

<b>DOCKET NO.</b>	:	<b>RETURN DATE: APRIL 18, 2023</b>
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<b>STATE OF CONNECTICUT</b>	:	<b>SUPERIOR COURT</b>
<i>Plaintiff</i>	:	<b>JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF</b>
	:	<b>HARTFORD</b>
	:	
<b>v.</b>	:	
	:	
<b>INDIE GUNS, LLC, STEEL FOX</b>	:	
<b>FIREARMS INC., HELL FIRE</b>	:	
<b>ARMORY, LLC, AR INDUSTRIES LLC</b>	:	
	:	
<i>Defendants</i>	:	<b>MARCH 7, 2023</b>

**COMPLAINT**

1. This is an action pursuant to the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act (“CUTPA”), Chapter 735a of the Connecticut General Statutes (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110m), which alleges unfair or deceptive acts and practices in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110b, to obtain relief as is necessary to redress injury to consumers resulting from the Defendants’ violations of law, to obtain appropriate equitable relief, for civil penalties and for other relief.

**THE PARTIES**

2. The Plaintiff is the State of Connecticut, represented by William Tong, Attorney General of the State of Connecticut, acting at the request of Michelle H. Seagull, Commissioner of Consumer Protection, pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110m(a).

3. The Defendant Indie Guns LLC (hereinafter “Indie Guns”) is a Florida limited liability corporation that is not registered in Connecticut as a foreign corporation.

4. The Defendant Steel Fox Firearms Inc. (hereinafter “Steel Fox”) is a Florida corporation that is not registered in Connecticut as a foreign corporation.

5. The Defendant Hell Fire Armory (hereinafter “Hell Fire”) is a North Carolina limited liability corporation that is not registered in Connecticut as a foreign corporation.

6. The Defendant AR Industries LLC (hereinafter “AR Industries”) is a Utah limited liability corporation that is not registered in Connecticut as a foreign corporation.

### **BACKGROUND**

7. Defendants sell and provide or have sold and provided illegal, unfinished firearm parts called frames or lower receivers to consumers in the State of Connecticut.

8. So too, each of the Defendants misleadingly advertise or advertised such illegal unfinished frames of lower receivers as legal for consumers to purchase and receive in the State of Connecticut.

9. Directly from their websites, each of the Defendants sell almost-complete firearm parts, including AR-15 semi-automatic rifle parts, that consumers can easily assemble to create fully functional firearms at home. These products are sold without serial numbers, rendering them untraceable. These parts, once assembled, are commonly referred to as “Ghost Guns,” in a nod to their lack of traceability.

10. These Ghost Gun parts are sold by Defendants and other manufacturers and dealers as “unfinished frames,” “unfinished receivers,” “unfinished lowers” or “80% lowers.”

11. As time goes by, the proliferation of untraceable Ghost Guns has increased in Connecticut. According to public data, in Hartford alone, in 2020, of 252 guns seized, 7 were

Ghost Guns; in 2021 of 341 guns seized, 21 were Ghost Guns; and in 2022 of 353 guns seized, So far in 2022, there has been a total of 353 guns seized 57 were Ghost Guns.<sup>1</sup>

12. Each of the Defendants represent or represented to consumers, including those in Connecticut, that they can legally purchase and possess unserialized unfinished frames and lower receivers, falsely claiming that they are merely parts. This is wrong. Since 2019, Connecticut has banned the sale and receipt of unserialized unfinished frames and lower receivers.

13. Each of the Defendants not only sell or sold illegal, unserialized unfinished lower receivers to consumers in Connecticut in violation of state law, but each Defendant also mails or mailed these illegal Ghost Gun parts directly to consumers without confirming whether the consumers are licensed to possess a firearm, or first shipping to a federally licensed firearms dealer, as required by law.

14. At all times material to this complaint, Defendants were subject to Connecticut statutes governing unfair trade practices and the sale of firearm parts.

### **RELEVANT STATUTES**

15. Connecticut's Ghost Gun statute, which became effective on October 1, 2019, provides, in part, that "[n]o person shall purchase, receive or sell, deliver, or otherwise transfer an unfinished frame or lower receiver..." unless it bears a serial number or unique identification and is sold or transferred pursuant to the same procedures as the sale of a pistol or revolver under Connecticut General Statute § 29-33 (i.e. the seller receives authorization from the

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<sup>1</sup> McLoughlin, Pam, "Homicides up in Hartford this year, but so are gun and drug seizures by police," *Hartford Courant*, Dec. 21, 2022, available at <https://www.courant.com/community/hartford/hc-news-hartford-homicide-guns-arrests-20221221-wnywaz33njg75drs4ttfeotgge-story.html>, last viewed 1/4/23.

Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection, following a background check on the purchaser, or the sale is made to or between federally licensed firearm dealers). Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53-206j(a)-(c).

16. The Ghost Gun statute defines an unfinished frame or lower receiver as “a blank, casting or machined body intended to be turned into the frame or lower receiver of a firearm...with additional machining, and which has been formed or machined to the point where most major machining operations have been completed to turn the...body into a frame or lower receiver of a firearm, even if the fire-control cavity area of such...body is still completely solid and unmachined.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53-206j(i).

17. CUTPA provides that “No person shall engage in unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce.” Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110b(a).

**INDIE GUNS’S UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE ADVERTISEMENT AND SALE OF  
GHOST GUN PARTS**

18. Through its website, Indie Guns advertises and offers for sale a variety of firearm parts, including unfinished frames or lower receivers.

19. Through its website, Indie Guns advertises or advertised and offers for sale firearm parts including lower frames and receivers, along with other materials such as triggers, barrels and firing pins, allowing consumers to easily assemble a fully functional firearm—including automatic weapons such as AR-15s.

20. Indie Guns ships or shipped these items, including unfinished frames or lower receivers bearing no serial numbers, direct to consumers in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53-206j(a)-(c), Conn. Gen. Stat. § 29-33.

21. Indeed, Indie Guns ships or shipped illegal gun parts direct to consumers in Connecticut, without following proper procedures to obtain a background check or shipping first to a federally licensed firearms dealer as required by law, and does so without any disclaimers, notices or warnings on its website that the receipt of unserialized unfinished frames or lower receivers is illegal in Connecticut.

22. Indie Guns also sells or sold various gun kits and tools to facilitate the gun manufacturing process, including a tool called the “Ghost Gunner” and the “LSB Kit”—short for Lock, Stock and Barrell—described as “everything you need to build a complete pistol in a discounted bundle package.”

23. The unfinished frames and lower receivers sold by Indie Guns lack unique manufacturer’s numbers, serial numbers or other type of identification numbers, making these parts untraceable Ghost Gun components.

24. Nowhere on Indie Guns’s website is or was there a warning, notice or any type of disclaimer informing consumers that it is illegal for Indie Guns to ship unserialized unfinished frames or lower receivers to Connecticut, or that it is illegal for consumers to receive them.

25. Nowhere on Indie Guns’s website is or was there any type of warning, notice or disclaimers informing consumers they must provide identification, be subject to a background check, or have the parts shipped to federally licensed firearms dealer, or follow any type of procedures for the legal receipt of the parts.

26. Indie Guns has advertised its products to consumers without restriction or warning as to their legality on its website since at least 2019.

27. Indie Guns, therefore, misrepresents or misrepresented to Connecticut consumers that the products it offers for sale are firearm parts that are legal to sell and receive without a serial number, when in reality, they are not legal and receipt of such parts could subject the consumer to felony criminal charges.

28. Indie Guns' advertisements are therefore unfair and deceptive.

## **STEEL FOX'S UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE ADVERTISEMENT AND SALE OF GHOST**

### **GUN PARTS**

29. Through its website Steel Fox advertises or advertised and offers for sale a variety of firearms and firearm parts, including unfinished frames and lower receivers.

30. Through its website, Steel Fox advertises or advertised and offers for sale lower frames and receivers, along with other parts such as triggers, barrels and firing pins, allowing consumers to easily assemble a fully functional firearm—including automatic weapons such as AR-15s.

31. Steel Fox ships or shipped these items, including unfinished frames and lower receivers bearing no serial numbers, direct to consumers in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53-206j(a)-(c), CGS § 29-33.

32. Steel Fox ships or shipped illegal gun parts direct to consumers in Connecticut, without following proper procedure to obtain a background check, or to first ship to a federally

licensed firearms dealer, as required by law, and does so even though the receipt of an unserialized, unfinished frame or lower receiver is illegal in Connecticut.

33. Steel Fox identifies the unfinished lowers that it sells as “80% Lowers.” Its website states that, “[t]he only part that is not completed on an 80% lower is the part which contains the trigger. In this way, the lower is not considered a firearm under the legal definition. And when it comes to the transfer and sale of such lowers, they don’t require FFL transfers or background checks...”<sup>2</sup>

34. When consumers click on a link to view or purchase an “80% lower,” Steel Fox’s website states, “Are AR-15 80% Lower Receivers legal in my state? Check your state laws before ordering.”<sup>3</sup>

35. If consumers select a different “80% lower,” the website states, “[w]here can’t we ship? Shipping to ... Connecticut...is not possible due to state regulation against 80% lowers.”

36. Whether a disclaimer or disclosure regarding the legality of an 80% lower is provided to consumers depends on which 80% lower the consumer selects.

37. Steel Fox posted on its website, a blog post about laws regulating the sale of lower frames and receivers, which states that “80% lowers are illegal in Connecticut.”<sup>4</sup>

38. Nonetheless, despite knowledge of the law in Connecticut, Steel Fox ships illegal unfinished frames and receivers directly to Connecticut consumers.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.steelfoxfirearms.com/ar-15/ar-15-80-lower-receiver/>, last visited 2/25/23.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.steelfoxfirearms.com/ar-15-80-lower-receiver-raw/>, last visited 2/25/23.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.steelfoxfirearms.com/80-lower-laws/>, last visited 2/25/23.

39. The unfinished frames and lower receivers sold by Steel Fox lack unique manufacturer's numbers, serial numbers or other type of identification numbers, making these parts untraceable Ghost Gun components.

40. On its website Steel Fox states that unfinished frames and lower receivers do not require background checks and that they need not be shipped to federally licenses firearm dealers. This statement is not true.

41. Upon information and belief, Steel Fox has advertised its product to consumers with misleading and inaccurate warnings and disclosures on its website since at least 2019.

42. Consumers in Connecticut are able to purchase unfinished frames and lower receivers on Steel Fox's website. Steel Fox thus misrepresents to consumers that the unfinished frames and lower receivers are simply gun parts and are perfectly legal and need not be serialized. But in reality, such parts cannot be legally sold and received in Connecticut, and the receipt of one can subject a consumer to felony charges.

43. Steel Fox's randomly placed disclaimers do not cure the misrepresentation. Since Connecticut consumers are able to purchase unfinished frames and lower receivers on Steel Fox's website, Steel Fox leads consumers to believe, inaccurately, that the disclaimers, if consumers happen to see them, must not apply to them.

44. Steel Fox's advertisement and sale of unfinished frames and lower receivers is therefore unfair and deceptive.



**HELL FIRE ARMORY’S UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE ADVERTISEMENT AND SALE**  
**OF GHOST GUN PARTS**

45. Through its website Hell Fire advertises or advertised and offers for sale a variety of firearms and firearm parts, including unfinished frames and lower receivers.

46. Through its website Hell Fire advertises or advertised and offers for sale the lower frames and receivers, along with other parts such as parts kits and jigs, that allow consumers to easily assemble a fully functional firearm—including automatic weapons such as AR-15s.

47. Through its website Hell Fire also provides instructions on how to assemble an AR-15.

48. Hell Fire ships or shipped these items, including unfinished frames or lower receivers bearing no serial number direct to consumers, without following proper procedure to obtains a background check, or first shipping to a federally licensed firearms dealer. in violation of Gen. Stat. § 53-206j(a)-(c), CGS § 29-33.

49. Indeed, Hell Fire ships or shipped illegal gun parts direct to consumers in Connecticut without any disclaimers, notices or warnings on its website that the receipt of the unserialized unfinished frame or lower receiver is illegal in Connecticut.

50. Instead, Hell Fire advises on its website’s landing page that, “[d]ue to the new ATF ruling you MUST place all 80% Lowers and Frames on 1 transaction and then make a new transaction for all other items such as Jigs, Tooling, Etc. We DO NOT and are NOT required to keep records of 80% Sales!!”<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.hellfirearmory.com/>, last visited 2/25/23.

51. The unfinished frames and lower receivers sold by Hell Fire lack unique manufacturer's numbers, serial numbers or other type of identification numbers, making these parts Ghost Gun components.

52. Nowhere on Hell Fire's website is or was there a warning, notice or any type of disclaimer informing consumers that it is illegal for Hell Fire to ship unserialized, unfinished frames or receivers to consumers in Connecticut, or that it is illegal for consumers to receive them.

53. Nowhere on Hell Fire's website is or was there any type of warning, notice or disclaimers informing consumers they must provide identification, be subject to a background check, or have the parts shipped to federally licensed firearms dealer, or follow any type of procedures for the legal receipt of the parts.

54. Upon information and belief, Hell Fire's website has advertised its products to consumers without restriction or warning as to their legality on its website since at least 2019.

55. Hell Fire's representations on its website, therefore, imply that these gun parts are legal when in reality, receipt of such parts is not legal and could subject the consumer to felony criminal charges.

56. Hell Fire's advertisements are therefore unfair and deceptive.

**AR INDUSTRIES UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE ADVERTISEMENT AND SALE OF  
GHOST GUN PARTS**

57. Through its website AR Industries advertises or advertised and offers for sale a variety of firearms and firearm parts, including unfinished frames and lower receivers.

58. Through its website AR Industries advertises or advertises and offers for sale firearms parts including lower frames and receivers, along with other materials such as kits and firing pins, that allow consumers to easily assemble a fully functional firearm—including automatic weapons such as AR-15s.

59. AR Industries ships or shipped these items, including unfinished frames or lower receivers bearing no serial number direct to consumers, without following proper procedure to obtain a background check, or first shipping to a federally licensed firearms dealer and does so in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53-206j(a)-(c), CGS § 29-33.

60. Indeed, AR Industries ships or shipped illegal gun parts direct to consumers in Connecticut without any disclaimers, notices or warnings on its website that the receipt of the unserialized, unfinished frame or lower receiver is illegal in Connecticut.

61. The unfinished frames and lower receivers sold by AR Industries lack unique manufacturer's numbers, serial numbers or other type of identification numbers, making these parts Ghost Gun components.

62. When consumers click on a link to view or purchase an “80% lower receiver,” AR Industries’ website offers no warnings, notices or disclaimers advising consumers that the sale and receipt of such products is illegal in Connecticut.<sup>6</sup>

63. Yet, if a consumer selects a different “80% lower receiver, the website states, “[n]ote we do not ship this product to...CT...Buyers are responsible for knowing their state laws.”<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.arindustriesllc.com/product/sigma-six-tactical-ar-15-80-black-lower-receiver-frame-anchor-harvey-fire-and-safe/>, last visited 2/25/23.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.arindustriesllc.com/product/anderson-manufacturing-cerakote-80-lower/>, last visited 2/25/23.

64. Whether a disclaimer or disclosure regarding the legality of an 80% lower is provided to a consumer depends on which 80% lower the consumer selects.

65. AR Industries' website also contains a blog post about regulation of unfinished frames and lower receivers. It states that regulations requiring background checks for "80% lowers" would mark the end of the sale of these parts and acknowledges that the parts would have to be serialized.<sup>8</sup>

66. Nonetheless, despite this understanding and knowledge of the law in Connecticut, AR Industries ships or shipped illegal, unserialized unfinished frames and receivers directly to Connecticut consumers.

67. Upon information and belief, AR Industries has advertised and sold its products to consumers without restriction or warning as to their legality on its website since at least 2019.

68. AR Industries' representations on its website, therefore, imply that these gun parts are legal, when in reality, receipt of such parts is not legal and could subject the consumer to felony criminal charges.

69. AR Industries' advertisements are therefore unfair and deceptive.

### **FIRST COUNT AS AGAINST DEFENDANT INDIE GUNS – DECEPTION**

70. The allegations of paragraphs 1 through 69 as set forth above are incorporated by reference as Paragraph 70 of Count One as if fully set forth herein.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.arindustriesllc.com/2022/04/14/if-ghost-guns-are-banned-what-does-that-mean-for-2nd-amendment-supporters/>, last visited 2/25/23.

71. In connection with the advertising, marketing, offering for sale or sale of unfinished unserialized firearm frames or lower receivers, Defendant Indie Guns represented, directly or indirectly, expressly or by implication, that the sale of unserialized firearm frames or lower receivers were legal for Connecticut consumers to receive.

72. In truth and in fact, the receipt of unserialized, unfinished firearm frames and lower receivers is not legal in Connecticut.

73. Defendant Indie Guns' acts and practices, as described herein, were likely to mislead Connecticut consumers acting reasonably under the circumstances, to believe that the receipt of such firearm parts was legal under Connecticut law. Defendant Indie Guns' representations were material to Connecticut consumers' decision to purchase such firearm parts from the defendant.

74. Defendant Indie Guns therefore engaged in unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the act of trade or commerce in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110b(a).

### **SECOND COUNT AS TO DEFENDANT INDIE GUNS – UNFAIRNESS**

75. The allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 74 as set forth above are incorporated by reference in Paragraph 75 as if fully set forth in Count Two herein.

76. Defendant Indie Guns' acts and practices violate the public policy set forth in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53-206j, which provides, in part, that “[n]o person shall purchase, receive or sell, deliver, or otherwise transfer an unfinished frame or lower receiver...” unless it bears a serial number or unique identification and is sold or transferred pursuant to the same procedures as the

sale of a pistol or revolver under Connecticut General Statute § 29-33. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53-206j(a)-(c).

77. Defendant Indie Guns' acts and practices as alleged herein are unethical, immoral, oppressive, and unscrupulous.

78. Defendant Indie Guns' acts and practices may cause substantial harm to Connecticut consumers inasmuch as, *inter alia*, 1) such consumers could be subject to criminal prosecution for the receipt of the unserialized firearm parts that the defendant sells; 2) consumers in Connecticut at large are impacted by the existence of unserialized, untraceable firearms, which are increasingly used to commit crimes in the State; and 3) law enforcement's ability to protect the public is hindered by the existence of untraceable firearms in the state.

79. Defendant Indie Guns therefore engaged in unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the act of trade or commerce in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110b(a).

### **THIRD COUNT AS TO DEFENDANT INDIE GUNS – WILLFULNESS**

80. The allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 79 as set forth above are incorporated by reference in Paragraph 80 as if fully set forth in Count Three herein.

81. Defendant Indie Guns engaged in the acts and practices alleged here in it knew or should have known that its conduct was unfair or deceptive in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110b(a) and therefore are liable for civil penalties of up to \$5,000 per willful violation pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110o(b).

**FOURTH COUNT AS AGAINST DEFENDANT STEEL FOX – DECEPTION**

82. The allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 81 as set forth above are incorporated by reference in Paragraph 82 as if fully set forth in Count Four herein.

83. In connection with the advertising, marketing, offering for sale or sale of unserialized unfinished firearm frames or lower receivers, Defendant Steel Fox represented, directly or indirectly, expressly or by implication, that the sale of unserialized unfinished firearm frames or lower receivers were legal for Connecticut consumers to receive.

84. In truth and in fact, the receipt of unserialized unfinished firearm frames and lower receivers is not legal in Connecticut.

85. Defendant Steel Fox's acts and practices, as described herein, were likely to mislead Connecticut consumers acting reasonably under the circumstances, to believe that the receipt of such firearm parts was legal under Connecticut law.

86. Defendant Steel Fox's representations were material to Connecticut consumers' decision to purchase such firearm parts from the defendant.

87. Defendant Steel Fox therefore engaged in unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the act of trade or commerce in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110b(a).

**FIFTH COUNT AS TO DEFENDANT STEEL FOX – UNFAIRNESS**

88. The allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 87 as set forth above are incorporated by reference in Paragraph 88 as if fully set forth in Count Five herein.

89. Defendant Steel Fox's acts and practices violate the public policy set forth in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53-206j, which provides, in part, that "[n]o person shall purchase, receive or

sell, deliver, or otherwise transfer an unfinished frame or lower receiver...” unless it bears a serial number or unique identification and is sold or transferred pursuant to the same procedures as the sale of a pistol or revolver under Connecticut General Statute § 29-33. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53-206j(a)-(c).

90. Defendant Steel Fox’s acts and practices as alleged herein are unethical, immoral, oppressive, and unscrupulous.

91. Defendant Steel Fox’s acts and practices may cause substantial harm to Connecticut consumers inasmuch as, *inter alia*, 1) such consumers could be subject to criminal prosecution for the receipt of the unserialized firearm parts that the defendant sells; 2) consumers in Connecticut at large are impacted by the existence of unserialized, untraceable firearms, which are increasingly used to commit crimes in the State; and 3) law enforcement’s ability to protect the public is hindered by the existence of untraceable firearms in the state.

92. Defendant Steel Fox therefore engaged in unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the act of trade or commerce in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110b(a).

#### **SIXTH COUNT AS TO DEFENDANT STEEL FOX – WILLFULNESS**

93. The allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 92 as set forth above are incorporated by reference in Paragraph 93 as if fully set forth in Count Six herein.

94. Defendant Steel Fox engaged in the acts and practices alleged here in it knew or should have known that its conduct was unfair or deceptive in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110b(a) and therefore are liable for civil penalties of up to \$5,000 per willful violation pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110o(b).



**SEVENTH COUNT AS AGAINST DEFENDANT HELL FIRE - DECEPTION**

95. The allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 94 as set forth above are incorporated by reference in Paragraph 95 as if fully set forth in Count Seven herein.

96. In connection with the advertising, marketing, offering for sale or sale of unfinished unserialized firearm frames or lower receivers, Defendant Hell Fire represented, directly or indirectly, expressly or by implication, that the sale of unserialized unfinished firearm frames or lower receivers were legal for Connecticut consumers to receive.

97. In truth and in fact, the receipt of unserialized unfinished firearm frames and lower receivers is not legal in Connecticut.

98. Defendant Hell Fire's acts and practices, as described herein, were likely to mislead Connecticut consumers acting reasonably under the circumstances, to believe that the receipt of such firearm parts was legal under Connecticut law.

99. Defendant Hell Fire's representations were material to Connecticut consumers' decision to purchase such firearm parts from the defendant.

100. Defendant Hell Fire therefore engaged in unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the act of trade or commerce in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110b(a).

**EIGHTH COUNT AS TO DEFENDANT HELL FIRE - UNFAIRNESS**

101. The allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 100 as set forth above are incorporated by reference in Paragraph 101 as if fully set forth in Count Eight herein.

102. Defendant Hell Fire's acts and practices violate the public policy set forth in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53-206j, which provides, in part, that "[n]o person shall purchase, receive or

sell, deliver, or otherwise transfer an unfinished frame or lower receiver...” unless it bears a serial number or unique identification and is sold or transferred pursuant to the same procedures as the sale of a pistol or revolver under Connecticut General Statute § 29-33. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53-206j(a)-(c).

103. Defendant Hell Fire’s acts and practices as alleged herein are unethical, immoral, oppressive, and unscrupulous.

104. Defendant Hell Fire’s acts and practices may cause substantial harm to Connecticut consumers inasmuch as, *inter alia*, 1) such consumers could be subject to criminal prosecution for the receipt of the unserialized firearm parts that the defendant sells; 2) consumers in Connecticut at large are impacted by the existence of unserialized, untraceable firearms, which are increasingly used to commit crimes in the State; and 3) law enforcement’s ability to protect the public is hindered by the existence of untraceable firearms in the state.

105. Defendant Hell Fire therefore engaged in unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the act of trade or commerce in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110b(a).

**NINTH COUNT AS TO DEFENDANT HELL FIRE- WILLFULNESS**

106. The allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 105 as set forth above are incorporated by reference in Paragraph 106 as if fully set forth in Count Nine herein.

107. Defendant Hell Fire engaged in the acts and practices alleged here in it knew or should have known that its conduct was unfair or deceptive in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110b(a) and therefore are liable for civil penalties of up to \$5,000 per willful violation pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110o(b).

**TENTH COUNT AS AGAINST DEFENDANT AR INDUSTRIES - DECEPTION**

108. The allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 107 as set forth above are incorporated by reference in Paragraph 108 as if fully set forth in Count Ten herein.

109. In connection with the advertising, marketing, offering for sale or sale of unserialized unfinished firearm frames or lower receivers, Defendant AR Industries represented, directly or indirectly, expressly or by implication, that the sale of unserialized unfinished firearm frames or lower receivers were legal for Connecticut consumers to receive.

110. In truth and in fact, the receipt of unserialized unfinished firearm frames and lower receivers is not legal in Connecticut.

111. Defendant AR Industries' acts and practices, as described herein, were likely to mislead Connecticut consumers acting reasonably under the circumstances, to believe that the receipt of such firearm parts was legal under Connecticut law.

112. Defendant AR Industries' representations were material to Connecticut consumers' decision to purchase such firearm parts from the defendant.

113. Defendant AR Industries therefore engaged in unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the act of trade or commerce in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110b(a).

**ELEVENTH COUNT AS TO DEFENDANT AR INDUSTRIES - UNFAIRNESS**

114. The allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 113 as set forth above are incorporated by reference in Paragraph 114 as if fully set forth in Count Eleven herein.

115. Defendant AR Industries' acts and practices violate the public policy set forth in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53-206j, which provides, in part, that "[n]o person shall purchase, receive or

sell, deliver, or otherwise transfer an unfinished frame or lower receiver...” unless it bears a serial number or unique identification and is sold or transferred pursuant to the same procedures as the sale of a pistol or revolver under Connecticut General Statutes § 29-33. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 53-206j(a)-(c).

116. Defendant AR Industries’ acts and practices as alleged herein are unethical, immoral, oppressive, and unscrupulous.

117. Defendant Hell Fire’s acts and practices may cause substantial harm to Connecticut consumers inasmuch as, *inter alia*, 1) such consumers could be subject to criminal prosecution for the receipt of the unserialized firearm parts that the defendant sells; 2) consumers in Connecticut at large are impacted by the existence of unserialized, untraceable firearms, which are increasingly used to commit crimes in the State; and 3) law enforcement’s ability to protect the public is hindered by the existence of untraceable firearms in the state.

118. Defendant AR Industries therefore engaged in unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the act of trade or commerce in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110b(a).

#### **TWELFTH COUNT AS TO DEFENDANT AR INDUSTRIES – WILLFULNESS**

119. The allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 118 as set forth above are incorporated by reference in Paragraph 119 as if fully set forth in Count Twelve herein.

120. Defendant AR Industries engaged in the acts and practices alleged here in it knew or should have known that its conduct was unfair or deceptive in violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110b(a) and therefore are liable for civil penalties of up to \$5,000 per willful violation pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110o(b).

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff claims the following relief:

3. An order pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110m(a) enjoining the Defendant from engaging in any further violation of the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act.
4. An order pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110o(b) directing the Defendant to pay civil penalties for each willful violation of Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110b.
5. An order pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-100m directing Defendants to disgorge all revenues, profits, and gains achieved in whole or in part through the unfair acts or practices complained of herein.
6. An award of attorneys' fees, pursuant to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42-110m(a).
7. Costs of suit.
8. Such other and further relief as the Court deems appropriate.

The Plaintiff hereby states that the amount in demand is more than Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000.00), exclusive of interests and cost.

HEREOF FAIL NOT, BUT OF THIS WRIT, MAKE DUE SERVICE AND RETURN ACCORDING TO LAW.

Dated at Hartford, Connecticut this 7<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023.

THE PLAINTIFF,

MICHELLE H. SEAGULL  
COMMISSIONER OF CONSUMER  
PROTECTION

WILLIAM TONG  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By: /S/ Rebecca G. Quinn, Juris No. 443678  
Rebecca G. Quinn, Juris No. 443678  
Assistant Attorney General  
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