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Attorneys for Plaintiffs  
BIKRAM'S YOGA COLLEGE OF INDIA, L.P.  
and BIKRAM CHOUDHURY

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

BIKRAM'S YOGA COLLEGE OF  
INDIA, L.P.; a California limited  
partnership; BIKRAM CHOUDHURY,  
an Individual,

Plaintiffs,

v.

YOGA TO THE PEOPLE, INC., a  
Washington corporation; GREGORY  
GUMUCIO, an Individual; and DOES  
1 through 10, inclusive,

Defendants.

CASE NO.

**CV11-07998** DMB(FMPX)

COMPLAINT FOR:

1. COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT;
2. TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT;
3. FALSE DESIGNATION OF ORIGIN;
4. DILUTION;
5. UNFAIR COMPETITION;
6. UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES;
7. BREACH OF CONTRACT; AND
8. INDUCING BREACH OF CONTRACT.

**(JURY TRIAL DEMANDED)**

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CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIF.  
LOS ANGELES

1 Plaintiffs, Bikram's Yoga College of India, L.P. and Bikram Choudhury,  
2 hereby aver as follows:

3 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4 1. This is an action for copyright infringement arising under the  
5 Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. §§ 101 *et seq.*, trademark infringement under 15  
6 U.S.C. § 1114, false designation of origin under the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. §  
7 1125(a), and trademark dilution under 15 U.S.C. § 1125(c). This Court has  
8 jurisdiction of this action under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1337, 1338(a), 1338 (b) and 15  
9 U.S.C. § 1121. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over the state law claims  
10 in that those claims are so related to the federal claims that they form part of the  
11 same case or controversy.

12 2. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendants in that  
13 Defendants have consented to personal jurisdiction in this District, have knowingly  
14 conspired with Defendants who have consented to personal jurisdiction in this  
15 District and/or have engaged in many of the acts of infringement, unfair  
16 competition and state law claims complained of herein in this District.

17 3. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 in that: (a) a  
18 substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims herein occurred  
19 in this District; (b) Defendants have consented to venue in this District pursuant to  
20 an agreement entered into in this Judicial District; and/or conspired with  
21 Defendants who thereby have consented to venue in this District.

22 **INTRODUCTION**

23 4. This is an action for copyright and trademark infringement, false  
24 designation of origin, dilution, unfair competition, unfair business practices, breach  
25 of contract and inducing breach of contract brought by Plaintiffs Bikram's Yoga  
26 College of India, L.P. ("BYCI") and Bikram Choudhury ("Bikram"), a world-  
27 renowned yoga guru who developed the unique brand of yoga known as "Bikram  
28 Yoga." Bikram founded BYCI. Since as early as 1971, Bikram has conducted

1 business under the names “Bikram’s Yoga” and “Bikram Yoga.” And since as  
2 early as 1978, Bikram has created and registered copyrighted works, trademarks,  
3 trade names and logos.

4         5. Bikram has licensed those copyrighted works, trademarks, trade  
5 names and logos (sometimes referred to in this complaint as “Bikram’s IP”) to  
6 BYCI. And together, Bikram and BYCI have used Bikram’s IP continuously and  
7 extensively in brochures, newsletters, bulletins and other publications. As a result,  
8 Bikram’s IP has become well and favorably known in the United States (including  
9 California and this Judicial District) and abroad for its association with Bikram  
10 Yoga. Bikram’s IP has become a valuable component of Bikram and Bikram  
11 Yoga’s reputation and goodwill. The copyrighted works, trademarks, trade names  
12 and logos comprising Bikram's IP are known and recognized as such by the public.

13         6. Defendant Gregory Gumucio is a former certified Bikram Yoga  
14 teacher. Before becoming a certified Bikram Yoga teacher, Gumucio entered into  
15 an agreement which restricts his use of Bikram’s IP to, among other things,  
16 teaching Bikram Yoga classes in Bikram Yoga studios in compliance with the  
17 dialogue and posture sequence taught to him. In addition, the agreement and  
18 settled law prohibits Gumucio from: (a) publishing, displaying, advertising,  
19 broadcasting or using, in any manner whatsoever, any of Bikram’s trademarks,  
20 service marks, copyrights, logos, photographs or likeness; (b) publishing,  
21 exhibiting or demonstrating any Bikram method or posture by or through any  
22 medium or publication (electronic or otherwise), including books, magazines, film,  
23 photographs or electronic images; (c) producing, distributing and/or selling  
24 products that substantially and materially copy and/or are derived from Bikram’s  
25 copyrighted works or trademarks; and/or (d) training or giving instruction to others  
26 in connection with or towards completion of a teacher training certificate  
27 permitting the holder to teach Bikram Yoga or any form of yoga derived from  
28 Bikram Yoga.

1           7.     Gumucio owns defendant Yoga to the People ("YTTP"). YTTP offers  
2 a number of yoga classes, including a class named "Traditional Hot Yoga."  
3 Gumucio named the class "Traditional Hot Yoga" in order to conceal the fact that  
4 the class incorporates and infringes upon, among other things, Bikram's  
5 copyrighted Asana Sequence and Dialogue. Moreover, the YTTP "Traditional Hot  
6 Yoga" class is taught in the same ambient environment as Bikram Yoga in order to  
7 give students the impression that the class offers the same experience and benefits  
8 a student would have at a Bikram Yoga studio. In addition, Gumucio has employed  
9 certified Bikram Yoga instructors and Bikram Yoga imposter instructors trained  
10 and purportedly certified by Gumucio to teach his deceptively named and  
11 infringing "Traditional Hot Yoga" class.

12           8.     Recently, Gumucio has attempted to justify his and YTTP's blatant  
13 infringing conduct by, in essence, likening himself to the "Napster, Inc./Grokster,  
14 Ltd." of the hot yoga world. Thus, much like the business model of Napster and  
15 Grokster of yester-year who made available to the public the means by which to  
16 enjoy the copyrighted music owned and controlled exclusively by others at a  
17 discounted rate or for free, Gumucio offers Bikram Yoga under the deceptively  
18 named and infringing "Traditional Hot Yoga" moniker at \$8 per class at YTTP  
19 because, in Gumucio's own words: "[i]n New York, you're paying \$20 to \$25 a  
20 class....To me, that was just very cost prohibitive. Our commitment was to give  
21 the less financially able an opportunity to practice."

22           9.     Gumucio and YTTP: (a) do not own Bikram's IP; (b) have no right,  
23 title or interest in or to the Bikram Yoga style and method, including the Marks,  
24 the Dialogue or other of Bikram's Copyrighted Works; and (c) are not authorized  
25 to offer the deceptively named and infringing "Traditional Hot Yoga" class at  
26 YTTP at any price whatsoever. Moreover, the fact that Gumucio and YTTP  
27 publicly boast of their unlawful conduct even after being put on notice that the  
28 conduct is unlawful, unethical and immoral is proof positive that they show no

1 remorse or intent of ending their unlawful conduct. Defendants have acted  
2 intentionally, willfully, maliciously, and with conscious indifference to the  
3 consequences, which actions and intentions constitute aggravating circumstances.  
4 Thus, in addition to compensatory damages and a permanent injunction against  
5 Defendants, their conduct warrants, among other things, the award of punitive  
6 damages, attorney's fees and costs of suit herein. This action is brought to require  
7 defendants to answer for their despicable conduct and to pay the consequences of  
8 the same.

### 9 THE PARTIES

10 10. Plaintiff Bikram's Yoga College of India, L.P. ("BYCI"), is, and at all  
11 times relevant hereto was, a California limited partnership. BYCI exists under the  
12 laws of the State of California and its principal place of business is located in Los  
13 Angeles, California.

14 11. Plaintiff Bikram Choudhury ("Bikram") is, and at all times relevant  
15 hereto was, a citizen of the United States of America, and a resident of Los  
16 Angeles, California. Bikram and his wife, Rajashree Choudhury, are the partners  
17 of BYCI.

18 12. Defendant Yoga To The People ("YTTP") is, and at all times relevant  
19 hereto was, a corporation existing and operating under the laws of the State of  
20 Washington. YTTP has yoga studios in San Francisco, CA, Berkeley, CA, New  
21 York, NY, and Seattle, WA. YTTP does business in California. In addition,  
22 YTTP has conspired with others (including defendant Gregory Gumucio) who  
23 have consented to venue in this Judicial District and, thereby, has consented to  
24 venue in this Judicial District.

25 13. Defendant Gregory Gumucio is, and at all times relevant hereto was, a  
26 citizen of the United States of America and resides in or around New York, New  
27 York. Gumucio founded and owns YTTP. Gumucio has conspired with  
28

1 individuals who have consented to venue in this Judicial District and, thereby, has  
2 consented to venue in this Judicial District.

3 14. The true names and capacities of defendants Does 1 through 10,  
4 inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiffs, who therefore sue said defendants by such  
5 fictitious names. In performing the acts or omissions described in this Complaint,  
6 defendants YTTP and Gumucio, and Does 1 through 10 (collectively,  
7 "Defendants") were each acting as the representative, agent, employee or alter ego  
8 of each other. All acts or omissions described in this Complaint were performed in  
9 the course and scope of this agency with the knowledge or consent of each of the  
10 Defendants and contributed to the harm to Plaintiffs alleged herein. As soon as the  
11 true names of Does 1 through 10 have been ascertained, Plaintiffs will amend this  
12 complaint accordingly.

### 13 FACTUAL SUMMARY

#### 14 **Bikram's Yoga**

15 15. Bikram is recognized as one of the preeminent Hatha Yoga Masters  
16 and Gurus living today. After years of research, Bikram discovered and developed  
17 his unique brand of yoga known as "Bikram Yoga" (also known as "Bikram's  
18 Basic Yoga System," "Bikram's Beginning Yoga Class" or "Bikram's Yoga").

19 16. Bikram Yoga is a proprietary and discrete series of twenty-six (26)  
20 yoga positions and two (2) breathing exercises, which are always performed in  
21 precisely the same sequence, in a room heated to at least 105° Fahrenheit. The  
22 postures and exercises are accompanied by a rigidly prescribed series of oral  
23 instructions and commands. Bikram Yoga is performed for precisely ninety (90)  
24 minutes. The very essence of Bikram Yoga is that its postures are performed in  
25 exactly the same sequence, with exactly the same instructions and commands, in a  
26 room heated to 105° Fahrenheit, in every class. The intended benefits from Bikram  
27 Yoga can only be derived if the yoga class is performed precisely as Bikram  
28 developed it.

1           17. In about 1971, Bikram began offering Bikram Yoga classes through  
2 his facilities at Bikram's Yoga College of India, in Los Angeles, California.

3           18. Bikram Yoga soon became extremely popular. Public demand for  
4 Bikram Yoga classes grew steadily once Bikram Yoga participants realized that  
5 Bikram's unique yoga style and method offered them tremendous physical, mental  
6 and other benefits. Bikram Yoga has become recognized throughout the world not  
7 only for its exceptional benefits, but for its distinctive method, style, instructions,  
8 and commands. Over 500 facilities worldwide are now authorized to offer Bikram  
9 Yoga.

10           19. As the demand for Bikram Yoga increased, Bikram saw the need for a  
11 regimented, quality-controlled program designed to train others in the art of  
12 teaching the Bikram Yoga method and style. Consequently, in or about 1994,  
13 Bikram inaugurated a Bikram Yoga Teacher Training Course.

14           20. Before beginning the Bikram Yoga Teacher Training Course, each  
15 teacher trainee is required to sign a teacher training contract (the "Teacher Training  
16 Agreement") and is provided with a signed copy of the Agreement. In addition,  
17 each teacher trainee is aware that fellow teacher trainees are required to sign the  
18 Agreement. Under the Bikram Yoga Teacher Training Course, individuals who  
19 desire to lead and instruct classes in Bikram Yoga pay \$10,000 for tuition,  
20 materials and room and board to attend a nine-week residential teacher training  
21 program, and in return receive instruction and training in the Bikram Yoga method  
22 and style. Those who successfully satisfy the high standards set by Bikram and  
23 master the academic and physical requirements earn their certification as teachers  
24 of "Bikram's Basic Yoga System." Only Bikram himself may grant certification  
25 as a Bikram Basic Yoga System teacher. And only certified Bikram Yoga  
26 instructors can teach at Bikram Yoga studios. To date, Bikram has trained and  
27 certified over six thousand three hundred Bikram Basic Yoga System teachers in  
28 his unique style and method.

1           21. Certified teachers receive a limited license to teach Bikram's Basic  
2 Yoga System and to use Bikram's trademarks and copyrighted works in connection  
3 therewith, provided that they agree to teach Bikram's Basic Yoga System precisely  
4 as it was taught to them and to abide by strict guidelines set by Bikram with regard  
5 to their status as certified Bikram's Basic Yoga System teachers. In part to ensure  
6 the uniform interpretation and enforcement of the Teacher Training Agreement and  
7 the preservation and protection of Bikram's IP, the Agreement is governed by the  
8 laws of the State of California and requires that any action filed to enforce the  
9 Agreement and any matters related to Bikram Yoga be brought in either the state  
10 or federal courts located in Los Angeles County, California.

11           **Bikram's IP**

12           22. Bikram Yoga incorporates several protectable elements, each  
13 developed and owned exclusively by Bikram.

14           23. Bikram's twenty-six (26) yoga postures together with two (2)  
15 breathing exercises, all of which are always performed in exactly the same strictly  
16 prescribed sequence, in a room heated to at least 105° Fahrenheit, differentiate  
17 Bikram Yoga from all other forms of yoga and other types of exercise. The style,  
18 method, design, and structure of Bikram Yoga are unique and distinctive. The  
19 Bikram Yoga method consists of several distinct and highly recognizable features.  
20 These twenty-six (26) distinctive postures and two (2) breathing exercises have  
21 become so distinctive in the marketplace of yoga classes that they have acquired  
22 fame and secondary meaning and therefore serve as a designation of the source and  
23 sponsorship of this type of yoga. Indeed, Bikram Yoga is so distinctive in overall  
24 appearance, structure, format, and choreography that it is recognizable in  
25 marketplaces throughout the world.

26           24. The Bikram Yoga method, including but not limited to the unique  
27 selection, sequence, and number of yoga postures and breathing exercises, together  
28 with the element of a room heated to at least 105° Fahrenheit, combine to convey a

1 unique and distinctive overall image and impression constituting a federally-  
2 protected service mark owned exclusively by Bikram (the "Bikram Asana  
3 Sequence" or "Asana Sequence").

#### 4 **Bikram's Copyrighted Works**

5 25. As part of his development of the Bikram Yoga style and method,  
6 Bikram created an original work of authorship consisting of a series of instructions  
7 and commands that accompany, and correspond to, each posture of Bikram Yoga  
8 (the "Dialogue"). This original work is recited in a precise manner, in the form of  
9 a spoken dialogue, by a certified Bikram's Basic Yoga System teacher during each  
10 Bikram Yoga session.

11 26. The purposes for the strict requirement that the Dialogue is to be  
12 recited in a precise manner are: (a) to maintain quality control over Bikram's Basic  
13 Yoga System, since the benefits of the System will not be derived if the yoga is  
14 done incorrectly; (b) to ensure uniformity from teacher to teacher and school to  
15 school in the teaching of the postures; and (c) to allow students to focus on  
16 improving their practice of the Yoga since the Dialogue becomes ingrained and  
17 eventually acts almost like a "mantra."

18 27. Bikram fixed the Dialogue in a tangible medium of expression.

19 28. Bikram is the owner of the copyrightable work of authorship in the  
20 Dialogue and the U.S. copyright registration in the Dialogue, and duly possesses  
21 all rights, title, and interests therein. Bikram has complied with all of the laws  
22 pertinent to the Dialogue as a copyrighted work.

23 29. Bikram is the sole author of a book entitled "Bikram's Beginning  
24 Yoga Class" (the "Book") written in 1978 and first published in 1979. The Book  
25 contains, among other things, a description of the Bikram Asana Sequence. The  
26 United States Copyright Office issued Copyright Registration Certificate No. TX  
27 170-160 to Bikram for the Book. In 2000, Bikram published a revised version of  
28

1 the Book, and the Copyright Office issued Copyright Registration Certificate No.  
2 TX 5-259-325 to Bikram for this edition.

3 30. The Copyright Office also issued to Bikram Copyright Registration  
4 Certificate No. TX 5-624-003 for the Bikram Asana Sequence. Because the  
5 Bikram Asana Sequence was first published in the Book, the Copyright Office  
6 directed Bikram to register the Bikram Asana Sequence as “selection of  
7 arrangement of exercise” or “compilation of exercises” by submitting a  
8 supplemental application to Registration No. TX 170-160 for the Book.

9 31. The Copyright Office has issued to Bikram several additional  
10 Copyright Registrations: (a) Certificate No. TX 1-022-657 for the work entitled  
11 “Bikram’s Yoga College Of India Beginning Yoga Dialogue”; (b) Certificate No.  
12 TX 6-555-860 for the “Bikram’s Beginning Yoga Class” audiotape (the “Audio-  
13 Tape”); (c) Certificate No. TXu 934-417 for the work entitled “Bikram’s Yoga  
14 College of India Teacher Training Course-Curriculum Outline”; (d) Certificate No.  
15 TXu 1-323-218 for Bikram’s Advance Yoga Class Asana Sequence; and  
16 (e) Certificate No. PA 1-053-335 for a videocassette entitled “Rajashree’s  
17 Pregnancy Yoga,” which is co-registered with Rajashree Choudhury.

18 32. Bikram is the owner of the copyrighted works set forth in the  
19 foregoing paragraphs and the U.S. copyright registrations issued by the Copyright  
20 Office. Therefore, Bikram duly possesses all rights, title, and interest therein.  
21 Bikram has complied with all of the laws pertinent to the works set forth in the  
22 preceding paragraphs as copyrighted works.

23 **Bikram's Trademarks, Service Marks, Trade Names And Logos**

24 33. Bikram owns several trademarks, service marks, trade names and  
25 logos (collectively, “the Marks”) used in connection with this business and Bikram  
26 Yoga, including, among others:

- 27 (a) “BIKRAM YOGA”, registered August 5, 2003, Registration  
28 Number 2,746,346;

- 1 (b) "BIKRAM'S YOGA COLLEGE OF INDIA", registered May  
2 27, 2003, Registration Number 2,718,899;  
3 (c) "BIKRAM'S BEGINNING YOGA CLASS", registered April  
4 6, 2004, Registration Number 2,829,135;  
5 (d) A design mark of Bikram in the spine twisting pose, registered  
6 October 21, 2003, Registration Number 2,775,407;  
7 (e) BIKRAM'S BASIC YOGA SYSTEM; and  
8 (f) BIKRAM'S ASANA SEQUENCE OF 26 YOGA POSTURES.

9 34. Therefore, Bikram duly possesses all rights, title, and interests in and  
10 to the Marks. And Bikram has complied with all of the laws pertinent to Marks set  
11 forth in the proceeding paragraph.

12 35. Bikram and BYCI have spent significant time and money creating,  
13 developing, maintaining and controlling Bikram's IP and have used the same to  
14 advertise, promote and market Bikram Yoga classes. Bikram and BYCI have used  
15 Bikram's IP for more educational services, namely, conducting classes, seminars,  
16 conferences, and teacher training in Bikram Yoga and yoga philosophy.

17 **Gumucio Becomes A Certified Bikram Instructor And Agrees To A**  
18 **Limited Right To Use Bikram's IP**

19 36. In or about Spring of 1996, defendant Gumucio enrolled in Bikram's  
20 Yoga College of India Teacher Training Course in Los Angeles. Gumucio  
21 successfully completed the course, and thus became authorized under a limited  
22 license agreement, described below, to teach Bikram's Basic Yoga System.

23 37. Before starting the course, Gumucio agreed to certain limited license  
24 rights (the "License") related to use Bikram's unique yoga style and method. The  
25 terms of the License included the following rights and licenses:

- 26 (a) to teach Bikram's Basic Yoga System classes in strict  
27 compliance with guidelines established by Bikram;  
28

1 (b) to publicly recite the Dialogue and demonstrate the Asana  
2 Sequence during the course of teaching the Bikram's Basic  
3 Yoga System classes in strict conformity with the methods  
4 taught during the Teacher Training Course;

5 (c) to use the Marks for purposes of identifying classes taught in  
6 strict conformity with the methods taught during the Teacher  
7 Training Course.

8 38. Gumucio also agreed to refrain from doing the following:

9 (a) to publish, display, advertise, broadcast, or use, in any manner  
10 whatsoever, any of Bikram's trademarks, service marks,  
11 copyrights, logos, photograph or likeness;

12 (b) to publish, exhibit or demonstrate any Bikram method or  
13 posture by or through any medium or publication (electronic or  
14 otherwise), including books, magazines, film, photographs or  
15 electronic images;

16 (c) to produce, distribute and sell products that substantially and  
17 materially copy and/or are derived from Bikram's copyrighted  
18 works or trademarks;

19 (d) to train or give instruction to others in connection with or  
20 towards completion of a teacher training certificate permitting  
21 the holder to teach Bikram Yoga or any form of yoga derived  
22 from Bikram Yoga;

23 (e) to use Bikram's copyrighted works and trademarks in  
24 connection with any variations of Bikram's Basic Yoga  
25 System; or

26 (f) to alter the Dialogue or Asana Sequence in any way.

27 39. Gumucio was advised and understood that failure to strictly conform  
28 to the terms of the License would result in termination of the License and preclude

1 him from using any Bikram Copyrights or Marks, or holding himself out as a  
2 certified Bikram Yoga teacher.

3 **Gumucio Helps Run Bikram Yoga Teacher Training Sessions, During**  
4 **Which Gumucio Repeatedly Acknowledges And Reaffirms His Limited**  
5 **Rights To the Use Of Bikram's IP and Instructs Teacher Trainees Of**  
6 **Their Limited Rights To Use Bikram's IP**

7 40. Bikram Teacher Training is run by Bikram, senior Bikram Yoga  
8 instructors of Bikram Yoga, staff instructors and visiting instructors. Those who  
9 request and are invited to be staff or visiting instructors at Bikram Yoga Teacher  
10 Training acknowledge and reaffirm their commitment to abide by the limited rights  
11 and prohibitions to which they previously agreed.

12 41. Gumucio lived in Seattle, Washington immediately after becoming a  
13 certified Bikram Yoga instructor. Gumucio admits that, while living in Seattle, he  
14 commuted to Los Angeles to help run Bikram Teacher Training Sessions.

15 42. During the time Gumucio helped run Bikram Yoga training sessions,  
16 Gumucio acknowledged and reaffirmed his agreement to the limited use of  
17 Bikram's IP by, among other things, instructing the teacher trainees of the rights set  
18 forth in paragraph 37 above as well as the prohibitions set forth in paragraph 38  
19 above.

20 43. Gumucio acknowledged and reaffirmed his agreement to the limited  
21 use of Bikram's IP by causing the teacher trainees to sign teacher training  
22 agreements that, among other things, evidenced each teacher trainee's knowledge  
23 and agreement to the limited rights set forth in paragraph 37 above as well as the  
24 prohibitions set forth in paragraph 38 above.

1                   **Reminiscent Of Napster And Grokster Of Yester-Year, Gumucio**  
2                   **Recently Admits Publicly That He And "Yoga To The People"**  
3                   **Studios Infringe On Bikram's IP To Make Bikram Yoga Available**  
4                   **At A Cheaper Rate**

5           44.     Gumucio now lives in New York City. In recent months, Gamucio  
6 has admitted publicly that his "Yoga to the People" offers a hot yoga class that  
7 "consists of 2 breathing exercises and a series of 26 poses incorporating balance,  
8 strength and flexibility" and is "done in a heated room of 105-108 degrees."

9           45.     Gumucio also has admitted that "[t]he idea of Yoga for the People  
10 came to [him] because of Bikram." He has openly boasted that: (a) "[w]e do offer  
11 the same kind of yoga at a much cheaper rate and we're obviously doing a really  
12 good job"; and (b) "[i]n New York, you're paying \$20 to \$25 a class....To me, that  
13 was just very cost prohibitive. Our commitment was to give the less financially  
14 able an opportunity to practice."

15           46.     Following Gumucio's public boasting, Bikram learned that "Yoga to  
16 the People" ("YTTP") offers several different yoga classes, including one  
17 deceptively named "Traditional Hot Yoga." Bikram has confirmed that the YTTP  
18 "Traditional Hot Yoga" class incorporates and infringes upon, among other things,  
19 Bikram's copyrighted Asana Sequence and Dialogue. Bikram also confirmed that  
20 the YTTP "Traditional Hot Yoga" class is taught in the same ambient environment  
21 as Bikram Yoga in order to give students the impression that the class offers the  
22 same experience and benefits a student would have at a Bikram Yoga studio.

23           47.     In addition, Bikram has learned that Gumucio and YTTP have  
24 employed certified Bikram Yoga instructors to teach the deceptively named and  
25 infringing "Traditional Hot Yoga" at YTTP. Gumucio and YTTP have also trained  
26 imposter instructors to teach the deceptively named and infringing "Traditional  
27 Hot Yoga" at YTTP.  
28

1           48. By offering the deceptively named and infringing "Traditional Hot  
2 Yoga" at YTTP at a cheaper price per class, Gumucio and YTTP fancy themselves  
3 as the hot yoga equivalent of Napster or Grokster. However, like was the case in  
4 the old Napster and Grokster disputes, Gumucio and YTTP: (a) do not own  
5 Bikram's IP; (b) have no right, title or interest in or to the Bikram Yoga style and  
6 method, including the Marks, the Dialogue or other of Bikram's Copyrighted  
7 Works; and (c) are not authorized to offer the deceptively named and infringing  
8 "Traditional Hot Yoga" class at YTTP at a cheaper price or for free. Nevertheless,  
9 Gumucio and YTTP continue to use the Bikram Yoga Style and method, and  
10 constituent components thereof, without the permission of Bikram by:

- 11           (a) offering yoga classes employing the elements of Bikram Yoga,  
12           including the twenty-six (26) postures and two (2) breathing  
13           exercises specifically prescribed in Bikram Yoga in the same  
14           Asana Sequence, but altering the number of sets of each posture  
15           done during a class;
- 16           (b) offering yoga classes employing the elements of Bikram Yoga,  
17           including the twenty-six (26) postures and two (2) breathing  
18           exercises specifically prescribed in Bikram Yoga in the same  
19           Asana Sequence, but altering the Dialogue with the addition, or  
20           substitution, of phrases and commands;
- 21           (c) offering yoga classes employing the elements of Bikram Yoga,  
22           including the twenty-six (26) postures and two (2) breathing  
23           exercises specifically prescribed in Bikram Yoga in the same  
24           Asana Sequence, but failing to super-heat the room in which  
25           such classes are offered to 105° Fahrenheit, if at all;
- 26           (d) offering yoga classes employing the elements of Bikram Yoga,  
27           including the twenty-six (26) postures and two (2) breathing  
28           exercises specifically prescribed in Bikram Yoga in the same

1 Asana Sequence, but with the inclusion of additional postures  
2 and/or words not authorized or endorsed by Bikram; and  
3 (e) employing instructors to teach deceptively named and  
4 infringing yoga classes who are themselves engaged in  
5 infringing conduct and/or are the by-products of an  
6 unsanctioned (and, indeed, invalid and/or counterfeit) Bikram  
7 Yoga teacher certification programs and counterfeit certificates.

8 49. As a result of Defendants' unauthorized uses of the Bikram Yoga  
9 style and method and the corresponding use or modification of the elements of the  
10 Dialogue and other of Bikram's Copyrighted Works and the Marks, consumers are  
11 misled into believing that YTTP is authorized to offer "Traditional Hot Yoga" and  
12 are not informed that, by offering the "Traditional Hot Yoga" class, Gumucio and  
13 YTTP are engaging in unlawful conduct.

14 50. Defendants' unlawful and infringing conduct has been willful and  
15 deliberate, designed specifically to trade upon the goodwill associated with the  
16 Bikram's IP rights.

17 **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**  
18 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
19 **(Copyright Infringement Against All Defendants)**

20 51. Plaintiffs hereby repeat and reallege the allegations set forth in  
21 paragraphs 1 through 50, above, as though fully set forth herein.

22 52. Defendants' willful and continued unauthorized use in interstate  
23 commerce of the Bikram's Copyrighted Works is likely to deprive Bikram and  
24 BYCI of their exclusive rights, to continue to cause confusion and mistake, and to  
25 deceive the public in that it has and will continue to lead the public erroneously to  
26 associate the yoga and services offered by BYCI and Bikram with those offered by  
27 Defendants in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 101 et seq.  
28



1 purported certification of teachers to teach Bikram Yoga or other forms of yoga  
2 derived from Bikram Yoga.

3 59. BYCI and Bikram are entitled to permanent injunctive relief  
4 restraining Defendants, and their officers, agents, and employees, and all persons  
5 acting in concert with them, from engaging in any further such acts in violation of  
6 the Trademark Laws of the United States.

7 60. BYCI and Bikram are further entitled to recover damages, including  
8 attorneys' fees, they have sustained and will sustain, and any gains, profits, and  
9 advantages obtained by Defendants as a result of their acts of infringement alleged  
10 above, in an amount greater than \$1,000,000, according to proof to be determined  
11 at time of trial.

12 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
13 **(False Designation Against All Defendants)**

14 61. Plaintiffs hereby repeat and reallege the allegations set forth in  
15 paragraphs 1 through 50, above, as though fully set forth herein.

16 62. Defendants' willful and continued unauthorized use in interstate  
17 commerce of the Bikram's IP is likely to deprive Bikram and BYCI of their  
18 exclusive rights, to continue to cause confusion and mistake, and to deceive the  
19 public in that it has and will continue to lead the public erroneously to believe that  
20 Defendants' yoga and services are sponsored, approved and/or certified by BYCI  
21 and Bikram and are being marketed with the consent of BYCI and Bikram.

22 63. If Defendants' acts are not enjoined by this Court, they will cause  
23 irreparable and substantial damage to Bikram, BYCI and its affiliates, for which  
24 there is no adequate remedy at law, and otherwise will result in Defendants being  
25 unjustly enriched by their unlawful acts.

26 64. BYCI and Bikram are entitled to permanent injunctive relief  
27 restraining Defendants, and their officers, agents, and employees, and all persons  
28

1 acting in concert with them, from engaging in any further such acts in violation of  
2 the Trademark and Copyright Laws of the United States.

3 65. BYCI and Bikram are further entitled to recover damages, including  
4 attorneys' fees, they have sustained and will sustain, and any gains, profits, and  
5 advantages obtained by Defendants as a result of their acts of infringement alleged  
6 above, in an amount greater than \$1,000,000, according to proof to be determined  
7 at time of trial.

8 **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
9 **(Dilution Against All Defendants)**

10 66. Plaintiffs hereby repeat and reallege the allegations set forth in  
11 paragraphs 1 through 50, above, as though fully set forth herein.

12 67. Defendants' willful and continued unauthorized use in interstate  
13 commerce of the Bikram's IP has injured and threatens to further injure the  
14 business reputations of BYCI and Bikram and to dilute the distinctive quality of  
15 Bikram's IP. Pursuant to California Business and Professions Code Section 14330,  
16 BYCI and Bikram are therefore entitled to permanent injunctive relief restraining  
17 Defendants, and their officers, agents, and employees, and all persons acting in  
18 concert with them, from engaging in any further such acts in violation of the  
19 Trademark and Copyright Laws of the United States.

20 68. BYCI and Bikram are further entitled to recover damages, including  
21 attorneys' fees, they have sustained and will sustain, and any gains, profits, and  
22 advantages obtained by Defendants as a result of their acts of infringement alleged  
23 above, in an amount greater than \$1,000,000, according to proof to be determined  
24 at time of trial.

25 **FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
26 **(Unfair Competition Against All Defendants)**

27 69. Plaintiffs hereby repeat and reallege the allegations set forth in  
28 paragraphs 1 through 50, above, as though fully set forth herein.





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**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against Defendants as follows:

**FOR THE FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

1. For damages in an amount to be proven at trial, but which is believed to exceed \$1,000,000.

2. For punitive damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

3. For a preliminary and permanent injunction barring subsequent infringement of Plaintiffs' Copyrighted Works.

4. For an order permitting the seizure and destruction of unlawful and counterfeit reproductions of Bikram's IP.

5. At Plaintiffs' election, for statutory damages for willful infringement pursuant to 17 U.S.C. Section 504(c).

**FOR THE SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

6. For damages in an amount to be proven at trial, but which is believed to exceed \$1,000,000.

7. For punitive damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

8. For a preliminary and permanent injunction barring subsequent infringement of Plaintiffs' Marks.

9. For an order permitting the seizure and destruction of unlawful and counterfeit reproductions of Bikram's IP.

10. At Plaintiffs' election, for statutory damages for willful infringement pursuant to 15 U.S.C. Section 1117(c).

1                   **FOR THE THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

2           11.   For damages in an amount to be proven at trial, but which is believed  
3 to exceed \$1,000,000.

4           12.   For a preliminary and permanent injunction barring subsequent  
5 infringement of Plaintiffs' IP.

6                   **FOR THE FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

7           13.   For damages in an amount to be proven at trial, but which is believed  
8 to exceed \$1,000,000.

9           14.   For a preliminary and permanent injunction barring subsequent  
10 infringement of Plaintiffs' IP.

11                   **FOR THE FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

12           15.   For a preliminary and permanent injunction barring subsequent  
13 infringement of Plaintiffs' IP.

14                   **FOR THE SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

15           16.   For a preliminary and permanent injunction barring subsequent  
16 infringement of Plaintiffs' IP.

17                   **FOR THE SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

18           17.   For damages in an amount to be proven at trial, but which is believed  
19 to exceed \$250,000.

20                   **FOR THE EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

21           18.   For damages in an amount to be proven at trial, but which is believed  
22 to exceed \$250,000.

23           19.   For a preliminary and permanent injunction barring the inducement of  
24 breach of contract in a manner in which infringes on Plaintiffs' IP.  
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1                    **FOR ALL CAUSES OF ACTION**

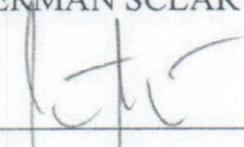
2                    20. For costs of suit incurred herein, including attorney's fees as  
3 permitted by statute; and

4                    21. For such other relief as the court deems just and proper.

5  
6                    September 26, 2011

Respectfully submitted,

7                    SILVERMAN SCLAR SHIN & BYRNE LLP

8  
9                    By:   
10

Robert M. Gilchrest

11                    For Plaintiffs

12                    BIKRAM'S YOGA COLLEGE OF INDIA, L.P.  
13                    and BIKRAM CHOUDHURY

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

1  
2 Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury in this action with respect to those matters  
3 triable to a jury.  
4

5 September 26, 2011

6 Respectfully submitted,  
7 SILVERMAN SCLAR SHIN & BYRNE LLP

8 By: \_\_\_\_\_

9 Robert M. Gilchrest

10 For Plaintiffs

11 BIKRAM'S YOGA COLLEGE OF INDIA, L.P.  
12 and BIKRAM CHOUDHURY  
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