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14 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 15 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

17 AARON GUZMAN and LISA LADNER,
 18 Plaintiffs,
 19 vs.
 20 RITE AID CORPORATION, and DOES 1
 through 50, Inclusive,
 21 Defendants.

No. 2:16-CV-00211-JAM-EFB

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

Judge: Hon. John A. Mendez

1 **1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS**

2 Disclosure and discovery activity in this action are likely to involve production of confidential,
3 proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for
4 any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby
5 stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties
6 acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to
7 discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited
8 information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles. The
9 parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3, below, that this Stipulated Protective Order
10 does not entitle them to file confidential information under seal. Rather, the parties must comply with
11 the applicable rules, standards, and procedures regarding seeking permission from the court to file
12 material under seal.

13 **2. DEFINITIONS**

14 **2.1 Challenging Party:** a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation of information
15 or items under this Order.

16 **2.2 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items:** information (regardless of how it is
17 generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under Federal Rule of Civil
18 Procedure 26(c).

19 **2.3 Counsel (without qualifier):** Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as
20 their support staff).

21 **2.4 Designating Party:** a Party or Non-Party that designates information or items that it
22 produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

23 **2.5 Disclosure or Discovery Material:** all items or information, regardless of the medium
24 or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including, among other things, testimony,
25 transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or generated in disclosures or responses to discovery
26 in this matter.

27 **2.6 Expert:** a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter pertinent to the
28 litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as an expert witness or as a consultant

1 in this action.

2 **2.7 House Counsel:** attorneys who are employees of a Party to this action. House Counsel
3 does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside counsel.

4 **2.8 Non-Party:** any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal
5 entity not named as a Party to this action.

6 **2.9 Outside Counsel of Record:** attorneys who are not employees of a Party to this action
7 but are retained to represent or advise a Party to this action and have appeared in this action on behalf of
8 that Party or are affiliated with a law firm which has appeared on behalf of that Party.

9 **2.10 Party:** any party to this action, including all of its officers, directors, employees,
10 consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their support staffs).

11 **2.11 Producing Party:** a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or Discovery Material
12 in this action.

13 **2.12 Professional Vendors:** persons or entities that provide litigation support services (e.g.,
14 photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or
15 retrieving data in any form or medium) and their employees and subcontractors.

16 **2.13 Protected Material:** any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is designated as
17 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

18 **2.14 Receiving Party:** a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material from a
19 Producing Party.

20 **3. SCOPE**

21 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only Protected Material (as
22 defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies,
23 excerpts, summaries, or compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or
24 presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material. However, the protections
25 conferred by this Stipulation and Order do not cover the following information: (a) any information that
26 is in the public domain at the time of disclosure to a Receiving Party or becomes part of the public
27 domain after its disclosure to a Receiving Party as a result of publication not involving a violation of this
28 Order, including becoming part of the public record through trial or otherwise; and (b) any information

1 known to the Receiving Party prior to the disclosure or obtained by the Receiving Party after the
2 disclosure from a source who obtained the information lawfully and under no obligation of
3 confidentiality to the Designating Party. Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by a
4 separate agreement or order.

5 **4. DURATION**

6 Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations imposed by this
7 Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees otherwise in writing or a court order
8 otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all claims and
9 defenses in this action, with or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after the completion and
10 exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this action, including the time limits
11 for filing any motions or applications for extension of time pursuant to applicable law.

12 **5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL**

13 **5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.** Each Party or
14 Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under this Order must take care to limit
15 any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating
16 Party must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written
17 communications that qualify – so that other portions of the material, documents, items, or
18 communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of
19 this Order.

20 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are shown to
21 be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber
22 or retard the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties)
23 expose the Designating Party to sanctions.

24 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it designated for
25 protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must promptly notify all other Parties
26 that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

27 **5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations.** Material may be designated as
28 "CONFIDENTIAL" at any time. However, the parties will attempt to make such designations before

1 the material is disclosed or produced.

2 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

3 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic documents, but
4 excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), that the Producing Party affix
5 the legend “CONFIDENTIAL” to each page that contains protected material. If only a portion or
6 portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify
7 the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

8 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents or materials available for inspection
9 need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated which material it
10 would like copied and produced. During the inspection and before the designation, all of the material
11 made available for inspection shall be deemed “CONFIDENTIAL.” After the inspecting Party has
12 identified the documents it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine which
13 documents, or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then, before producing the
14 specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the “CONFIDENTIAL” legend to each page that
15 contains Protected Material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for
16 protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making
17 appropriate markings in the margins).

18 (b) for testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial or trial proceedings, that the
19 Designating Party identify all protected testimony on the record during the deposition or proceeding or
20 within 30 days after receiving the transcript.

21 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for any other
22 tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or
23 containers in which the information or item is stored the legend “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion
24 or portions of the information or item warrant protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable,
25 shall identify the protected portion(s).

26 Such designation will, without more, subject the information produced or provided under said
27 designation to the provisions of this protective order.

28 **5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate.** If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to

1 designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the Designating Party's right to
2 secure protection under this Order for such material. In the event that a Party inadvertently produces
3 Protected Material without an appropriate designation, the Producing Party shall give written notice of
4 such inadvertent production to the Receiving Party within twenty (20) days of discovering the
5 inadvertent production. The Producing Party shall also give the Receiving Party an appropriately
6 designated copy of the Protected Material. Upon receiving notice of the inadvertent production, the
7 Receiving Party shall promptly return the inadvertently produced Protected Materials, along with all
8 copies of such Protected Material, and shall retain only the appropriately designated copy of the
9 Protected Material.

10 **6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS**

11 **6.1 Timing of Challenges.** Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a designation of
12 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a Designating Party's confidentiality
13 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or
14 a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a Party does not waive its right to challenge a
15 confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original designation
16 is disclosed.

17 **6.2 Meet and Confer.** The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute resolution process by
18 providing written notice of each designation it is challenging and describing the basis for each challenge.
19 To avoid ambiguity as to whether a challenge has been made, the written notice must recite that the
20 challenge to confidentiality is being made in accordance with this specific paragraph of the Protective
21 Order. The parties shall attempt to resolve each challenge in good faith and must begin the process by
22 conferring directly (in voice to voice dialogue) within 14 days of the date of service of notice. In
23 conferring, the Challenging Party must explain the basis for its belief that the confidentiality designation
24 was not proper and must give the Designating Party an opportunity to review the designated material, to
25 reconsider the circumstances, and, if no change in designation is offered, to explain the basis for the
26 chosen designation. A Challenging Party may proceed to the next stage of the challenge process only if
27 it has engaged in this meet and confer process first or establishes that the Designating Party is unwilling
28 to participate in the meet and confer process in a timely manner.

1 **6.3 Judicial Intervention.** If the Parties cannot resolve a challenge without court
2 intervention, the Designating Party shall file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality within 21 days
3 of the initial notice of challenge or within 14 days of the parties agreeing that the meet and confer
4 process will not resolve their dispute, whichever is earlier. Each such motion must be accompanied by a
5 competent declaration affirming that the movant has complied with the meet and confer requirements
6 imposed in the preceding paragraph. Failure by the Designating Party to make such a motion including
7 the required declaration within 21 days (or 14 days, if applicable) shall automatically waive the
8 confidentiality designation for each challenged designation. In addition, the Challenging Party may file
9 a motion challenging a confidentiality designation at any time if there is good cause for doing so,
10 including a challenge to the designation of a deposition transcript or any portions thereof. Any motion
11 brought pursuant to this provision must be accompanied by a competent declaration affirming that the
12 movant has complied with the meet and confer requirements imposed by the preceding paragraph.

13 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the Designating Party.
14 Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary
15 expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the
16 Designating Party has waived the confidentiality designation by failing to file a motion to retain
17 confidentiality as described above, all parties shall continue to afford the material in question the level
18 of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing Party's designation until the court rules on the
19 challenge.

20 **7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

21 **7.1 Basic Principles.** A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is disclosed or
22 produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this case only for prosecuting,
23 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Such Protected Material may be disclosed only to the
24 categories of persons and under the conditions described in this Order. When the litigation has been
25 terminated, a Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL
26 DISPOSITION).

27 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a location and in a
28 secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this Order.

1 **7.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items.** Unless otherwise ordered
2 by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any
3 information or item designated “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

4 (a) the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this action, as well as
5 employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the
6 information for this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound”
7 that is attached hereto as Exhibit A;

8 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of the Receiving
9 Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the
10 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

11 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is
12 reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to
13 Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

14 (d) the court and its personnel;

15 (e) court reporters and their staff, professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors,
16 and Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have
17 signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

18 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably
19 necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless
20 otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed deposition
21 testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material must be separately bound by the court
22 reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order.

23 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or
24 other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

25 **8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER**
26 **LITIGATION**

27 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels
28 disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

1 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall include
2 a copy of the subpoena or court order;

3 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in
4 the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this
5 Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

6 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the
7 Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

8 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with the subpoena or
9 court order shall not produce any information designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a
10 determination by the court from which the subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the
11 Designating Party’s permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking
12 protection in that court of its confidential material – and nothing in these provisions should be construed
13 as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this action to disobey a lawful directive from another
14 court.

15 **9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE PRODUCED IN THIS**
16 **LITIGATION**

17 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-Party in
18 this action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information produced by Non-Parties in
19 connection with this litigation is protected by the remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in
20 these provisions should be construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

21 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to produce a
22 Non-Party’s confidential information in its possession, and the Party is subject to an agreement with the
23 Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party’s confidential information, then the Party shall:

24 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party that
25 some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement with a Non-Party;

26 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated Protective
27 Order in this litigation, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably specific description of the
28 information requested; and

1 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-Party.

2 (c) If the Non-Party fails to object or seek a protective order from this court
3 within 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party may produce
4 the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery request. If the Non-Party timely
5 seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall not produce any information in its possession or
6 control that is subject to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the
7 court. Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking
8 protection in this court of its Protected Material.

9 **10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

10 If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Protected Material
11 to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this Stipulated Protective Order, the
12 Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized
13 disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material,
14 (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this
15 Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be
16 Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

17 **11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED**
18 **MATERIAL**

19 Inadvertent production of a document or other information subject to a claim of privilege or
20 attorney work product will not waive the privilege or the attorney work product doctrine. If a Producing
21 Party produces any material that the Producing Party thereafter claims to be privileged or protected, the
22 Producing Party will give notice thereof to the Receiving Party in writing. Within five days, the
23 material in question (and all notes and work product quoting, referring or relating thereto) will then be
24 returned to the Producing Party, and the Receiving Party will certify that any and all copies have been
25 retrieved and destroyed. If the Receiving Party has disclosed the information to others before being
26 notified of the claim of privilege or protection, the Receiving Party must take reasonable steps to
27 retrieve and return or destroy the disclosed information. The Receiving Party upon receiving a privilege
28 log identifying the document remains free to challenge any claim of privilege or protection, but shall not

1 make any claim that the production of the document caused a waiver of any privilege or protection.
2 Moreover, absent a ruling that the document, data, or information at issue is not privileged or protected,
3 a Receiving Party may not disclose nor make any use whatsoever of the information disclosed in or
4 derived from the document or information at issue. If a Party or counsel for a Party receives a document
5 or other information that appears on its face to be inadvertently produced and subject to a claim of
6 privilege or attorney work product, counsel for the Receiving Party will (i) inform counsel for the
7 Producing Party promptly after becoming aware of the disclosure; (ii) promptly return the document or
8 other information and all copies thereof; and (iii) promptly destroy all notes and other documents
9 containing any reference to, or use of, the inadvertently produced information.

10 **12. MISCELLANEOUS**

11 **12.1 Right to Further Relief.** Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any person to seek
12 its modification by the court in the future.

13 **12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections.** By stipulating to the entry of this Protective Order
14 no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to disclosing or producing any information
15 or item on any ground not addressed in this Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any
16 right to object on any ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

17 **12.3 Filing Protected Material.** Without written permission from the Designating Party or a
18 court order secured after appropriate notice to all interested persons, a Party may not file in the public
19 record in this action any Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any Protected Material
20 must comply with the applicable rules for filing documents under seal. Protected Material may only be
21 filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific Protected Material at
22 issue. If a Receiving Party's request to file Protected Material under seal is denied by the court, then the
23 Receiving Party may file the information in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

24 **13. FINAL DISPOSITION**

25 Within 60 days after the final disposition of this action, as defined in paragraph 4, each
26 Receiving Party must return all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As
27 used in this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries,
28 and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. Whether the Protected

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No. 2:16-CV-00211-JAM-EFB

**ORDER ON STIPULATED PROTECTIVE
ORDER**

Judge: Hon. John A. Mendez

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ORDER ON STIPULATED
PROTECTIVE ORDER

U.S.D.C., E.D. CAL., No. 2:16-CV-00211-JAM-EFB

1 Pursuant to Stipulation, it is so Ordered that the Parties are bound by the Stipulated Protective
2 Order.

3
4 Dated: December 8, 2016

5 /s/ John A. Mendez
6 Hon. John A. Mendez
7 United States District Court Judge
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1 **EXHIBIT A**

2 **ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND**

3 I, _____ [print or type full name], of _____ [print or
4 type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the
5 Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of
6 California on [date] in the case of *Aaron Guzman and Lisa Ladner, Plaintiffs, vs. Rite Aid Corporation,*
7 *and DOES 1 through 50, Inclusive, Defendants.* I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms
8 of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could
9 expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not
10 disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any
11 person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

12 I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Eastern
13 District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, even if
14 such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

15 I hereby appoint _____ [print or type full name] of
16 _____ [print or type full address and telephone number]
17 as my California agent for service of process in connection with this action or any proceedings related to
18 enforcement of this Stipulated Protective Order.

19 Date: _____

20 City and State where sworn and signed: _____

21 Printed name: _____

22 Signature: _____