 Member 1 will prepare for and take the MCAT.  
24

25           99.     SFFA-Member 1 wants to attend Geffen, will apply, and will take all nec-  
26 essary steps to apply.  
27  
28

1           100. Because of Geffen's racially discriminatory admissions policies and prac-  
2 tices, without a court order fully preventing Defendants from discriminating, SFFA-  
3 Member 1 will not be able to compete for admissions on an equal footing.  
4

5           101. Plaintiff Mahoney has been harmed by Defendants' illegal use of race in  
6 admissions.  
7

8           102. Mahoney is female and a U.S. citizen.

9           103. Mahoney started at a community college and later transferred to UC Da-  
10 vis, graduating with a GPA around 3.8.  
11

12           104. Mahoney scored 519 on MCAT (96th percentile), well above Geffen's  
13 average.  
14

15           105. To follow in the footsteps of her father, who is a doctor and who taught  
16 her about the responsibility of doctors to guide patients through the most vulnerable  
17 periods in their lives, Mahoney decided to apply to medical school. She spent her col-  
18 lege years taking difficult science classes and preparing for the MCAT. After graduat-  
19 ing, she gained research, clinical, and volunteer experiences. With her stellar creden-  
20 tials, Mahoney applied to various medical schools multiple times, including Geffen.  
21

22           106. In 2023, for example, Mahoney applied to Geffen and was invited to sub-  
23 mit a secondary application. When she applied, Mahoney paid the primary-application  
24 fee and the secondary-application fee. Mahoney also incurred the cost of taking the  
25 PREview Exam.  
26  
27  
28

1           107. But Mahoney was rejected without an interview. Geffen sent a rejection  
2 letter to Mahoney on February 6, 2024.

3           108. Mahoney is white. Though she has some Hispanic background, UCLA  
4 did not know that fact when she applied in 2023.

5           109. If she were black, Mahoney would have had a far better chance of getting  
6 admitted to UCLA. Mahoney finds it hurtful and offensive that UCLA would judge  
7 her based on irrelevant racial factors that she cannot control.

8           110. Mahoney is able and ready to apply to Geffen again if a court orders  
9 Defendants to stop discriminating and to undo the effects of their prior discrimination.

### 10                           **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

11           111. Per Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23, Mahoney brings this action indi-  
12 vidually and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated.

13           112. Mahoney proposes the following class definition and seek class certifica-  
14 tion, subject to amendment based on information obtained through discovery:

15           **Class:** All individuals who applied to Geffen within the statute of limita-  
16 tions, do not identify as black, paid an application-related fee, and were  
17 denied admission.

18                   **Injunctive Subclass:** All individuals who are able and ready to ap-  
19 ply or reapply to Geffen if the Court order relief that fully stops the  
20 school from considering race in admissions and undoes the effect  
21 of the school's prior discrimination, including by enjoining the  
22 school's limitations on transfers and multiple applications.

1           113. Mahoney reserves the right to amend the definition of the class or to add  
2 a class or subclass if further information and discovery indicate that the definition of  
3 the class should be narrowed, expanded, or otherwise modified.  
4

5           114. Specifically excluded from this Class are Defendants’ officers, directors,  
6 employees, and agents; any entity in which a Defendant has a controlling interest; and  
7 affiliates, legal representatives, attorneys, successors, heirs, or assigns of Defendant.  
8 Also excluded from this Class are any judicial officers to whom this case is assigned,  
9 their families, and members of their staff.  
10

11           115. Class certification is appropriate under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure  
12 23(a).  
13

14           116. **Numerosity:** The class is “so numerous that joinder of all members is  
15 impracticable.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1); *see Powers v. McDonough*, 732 F. Supp. 3d 1184,  
16 1192 (C.D. Cal. 2024) (“courts generally find that numerosity obtains when a class has  
17 forty or more members.”). The members of the class and the subclasses are so numer-  
18 ous that joinder of all of them is impracticable. Each year, UCLA Medical School re-  
19 ceives between 11,000 and 14,000 applications; and the nonblack applicants make up  
20 the vast majority. Class members can be notified of the pendency of this action by  
21 recognized, court-approved notice dissemination methods, which may include U.S.  
22 mail, email, internet postings, or other published notice.  
23  
24  
25

26           117. **Commonality:** There are “questions of law or fact common to the  
27 class.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(2). “A common question ‘must be of such nature that it is  
28



capable of class wide resolution—which means that determination of its truth or falsity will resolve an issue that is central to the validity of each one of the claims in one stroke.” *Olean Wholesale Grocery Coop., Inc. v. Bumble Bee Foods LLC*, 31 F.4th 651, 663 (9th Cir. 2022). Claims challenging a “government policy” that “results in the systematic discrimination against class members” subjects class members to a “common injury” of “systematic discrimination.” *Powers*, 732 F. Supp. 3d at 1193; *see also Little v. Wash. Metro. Area Transit Auth.*, 249 F. Supp. 3d 394, 419 (D.D.C. 2017) (challenging a “single” discriminatory policy “that was applied to all members of the class” satisfied commonality). Here, the members of the class and subclass raise the “core claim” that applicants “were subjected to different standards and criteria for admission” because of “their race or ethnicity.” *Smith v. Univ. of Wash. Law Sch.*, 2 F. Supp. 2d 1324, 1342 (W.D. Wash. 1998). Whether Defendants “intentionally discriminated ... on the basis of race”—and thus denied the class members “equal treatment under the law”—is “common to the putative classes.” *Id.* Specifically, this case presents questions of law and fact that are common to the class and subclass, including but not limited to the following: (1) whether Defendants use race as a factor in making admission decisions; (2) whether Defendants’ use of race in making admission decisions violates the Constitution, Title VI, and §1981; and (3) whether Plaintiff Mahoney and members of the class and subclass are entitled to relief.

118. **Typicality:** The “claims or defenses of the representative parties are typical of the claims or defenses of the class.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(3). This element asks

1 “whether other members have the same or similar injury, whether the action is based  
2 on conduct which is not unique to the named plaintiffs, and whether other class mem-  
3 bers have been injured by the same course of conduct.” *Powers*, 732 F. Supp. 3d at  
4 1195. Mahoney’s claims are typical of the claims of the proposed class and subclass  
5 because her claims are based upon the same legal theories and violations of the law.  
6 Mahoney and the class members all suffered the same injury because of Defendants’  
7 intentional discrimination in Geffen’s admissions process. *See Smith*, 2 F. Supp. 2d at  
8 1342-43.  
9  
10

11 119. **Adequacy:** The representative parties “will fairly and adequately protect  
12 the interests of the class.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4). Mahoney will fairly and adequately  
13 represent and protect the interests of the members the class and subclass. Mahoney’s  
14 interests are coincident with, and not antagonistic to, those of the members of the class  
15 and subclass. She opposes all preferences based on race or ethnicity, of any kind and  
16 to any degree. Mahoney’s lawyers are competent and experienced in litigating civil-  
17 rights cases and mass actions.  
18  
19

20 120. Class certification is appropriate also because this case fits into all three  
21 categories listed in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b). Class certification requires  
22 satisfying only one. *Olean*, 31 F.4th at 663.  
23  
24

25 121. **Superiority:** Under Rule 23(b)(1), a class action is a superior method for  
26 the fair and efficient adjudication of this case because class proceedings are superior  
27 to all other available methods for fair and efficient adjudication of this case, and joinder  
28

1 of the class (and subclass) members is otherwise impracticable. Class treatment pre-  
2 sents a superior mechanism for fairly resolving similar issues and claims without repe-  
3 titious and wasteful litigation. It would impose a substantial hardship for most individ-  
4 ual members of the class or subclass to prosecute individual actions, many of whom  
5 are not able to incur the expense of retaining their own counsel to prosecute individual  
6 actions. The litigation of individual cases would also create inconsistent results, with  
7 some members of the class recovering but not others, and some courts declaring De-  
8 fendants liable for discrimination but potentially not others, establishing incompatible  
9 standards of conduct for Defendants. By contrast, if this Court adjudicates Defend-  
10 ants' liability for all class members, it can resolve their claims all at once, without in-  
11 consistent results, thus obtaining global relief and judicial efficiency.

12  
13  
14  
15 122. **Injunctive or Declaratory Relief:** Injunctive and declaratory relief  
16 “with respect to the class as a whole” is appropriate. Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2). Because  
17 Defendants discriminated against white and Asian applicants “by applying different  
18 standards and criteria for admission,” this is a “paradigm case for certification under  
19 Rule 23(b)(2).” *Smith*, 2 F. Supp. 2d at 1343.

20  
21  
22 123. **Predominance:** Under Rule 23(b)(3), Defendants engaged in a common  
23 course of discriminatory conduct toward Mahoney and class members. Mahoney and  
24 class members were denied equal treatment in the admissions process because of their  
25 race. The common issues arising from Defendants' discriminatory conduct toward the  
26  
27  
28

1 class members predominate over any individualized issues, especially given the me-  
 2 chanical nature of the requested damages.

3  
 4 **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**  
 5 **COUNT I**  
 6 **Violation of the Fourteenth Amendment**  
 7 **(U.S. Const. amend. XIV; 42 U.S.C. §1983)**

8 124. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege the preceding allegations.

9 125. Section 1983 provides that “[e]very person who, under color of any stat-  
 10 ute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage, of any State or Territory or the District  
 11 of Columbia, subjects, or causes to be subjected, any citizen of the United States or  
 12 other person within the jurisdiction thereof to the deprivation of any rights, privileges,  
 13 or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws, shall be liable to the party injured  
 14 in an action at law, suit in equity, or other proper proceeding for redress.” 42 U.S.C.  
 15 §1983.  
 16

17 126. All individual Defendants are “person[s]” acting under the color of state  
 18 law. §1983.  
 19

20 127. The Fourteenth Amendment provides, among other things, that no per-  
 21 son shall be denied “the equal protection of the laws.” U.S. Const. amend. XIV, §1.  
 22

23 128. The “central mandate” of equal protection is “racial neutrality” by the  
 24 government. *Miller v. Johnson*, 515 U.S. 900, 904 (1995). And the “‘core purpose’ of the  
 25 Equal Protection Clause” is to “‘d[o] away with *all* governmentally imposed discrimi-  
 26 nation based on race.’” *Harvard*, 600 U.S. at 206 (emphasis added). “[W]henver the  
 27  
 28

1 government treats any person unequally because of his or her race, that person has  
2 suffered an injury that falls squarely within the language and spirit of the Constitution's  
3 guarantee of equal protection." *Adarand Constructors, Inc. v. Pena*, 515 U.S. 200, 229-30  
4 (2000).

6 129. Defendants through UCLA Medical School intentionally engage in "out-  
7 right racial balancing," which is "patently unconstitutional." *Harvard*, 600 U.S. at 223.  
8 The Supreme Court has repeated that "[r]acial balance is not to be achieved for its  
9 own sake." *Parents Involved in Cmty. Schs. v. Seattle Sch. Dist. No. 1*, 551 U.S. 701, 729-30  
10 (2007) (plurality). Despite this admonition, Defendants adopted admissions policies  
11 and practices that ensure that Geffen's medical-student population reflect the racial  
12 composition of the State. Geffen's racial-balancing project is confirmed by statistical  
13 evidence. Between 2020 and 2023, the percentage of white and Asian matriculants  
14 plummeted precipitously despite constituting a much larger share of the total applicant  
15 pool. At the same time, the percentage of black matriculants jumped significantly, de-  
16 spite constituting a much smaller portion of the total applicant pool.

21 130. The Admissions Committee also uses a sophisticated "holistic" applica-  
22 tion-review method that's designed to glean and use applicants' race. The secondary  
23 applications ask questions designed to facilitate the Committee's use of race. And the  
24 in-person or virtual interview process facilitates the Committee's use of race. The Ad-  
25 missions Committee also explicitly discusses race and uses it as a factor in making  
26 admission decisions.  
27  
28

1           131. Especially for black students, their race results in a significant boost in  
2 the admissions process, sufficient to overcome a significant below-average GPA or  
3 MCAT score.  
4

5           132. This use of race is patently illegal. “[N]o State has any authority under  
6 the equal-protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to use race as a factor in  
7 affording educational opportunities.” *Harvard*, 600 U.S. at 204.  
8

9           133. At the very least, the Admissions Committee uses proxies for race in  
10 making admission decisions. This is also illegal. “What cannot be done directly cannot  
11 be done indirectly.” *Id.* at 230. And “universities may not simply stablish through ap-  
12 plication essays or other means the regime” that is “unlawful.” *Id.* Discrimination on  
13 the basis of perceived race, even if mistaken, is also equally actionable. *See, e.g., Estate*  
14 *of Amos ex rel. Amos v. City of Page*, 257 F.3d 1086, 1094 (9th Cir. 2001); *Santos v. Peralta*  
15 *Cnty. Coll. Dist.*, 2009 WL 38098797, at \*3 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 13).  
16  
17

18           134. When the government “distributes ... benefits on the basis of individual  
19 racial classifications, that action is reviewed under strict scrutiny.” *Parents Involved*, 551  
20 U.S. at 720 (majority).  
21

22           135. Strict scrutiny is a “searching examination, and it is the government that  
23 bears the burden to prove ‘that the reasons for any racial classification are clearly iden-  
24 tified and unquestionably legitimate.’” *Fisher v. Univ. of Tex.*, 570 U.S. 297, 310 (2013)  
25 (cleaned up). The racial classification “must survive a daunting two-step examination.”  
26 *Harvard*, 600 U.S. at 206. First, the racial classification must “‘further compelling  
27  
28

1 governmental interests.” *Id.* at 207. Second, the government’s use of race must be  
2 “‘narrowly tailored’—meaning ‘necessary’—to achieve that interest.” *Id.*

3  
4 136. Defendants cannot satisfy strict scrutiny.

5 137. Defendants cannot show a compelling governmental interest. The Su-  
6 preme Court has recognized compelling interests in the use of race in only the narrow-  
7 est of circumstances, where those preferences are explicitly designed to remedy recent  
8 acts of discrimination and to make the *individual subjects* of that discrimination whole.  
9 *Id.* There is no evidence that Defendants adopted their current admissions policies and  
10 practices to remedy some past discrimination that they took part in. Instead, Defend-  
11 ants are engaged in simple racial balancing, which is plainly illegitimate. Worse, De-  
12 fendants want to accept more underrepresented applicants simply because they belong  
13 to underrepresented minority groups. Such an outright race-based distribution of gov-  
14 ernmental benefits and resources—especially in the educational context—is illegal. *See*  
15 *Brown*, 347 U.S. at 493-94; *Harvard*, 600 U.S. at 216-18.  
16  
17  
18

19 138. Defendants’ admissions policies and practices are also not narrowly tai-  
20 lored.  
21

22 139. Race operates as a “negative” by disadvantaging nonblack applicants in  
23 the admissions process. Admission to Geffen is a highly selective, zero-sum process.  
24 Any benefit given to “some applicants but not to others necessarily advantages the  
25 former group at the expense of the latter.” *Harvard*, 600 U.S. at 219.  
26  
27  
28

1           140. Defendants use race as a stereotype—for example, by proceeding from  
2 the unfounded assumption that “there is an inherent benefit in race *qua* race.” *Id.* at  
3 220.

4  
5           141. Defendants’ use of race has no end date.

6           142. Section 1983 authorizes damages and injunctive relief. It also authorizes  
7 punitive damages “when the defendant’s conduct is shown to be motivated by evil  
8 motive or intent, or when it involves reckless or callous indifference to the federally  
9 protected rights of others.” *Bacon v. Woodward*, 104 F.4th 744, 750 (9th Cir. 2024).  
10 Defendants’ direct and indirect use of race in making admission decisions—especially  
11 after Prop 209 and *Harvard*—shows callous disregard of applicants’ right to equal treat-  
12 ment.  
13  
14

15  
16                                   **COUNT II**  
17                                   **Violation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964**  
18                                   **(42 U.S.C. §2000d et seq.)**

19           143. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege the preceding allegations.

20           144. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 provides that no person “shall,  
21 on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be  
22 denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity  
23 receiving Federal financial assistance.” 42 U.S.C. §2000d.

24           145. Defendants UCLA Medical School, UCLA, and the Regents are covered  
25 by Title VI. Title VI defines “program or activity” to mean “all of the operations of”  
26 a “university” or “public system of higher education” “any part of which is extended  
27  
28



1 Federal financial assistance.” 42 U.S.C. §2000d-4a(2)(A). The UC System, UCLA, and  
2 UCLA Medical School receive federal funds in federal student aid and research grants.

3  
4 146. Under 42 U.S.C. §2000d-7(a)(1), a state is “not ... immune ... from suit  
5 in Federal court for a violation of ... title VI.”

6 147. Private individuals can sue to enforce Title VI and obtain both injunctive  
7 relief and compensatory damages. *See Alexander v. Sandoval*, 532 U.S. 275, 279-80  
8 (2001).

9  
10 148. Defendants have caused and will continue to cause applicants to be “ex-  
11 cluded from participation in,” “denied the benefits of,” and “subjected to discrimina-  
12 tion under” UCLA’s admissions policies and practices “on the ground of race, color,  
13 or national origin.” 42 U.S.C. §2000d.

14  
15 149. Title VI has “independent force” and makes it “*always* unlawful to dis-  
16 criminate among persons even in part because of race” without subjecting racial clas-  
17 sifications to strict scrutiny. *Harvard*, 600 U.S. at 308-09 (Gorsuch, J., concurring).

18  
19 150. At a minimum, because Defendants violate the Fourteenth Amendment,  
20 they also violate Title VI. *See SFFA v. Harvard*, 980 F.3d 157, 185 (1st Cir. 2020) (“Title  
21 VI’s protections are coextensive with the Equal Protection Clause.”), *rev’d on other ground*  
22 600 U.S. 181.  
23

24  
25 **COUNT III**  
26 **Violation of the Civil Rights Act of 1866**  
27 **(42 U.S.C. §1981)**

28 151. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege the preceding allegations.

1           152. Section 1981 guarantees “[a]ll persons ... the same right ... to make and  
2 enforce contracts ... as is enjoyed by white citizens.” 42 U.S.C. §1981(a). And it author-  
3 izes equitable and legal relief, including compensatory and punitive damages. *Johnson v.*  
4 *Ry. Express Agency, Inc.*, 421 U.S. 454, 459-60 (1975).

6           153. White and Asian applicants are protected by §1981, whose “broad terms”  
7 bar discrimination “against, or in favor of, any race.” *McDonald v. Santa Fe Trail Transp.*  
8 *Co.*, 427 U.S. 273, 295 (1976). Titled “Equal rights under the law,” §1981 “guarantee[s]  
9 continuous equality between white and nonwhite citizens,” *Jam v. Int’l Fin. Corp.*, 586  
10 U.S. 199, 208 (2019), by protecting the “equal right of all persons ... to make and en-  
11 force contracts without respect to race,” *Domino’s Pizza, Inc. v. McDonald*, 546 U.S. 470,  
12 474 (2006) (cleaned up). Section 1981 “forbids racial discrimination ... whether the  
13 aggrieved party is black or white.” *Bobo v. ITT, Cont’l Baking Co.*, 662 F.2d 340, 342 (5th  
14 Cir. 1981).

16           154. “[A] contract for educational services is a ‘contract’ for purposes of  
17 §1981.” *Gratz v. Bollinger*, 539 U.S. 244, 276 n.23 (2003).

19           155. The admissions process at Geffen implicates the right to “make ... con-  
20 tracts.” §1981(a). Section 1981 “protects ‘would-be contractor[s]’ ... to the same extent  
21 that it protects contracting parties.” *AAER v. Fearless Fund Mgmt., LLC*, 103 F.4th 765,  
22 776 (11th Cir. 2024). The statute broadly “offers relief when racial discrimination blocks  
23 the creation of a contractual relationship.” *Domino’s*, 546 U.S. at 476.

156. Defendants are violating §1981 by intentionally limiting the formation of contractual relationships based on race.

157. Race is a but-for cause of applicants' "loss of a legally protected right" to make contracts. *Newman v. Amazon.com, Inc.*, 2022 WL 971297, at \*7 (D.D.C. Mar. 31). "So long as the plaintiff's [race] was one but-for cause of that decision, that is enough." *Bostock v. Clayton County*, 590 U.S. 644, 656 (2020). But for the fact that the applicants are a disfavored race, they would have had the "same right" to "make ... contracts" with UCLA. §1981(a).

158. At a minimum, because Defendants violate the Fourteenth Amendment, they also violate §1981. *Gratz*, 539 U.S. at 276 n.23.

**COUNT IV**  
**Violation of the California Unruh Civil Rights Act**  
**(Cal. Civ. Code §51 et seq.)**

159. Plaintiffs repeat and reallege the preceding allegations.

160. California's Unruh Civil Rights Act provides that "[a]ll persons within the jurisdiction of this state are free and equal" and that "no matter what their" "race," "color," "ancestry," or "national origin," they are "entitled to the full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities, privileges, or services in all business establishments of every kind whatsoever." Cal. Civ. Code §51(b). The Unruh Act "prohibits arbitrary discrimination, both benign and improperly intentioned, against minorities or majorities." *Park Redlands Covenant Control Comm. v. Simon*, 226 Cal. Rptr. 199, 202 (Cal. Ct. App. 1986).

1 161. “Whoever denies, aids or incites a denial, or makes any discrimination or  
2 distinction ... is liable for each and every offense for the actual damages, and any  
3 amount ... up to a maximum of three times the amount of actual damages but in no  
4 case less than four thousand dollars.” Cal. Civ. Code §52(a). “The litigant need not  
5 prove she suffered actual damages to recover the independent statutory damages of  
6 \$4,000.” *Molski v. M.J. Cables, Inc.*, 481 F.3d 724, 731 (9th Cir. 2007). The Unruh Act  
7 also authorizes attorney’s fees.  
8

10 162. Defendants Frenk, Dubinett, Lucero, Kuo, Buhr, Celedon, Holland,  
11 Houser, Myo, Saab, and Members of the Admissions Committee can be sued under  
12 the Unruh Act in their personal capacities. *See, e.g., Fruciano v. Regents of Univ. of Cal.*,  
13 2018 WL 4219232, at \*4 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 5); *K.S. v. Fremont United Sch. Dist.*, 2007 WL  
14 4287522, at \*6 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 6).  
15

17 163. Geffen, especially as it relates to its admissions practices, is a “business  
18 establishmen[t] of every kind whatsoever” under the Unruh Act, Cal. Civ. Code §51(b),  
19 because it “resemble[s] an ordinary for-profit business,” “effectively operate[s] as a  
20 business or a commercial enterprise,” and “involve[s] sufficient businesslike attrib-  
21 utes,” *Kohn v. State Bar of Calif.*, 2024 WL 4533446, at \*2 (9th Cir. Oct. 21). Geffen  
22 advertises itself as a top medical school in the country to attract competitive applicants  
23 and to enhance its economic value. Geffen collects application fees from applicants  
24 nationwide. And it enters into contractual relationships. It also solicits and operates  
25 with private endowments and other non-state funds.  
26  
27  
28

1           164. Geffen engaged in intentional racial discrimination in violation of Unruh  
2 by disfavoring certain applicants because of their race.

### 4                                   **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

5           Plaintiffs ask this Court to enter judgment in its favor and against Defendants  
6 and to provide the following relief:

- 7           A. A declaratory judgment that Defendants' admissions policies and prac-  
8 tices violate the Constitution, Title VI, §1981, and the Unruh Act.
- 9           B. A permanent injunction prohibiting Defendants from knowing or con-  
10 sidering applicants' race when making admission decisions.
- 11           C. Structural injunctive relief, including the appointment of a monitor to  
12 oversee all decisions relating to admissions at UCLA Medical School, to  
13 ensure compliance with federal law.
- 14           D. An order requiring UCLA Medical School to admit Mahoney.
- 15           E. An order certifying this action as a class action and appointing Mahoney  
16 and her counsel to represent any class and subclass.
- 17           F. Compensatory damages equivalent to a refund of any application fee(s)  
18 paid.
- 19           G. Statutory damages under the Unruh Act not less than \$4,000 per occur-  
20 rence of discrimination.
- 21           H. Punitive damages in an amount to be proven at trial.
- 22           I. Nominal damages of \$1 per occurrence of discrimination.
- 23           J. Disgorgement of federal financial assistance received by UCLA Medical  
24 School during the period in which it did not comply with federal law.
- 25           K. Reasonable costs and expenses of this action, including attorneys' fees,  
26 under 42 U.S.C. §1988 and any other applicable laws.
- 27           L. Pre- and post-judgment interest on any amounts awarded.
- 28           M. All other relief that the plaintiffs and the class are entitled to.

1 Dated: May 8, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Bryan Weir

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