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12 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE**
 13 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

14 DANIEL VARADY, individually and on behalf
 15 of all others similarly situated,

16 Plaintiff,

17 v.

18 WELLS FARGO & COMPANY and WELLS
 19 FARGO CLEARING SERVICES, LLC, d/b/a
 20 WELLS FARGO ADVISORS,

21 Defendants.

Case No.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

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DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL 19

1 Plaintiff Daniel Varady, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,
2 alleges the following based on his personal experience and his counsel’s investigation:

3 **I. NATURE OF ACTION**

4 1. Plaintiff brings this proposed class action suit against Defendants Wells Fargo &
5 Company and Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC, d/b/a Wells Fargo Advisors (collectively,
6 “Wells Fargo”) based on Wells Fargo’s actions and conduct with respect to its cash sweep
7 program.

8 2. Wells Fargo offers its investment clients who have cash that is not being used for
9 trading purposes the opportunity to hold their uninvested monies in what is known as a “cash
10 sweep account.” The cash sweep accounts at issue in this case are the Wells Fargo Standard Bank
11 Deposit Sweep and the Wells Fargo Expanded Bank Deposit Sweep (collectively, “Wells Fargo’s
12 Bank Deposit Sweep Program”). Plaintiff and Class members are clients with Wells Fargo and
13 their uninvested cash was automatically transferred into Wells Fargo’s cash sweep accounts
14 pursuant to the Wells Fargo Bank Deposit Sweep Program.

15 3. As an investment adviser and as an agent under its contract with Plaintiff and the
16 proposed Class defined herein, at all relevant times Wells Fargo had a fiduciary duty to act in
17 their best interests. Additionally, under the terms of Wells Fargo’s Bank Deposit Sweep
18 Program—which were incorporated into its contract with Plaintiff and Class members—Wells
19 Fargo had a contractual obligation to negotiate a reasonable rate of return on Plaintiff and Class
20 members’ uninvested cash.

21 4. Unfortunately for Plaintiff and Class members, Wells Fargo breached its fiduciary
22 duty to them and its contractual obligations. Wells Fargo deposited Plaintiff and Class members’
23 uninvested cash with banks (both affiliated and unaffiliated) that pay low and unreasonable rates
24 of return to Wells Fargo’s investment customers, but paid Wells Fargo increased fees due to lower
25 rates paid to customers.

26 5. In November 2023, the Securities and Exchange Commission began investigating
27 Wells Fargo’s cash sweep practices. And in July 2024, Wells Fargo announced that it would pay
28 its customers enrolled in its cash sweep accounts higher rates of interest. Wells Fargo further

1 reported that the price increase would decrease its revenues by \$350 million, underscoring the
2 enormous profits that Wells Fargo earned for itself at the expense of Plaintiff and Class members.

3 6. Plaintiff alleges that Wells Fargo’s conduct was unlawful, as described in further
4 detail below and alleges on behalf of himself and others similarly situated claims for breach of
5 fiduciary duty, breach of contract, gross negligence, breach of the implied covenant of good faith
6 and fair dealing, and unjust enrichment. Plaintiff seeks all available monetary and equitable relief,
7 including damages, restitution, and all other appropriate relief.

8 **II. PARTIES**

9 7. Plaintiff Daniel Varady is a resident and citizen of Scotch Plains, New Jersey.

10 8. Defendant Wells Fargo & Company (“Wells Fargo”) is headquartered at 420
11 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, California 94101. Wells Fargo is a leading financial services
12 company with assets of approximately \$1.9 trillion and office locations across the world. Wells
13 Fargo touts itself as a company that “proudly serves consumers” and “partner with our customers
14 to help them achieve their financial goals[.]” Wells Fargo is named as a defendant in its capacity
15 as the parent company and control person of Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC, dba Wells Fargo
16 Advisors.

17 9. Defendant Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC, dba Wells Fargo Advisors
18 (“WFA”) is a dually registered broker-dealer and Registered Investment Advisor or “RIA” that
19 offers brokerage and investment advisory services to its nationwide client base. Wells Fargo
20 Advisors is a trade name used by Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC. WFA offers brokerage
21 services to Plaintiff and Class members, acting as its customers’ agent regarding the establishment,
22 maintenance, and operation of the Wells Fargo Bank Deposit Sweep Program. Wells Fargo
23 Clearing Services, LLC, dba WFA is a majority-owned subsidiary of the defendant Wells Fargo.
24 In BrokerCheck reports filed with the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (“FINRA”), Wells
25 Fargo Clearing Services states that it is 75% or more owned by Wells Fargo, and that as owner,
26 Wells Fargo directs the management or policies of the firm.

1 Fargo sweeps eligible clients' uninvested cash balances into interest bearing deposit accounts with
2 a network of bank partners that participate in the Wells Fargo Bank Deposit Sweep Program.

3 18. Uninvested cash can include the initial cash deposits with Wells Fargo before the
4 cash is invested in a security—if the Wells Fargo customer has enrolled in the Wells Fargo Bank
5 Deposit Sweep Program—or funds left in the account after an investment is sold.

6 19. For the Standard Bank Deposit Sweep, the cash is swept into deposit accounts with
7 Wells Fargo Affiliated Banks.

8 20. For the Expanded Bank Deposit Sweep, the uninvested cash is swept into an
9 interest-bearing deposit account with one of five banks including Wells Fargo Affiliated Banks
10 and Unaffiliated Banks.

11 21. The Standard Bank Deposit Sweep and Expanded Bank Deposit Sweep are separate
12 products from Wells Fargo's investment advisory services and are optional.

13 22. The deposit accounts in the Wells Fargo Bank Deposit Sweep Program have very
14 low rates of return. As of August 7, 2024, the interest rates Wells Fargo paid to its customers with
15 Cash Sweep Program deposits ranged as low as 0.05% for accounts with less \$1 million in
16 household assets.¹

17 23. For comparison, according to the FDIC, the average interest rate on a savings
18 deposit account is 0.45%.²

19 24. Wells Fargo, however, earns significant net interest income from its cash sweep
20 program—that is, the difference between the interest its customers receive, and the amount of
21 interest earned by Wells Fargo and its bank partners from the use of the uninvested cash in its cash
22 sweep program.

23 25. After becoming the subject of regulatory scrutiny, Wells Fargo announced in July
24 of 2024 that it would increase the interest rates for its cash sweep program, resulting in a reduction
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28 ¹ <https://www.wellsfargoadvisors.com/financial-services/account-services/cash-sweep/rates.htm>
(last accessed August 8, 2024).

² <https://www.fdic.gov/resources/bankers/national-rates/> (last accessed August 7, 2024).

1 of revenue to Wells Fargo of approximately \$350 million *per year*.³

2 26. Wells Fargo has been able to earn these kinds of massive revenues because it placed
3 its interests above those of Plaintiff and Class members, thereby breaching its legal and contractual
4 duties to Plaintiff and Class members.

5 27. In particular, the interest rates on Wells Fargo’s cash sweep accounts were set by
6 Wells Fargo’s Affiliated Banks in consultation with Wells Fargo⁴ and it failed to negotiate a
7 reasonable interest rate on behalf of its customers when these rates were set.

8 28. Additionally, under the Wells Fargo Bank Deposit Sweep Program, Unaffiliated
9 Banks were required to set their interest rates at the same rate as the Affiliated Banks.⁵

10 29. This kept the interest Wells Fargo customers earned on their cash sweep deposits
11 artificially low and was a breach of Wells Fargo’s legal and contractual obligations to its customers.

12 30. The terms and conditions for Wells Fargo’s cash sweep accounts are set forth in the
13 General Account Agreement and Disclosure Documents (“General Agreement”), which
14 incorporates the terms of the Cash Sweep Program Disclosure Statement (“Cash Sweep
15 Disclosure”).⁶

16 31. The Cash Sweep Disclosure states that Wells Fargo assumes “no obligation to seek
17 or negotiate interest rates *in excess of any reasonable rate* of interest the Affiliated Banks are
18 willing to credit,”⁷ thereby creating an obligation, as an agent and fiduciary of its clients, to
19 negotiate a *reasonable rate* of interest, which Wells Fargo purposely failed to do so it could earn
20 more revenue for itself (emphasis added).

21 32. The rates of return were far below what Wells Fargo customers could have
22 otherwise earned on their uninvested cash. As a comparison, as of August 7, 2024, Wells Fargo
23 competitor Vanguard’s cash sweep program has an interest rate of 4.5% compared Wells Fargo’s,
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26 ³ <https://www.advisorhub.com/wells-fargo-to-lose-350-million-in-revenue-as-it-raises-rates-on-client-cash/> (last accessed August 8, 2024).

27 ⁴ <https://www.wellsfargoadvisors.com/bw/forms/578326.pdf> (last accessed August 7, 2024).

28 ⁵ *Id.*

⁶ <https://www.wellsfargoadvisors.com/bw/wellstrade/forms/589852.pdf>.

⁷ *Id.*

1 which is as low as 0.05%.⁸

2 33. While Wells Fargo customers received artificially and unreasonably low rates,
3 Wells Fargo received the difference between what it agreed to pay its customers and what the
4 program banks are willing to pay Wells Fargo for the large cash deposits—an amount that is not
5 disclosed to Wells Fargo customers. As a result of its practices, Wells Fargo was able to line its
6 pockets with massive revenues; at least \$350 million dollars in revenue annually and possibly
7 more.

8 34. In failing to negotiate reasonable rates, Wells Fargo breached its contractual and
9 fiduciary obligations to its customers.

10 **B. Wells Fargo’s Duties**

11 **1. Contractual Duties**

12 35. In operating its cash sweep program, Wells Fargo agreed to act as an agent on behalf
13 of its advisory clients.

14 36. The Cash Sweep Disclosure states:

15 Wells Fargo Advisors *will act as your agent in establishing and maintaining the*
16 *Bank Deposit Sweep Programs*, including making deposits to and withdrawals
17 from the Bank Deposit Sweep Programs. Your first deposit into the Standard Bank
18 Deposit Sweep or Expanded Bank Deposit Sweep *will constitute your appointment*
of Wells Fargo Advisors as your agent in connection with the Standard Bank
Deposit Sweep or Expanded Bank Sweep. (Emphases added).⁹

19 37. As its customers’ agent and pursuant to its contract agreements, Wells Fargo was
20 required to act in their best interests and not put its own personal gain ahead of its clients.

21 38. Since Wells Fargo was acting as an agent of its customers in operating its cash
22 sweep program, it was obligated to operate it in a way that put the interests of WFA customers
23 first in accordance with its agreement, instead of extracting exorbitant fees for its own benefit.

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28 ⁸ <https://investor.vanguard.com/accounts-plans/vanguard-cash-plus-account> (last accessed August 7, 2024).

⁹ <https://www.wellsfargoadvisors.com/bw/forms/578326.pdf> (last accessed August 7, 2024).

1 39. In failing to negotiate reasonable rates for its customers during the operation of its
2 cash sweep program, Wells Fargo breached both its contractual and fiduciary obligations to
3 customers.

4 **2. Duties Imposed on Wells Fargo by Law**

5 40. In acting as an investment adviser for an actively managed client account, Wells
6 Fargo owes its clients a fiduciary duty under federal law. *See* Securities and Exchange Commission
7 Interpretation Regarding Standards of Conduct for Investment Advisers, 84 Fed. Reg. 134, 17 CFR
8 § 276 (July 12, 2019) (“Under federal law, an investment adviser is a fiduciary.”).

9 41. Pursuant to these regulations, Wells Fargo was obligated to “serve the best interest
10 of its client and not subordinate its client’s interests to its own.” *Id.* And Wells Fargo cannot “place
11 its own interests ahead of the interests of its client.” *Id.*

12 42. Wells Fargo customers are also owed a duty of care, and Wells Fargo is required to
13 use its skills and expertise for the benefit of its clients.

14 43. Wells Fargo owes a similar duty of care to its retail clients pursuant to Regulation
15 Best Interest (“Reg. BI”), 17 C.F.R. § 240.151-1.

16 44. Reg. BI applies only to retail investors, i.e., natural persons, or the legal
17 representatives, who receive investment advice, used primarily for personal, family, or household
18 purposes. 17 C.F.R. § 240.151-1(b)(1).

19 45. Like SEC conduct rules, Reg. BI also requires Wells Fargo to “act in the retail
20 customer’s best interest and cannot place its own interests ahead of its customer’s interests.” 84
21 Fed. Reg. 33318, 33320.

22 46. As described and alleged herein, Wells Fargo failed to abide by its fiduciary duties
23 as set forth under federal law.

24 **C. Wells Fargo Breached Its Contractual Duties to Its Customers**

25 47. Wells Fargo breached its fiduciary and contractual duties by failing to negotiate
26 reasonable interest rates for its customers’ deposits in operating its cash sweep program.

27 48. Through its contractual and legal duties, Wells Fargo was obligated to act in the
28 best interest of its clients consistent with the General Agreement. Wells Fargo’s practice of

1 extracting excessive fees from its customers’ cash sweep deposits, through unreasonably low
 2 interest rates, was overwhelmingly detrimental to its customers’ interests.

3 49. While Wells Fargo tried to disclaim any obligation to negotiate an interest rate that
 4 is “in excess of any reasonable rate” for its customers’ cash sweep deposits, *it did not disclaim* an
 5 obligation to negotiate a reasonable rate but took that obligation on.

6 50. Wells Fargo did not negotiate reasonable rates of interest for its customers’ cash
 7 sweep deposits, but instead it worked in consultation with its Affiliated Bank partners to set
 8 artificially and unreasonably low interest rates.

9 51. While the General Agreement and Cash Sweep Disclosure do not define
 10 “reasonable,” reasonableness is often considered synonymous with “fair” or “moderate” under the
 11 law.¹⁰

12 52. The Department of Labor defined a “reasonable” rate of interest in 2003 and
 13 suggested one way of determining a “reasonable” rate is to refer to rates “offered by other banks”
 14 or by “money market funds.”¹¹

15 53. Compared to its competitors, the Wells Fargo Bank Deposit Sweep Program’s
 16 interest rates are substantially lower to similar sweep products offered by other financial
 17 institutions.

18 54. The rates of four of Wells Fargo’s competitors are provided in the table below:

Wells Fargo Cash Sweep Interest Competitor	Rate
Interactive Brokers ¹²	4.83%
MooMoo ¹³	5.1%
Vanguard ¹⁴	4.5%
Webull ¹⁵	5.0%

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 25 ¹⁰ Reasonable, Black’s Law Dictionary (12th ed.).

26 ¹¹ 68 Fed. Reg. 34646, at 34648 (June 10, 2003)

27 ¹² <https://www.interactivebrokers.com/en/accounts/fees/pricing-interest-rates.php> (last accessed August 7, 2024).

28 ¹³ <https://www.moomoo.com/us/invest/cashsweep> (last accessed August 7, 2024).

¹⁴ <https://investor.vanguard.com/accounts-plans/vanguard-cash-plus-account> (last accessed August 7, 2024).

¹⁵ <https://www.webull.com/cash-management> (last accessed August 7, 2024).

1 55. Not only are Wells Fargo’s interest rates significantly lower than its competitors,
2 but they are also substantially lower than interest rates for money market fund rates.

3 56. Many of Wells Fargo’s competitors offer programs that sweep uninvested cash into
4 money market funds where their customers receive substantially higher returns on their cash.

5 57. For example, Wells Fargo competitor Fidelity offers a program that sweeps
6 uninvested cash into money market funds that earn approximately 5%.¹⁶ Vanguard’s sweep
7 program offers money market funds as an option as well, with yield rates also around 5%.¹⁷ But
8 not Wells Fargo.

9 58. By setting substantially lower rates, Wells Fargo put its own interests above its
10 customers, making substantial net income revenue at its customers’ expense.

11 **D. Wells Fargo Reaps Significant Benefits to its Customers’ Detriment**

12 59. The terms of Wells Fargo’s cash sweep program state that Wells Fargo benefits
13 “financially from cash balances held in the Bank Deposit Sweep Programs through the ‘spread’”
14 from which WFA receives fees from its bank partners.¹⁸

15 60. The “spread” is the difference between the interest Wells Fargo agrees to pay to its
16 customers in its cash sweep program and the interest Wells Fargo and its bank partners earn using
17 Wells Fargo’s customers’ cash assets—through lending, investments, etc.¹⁹

18 61. The difference between what Wells Fargo earns and what it pays its customers is
19 Wells Fargo’s net interest income.

20 62. Wells Fargo earns substantial net interest income from its customers’ cash sweep
21 deposits.

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26 ¹⁶ <https://www.fidelity.com/go/manage-cash-rising-costs> (last accessed August 8, 2024).

27 ¹⁷ <https://investor.vanguard.com/accounts-plans/vanguard-cash-plus-account> and
<https://investor.vanguard.com/investment-products/money-markets> (last accessed August 8,
2024).

28 ¹⁸ <https://www.wellsfargoadvisors.com/bw/forms/578326.pdf> (last accessed August 7, 2024).

¹⁹ *Id.*

1 70. Excluded from the proposed Class are Defendants, any entity in which Defendants
2 have a controlling interest, is a parent or subsidiary, or which is controlled by Defendants, as well
3 as the officers, directors, affiliates, legal representatives, heirs, predecessors, successors, and
4 assigns of Defendants; and judicial officers to whom this case is assigned and their immediate
5 family members.

6 71. Plaintiff reserves the right to re-define the Class definition after conducting
7 discovery.

8 72. **Numerosity (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1)).** The Class members are so numerous that
9 joinder of all members is impracticable. The precise number of Class members and their identities
10 are unknown to Plaintiff currently. However, Well Fargo “provides investment advice and
11 guidance to clients through nearly 12,000 Financial Advisors and referrals from more than
12 4,000 Licensed Bankers in retail branches across the U.S. Wells Fargo Advisors administers \$1.9
13 trillion in client assets as of June 30, 2021.”²² The parties will be able to identify Class members
14 and the exact size of the Class through discovery and Defendants’ records.

15 73. **Commonality and Predominance (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(2); 23(b)(3)).** Common
16 questions of law and fact exist for each of the claims and predominate over questions affecting
17 only individual members of the Class. Questions common include, but are not limited to, the
18 following:

- 19 a. Whether Defendants owed fiduciary duties to Plaintiff and Class members in the
20 operation of the Wells Fargo Bank Deposit Sweep Program;
- 21 b. Whether Defendants breached its fiduciary duties to Plaintiff and Class members
22 in the operation of the Wells Fargo Bank Deposit Sweep Program;
- 23 c. Whether Defendants breached the contract with Plaintiff and Class members in the
24 operation of the Wells Fargo Bank Deposit Sweep Program;
- 25 d. Whether Defendants’ interest rates paid to Plaintiff and Class members were
26 reasonable;
- 27

28 ²² <https://fa.wellsfargoadvisors.com/zhs-wealth-management-group/fargoradvisors.htm> (last accessed August 6, 2024).

- 1 e. Whether the fees Defendants collected from the Wells Fargo Bank Deposit Sweep
- 2 Program were unreasonable;
- 3 f. Whether Defendants breached the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing;
- 4 g. Whether Defendants are liable for gross negligence to Plaintiff and Class members
- 5 in the operation of the Wells Fargo Bank Deposit Sweep Program;
- 6 h. Whether Defendants have been unjustly enriched because of the conduct
- 7 complained of herein; and
- 8 i. Whether Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to relief, including damages and
- 9 equitable relief.

10 74. **Typicality (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(3)).** Pursuant to Rule 23(a)(3), Plaintiff's
11 claims are typical of the claims of the Class members. Plaintiff, like all Class members, was paid
12 an unreasonable interest rate in connection with the Wells Fargo Bank Deposit Sweep Program.
13 Accordingly, Plaintiff's claims are typical of other Class member's claims because they arise from
14 the same course of conduct by Defendants, and the relief sought is common to Class members.

15 75. **Adequacy of Representation (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4)).** Pursuant to Rule
16 23(a)(4), Plaintiff and his counsel will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class.
17 Plaintiff has no interest antagonistic to, or in conflict with, the interests of the Class members.
18 Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in prosecuting class actions and breach of fiduciary
19 cases.

20 76. **Superiority (Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3)).** Pursuant to Rule 23(b)(3), a class
21 action is superior to individual adjudications of this controversy. Litigation is not economically
22 feasible for individual Class members because the amount of monetary relief available to
23 individual plaintiffs is insufficient in the absence of the class action procedure. Separate litigation
24 could yield inconsistent or contradictory judgments and increase the delay and expense to all
25 parties and the court system. A class action presents fewer management difficulties and provides
26 the benefits of a single adjudication, economy of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single
27 court.

1 control over funds that belonged to its clients, such as Plaintiff and Class members, regarding their
2 cash sweep balances.

3 82. As fiduciaries, Defendants owed Plaintiff and Class members the highest degree of
4 trust and confidence in the services it provided to them in the operation of the Wells Fargo Bank
5 Deposit Sweep Program. Defendants' fiduciary duties to Plaintiff and Class members, include, but
6 are not limited to: (a) a duty of care to act in the best interests of clients; (b) a duty of loyalty to
7 clients; (c) a duty of prudence in handling funds that belong to clients; and (d) a duty of good faith
8 to act honestly with respect to client funds. In executing these fiduciary duties, Defendants had a
9 duty to act exclusively for the benefit of Plaintiff and Class members in the operation of the Wells
10 Fargo Bank Deposit Sweep Program.

11 83. Because of the special agency relationship between Plaintiff and Class members,
12 on the one hand, and Defendants, on the other hand, Plaintiff and Class members relied on
13 Defendants' expertise in knowledge, ability, and skill in the operation of the Wells Fargo Bank
14 Deposit Sweep Program.

15 84. Defendants breached their fiduciary duties by failing to act in the best interests of
16 clients, including Plaintiff and Class members, by not negotiating and paying a reasonable interest
17 rate on the cash balance in their clients' accounts; and by placing their own interests ahead of their
18 clients' interests by securing increased net interest income at the expense of its clients.

19 85. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct as alleged herein, Plaintiff
20 and Class members suffered damages in an amount to be determined at trial and seek disgorgement
21 of any undue and unjust gains of Defendants, punitive damages, as well as all other equitable relief
22 deemed just and proper.

23 86. Defendants' conduct also warrants a punitive damage award because Defendants
24 are guilty of oppression and engaged in conduct that is outrageous and exhibited reckless
25 indifference to the rights of its clients, including Plaintiff and Class members.
26

COUNT II
GROSS NEGLIGENCE

1
2
3 87. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs as if fully set forth
4 herein.

5 88. Defendants, as fiduciaries, owed Plaintiff and Class members certain duties in the
6 operation of the Wells Fargo Bank Deposit Sweep Program.

7 89. A fiduciary relationship existed between Defendants, as financial and/or investment
8 advisers, on the one hand, and Plaintiff and Class members, as advisees, on the other hand,
9 regarding the Wells Fargo Bank Deposit Sweep Program, including Defendants' holding and
10 control over funds that belonged to Plaintiff and Class members.

11 90. Defendants' duties to Plaintiff and Class members, included, but are not limited to,
12 operating the Wells Fargo Bank Deposit Sweep Program for the benefit of their clients, such as
13 Plaintiff and Class members; and negotiating and paying available reasonable interest rates for
14 their clients' cash sweep balances.

15 91. Defendants breached their duties by failing to act in the best interests of Plaintiff
16 and Class members, including by not negotiating and paying the available reasonable interest rates
17 on the cash balances in their clients' accounts; and by placing their own interests ahead of
18 Plaintiffs' and Class members' interests by securing increased net interest income at the expense
19 of their clients.

20 92. Defendants' conduct as alleged in this Complaint was grossly negligent because
21 their self-serving conduct demonstrates a complete lack of care and reckless disregard for their
22 clients' interests. Defendants' conduct also demonstrates an extreme departure from the ordinary
23 standard of care.

24 93. Defendants' gross negligence directly and proximately caused harm to Plaintiff and
25 the Class members. As a result, Plaintiff and Class members suffered damages in an amount to be
26 determined at trial.

1 **COUNT III**
2 **BREACH OF IMPLIED COVENANT OF GOOD FAITH AND FAIR DEALING**

3 94. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs as if fully set forth
4 herein.

5 95. The General Agreement, which incorporated the Cash Sweep Disclosure, entered
6 into by Defendants on the one hand and Plaintiff and Class members on the other, provides that
7 New York law applies to services offered by Defendants, including the Wells Fargo Bank Deposit
8 Sweep Program.

9 96. Under New York common law, a covenant of good faith and fair dealing is implied
10 into every contract.

11 97. Plaintiff and Class members contracted with Defendants to provide them with
12 financial and/or investment services, including a contractual obligation by Defendants to obtain
13 for Plaintiff and Class members rates of return on their cash balances that are reasonable and to
14 otherwise act as an agent of the clients in the operation of the Wells Fargo Bank Deposit Sweep
15 Program.
16

17 98. These contracts were subject to implied covenants of good faith and fair dealing
18 that all parties would act in good faith and with reasonable efforts to perform their contractual
19 duties (both explicit and implied) and not to impair the rights of other parties to receive the rights,
20 benefits, and reasonable expectations under the contracts. These included the covenants that
21 Defendants would act fairly and in good faith in carrying out its contractual obligations to provide
22 Plaintiff and Class member with fair and reasonable rates of return on their cash sweep balances.

23 99. Defendants breached these implied covenants of good faith and fair dealing by
24 failing to provide Plaintiff and Class member with fair and reasonable rates of return on their cash
25 sweep balances. Defendants, instead of providing fair and reasonable rates of return on their
26 clients' cash sweep balances, provided far below market rates of return that its clients could have
27 otherwise earned on their cash.
28

1 100. Plaintiff and Class members fulfilled all the terms and obligations of their contract,
2 including paying for Defendants' financial and/or investment services.

3 101. Defendants' failure to act in good faith in providing fair and reasonable rates of
4 return on their customers' cash sweep balances denied Plaintiff and Class members the full benefit
5 of their bargain. Plaintiff and Class members received a minimal return on their cash sweep
6 balances that were less than what they could have otherwise earned and less than their reasonable
7 expectations under their contract with Defendants.

8 102. As a result of Defendants' breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair
9 dealing, Plaintiff and Class members sustained damages in an amount to be determined by this
10 Court, including interest on all liquidated sums. Plaintiff also seeks restitution and disgorgement
11 of profits wrongfully obtained.

12 **COUNT IV**
13 **BREACH OF CONTRACT**

14 103. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs as if fully set forth
15 herein.

16 104. Plaintiff and Class members entered into the General Agreement, which
17 incorporates the Cash Sweep Disclosure terms, whereby Defendants are obligated to provide
18 Plaintiff and Class members with financial and/or investment services, including a contractual
19 obligation to negotiate for Plaintiff and Class members rates of return on their cash balances that
20 are reasonable and to otherwise act in the best interest of the clients in the operation of the Wells
21 Fargo Bank Deposit Sweep Program.

22 105. Pursuant to the General Agreement and Cash Sweep Disclosure, Defendants were
23 and continue to be contractually obligated to obtain for Plaintiff and Class members rates of return
24 on their cash sweep balances that are reasonable and to otherwise act as in the best interests of the
25 clients in the operation of the Wells Fargo Bank Deposit Sweep Program.

26 106. As alleged herein, the rates of return paid to Plaintiff and Class members on their
27 cash sweep balances were not fair and reasonable. As a result, Defendants breached the contract
28 with Plaintiff and Class members.

1 107. Accordingly, Plaintiffs and Class members were harmed by Defendants' breach;
2 and sustained damages in an amount to be determined at trial.

3 **COUNT V**
4 **UNJUST ENRICHMENT**

5 108. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs as if fully set forth
6 herein.

7 109. Because of Defendants' wrongful conduct as alleged herein, Plaintiff and Class
8 members received lower interest payments on their cash sweep balances than they would have in
9 a reasonable and fair market.

10 110. Because of Defendants' wrongful conduct as alleged herein, Defendants unjustly
11 received a benefit at the expense of Plaintiff and Class members in the form of increased interest
12 income that belonged to Plaintiff and Class members.

13 111. It would be unjust and inequitable to allow Defendants to retain these wrongfully
14 obtained benefits.

15 112. Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to restitution and disgorgement of the
16 benefits unjustly obtained, plus interest, in an amount to be proven at trial.

17 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

18 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the members of the Class defined
19 above, respectfully request that this Court enter:

- 20 (a) An order certifying this case as a class action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
21 23, appointing Plaintiff as the Class representative, and appointing the undersigned as
22 Class counsel;
- 23 (b) A judgment awarding Plaintiff and Class members appropriate monetary relief,
24 including actual damages, equitable relief, restitution, and disgorgement;
- 25 (c) An order entering injunctive and declaratory relief as appropriate under the applicable
26 law;
- 27 (d) An order awarding Plaintiff and the Class pre-judgment and/or post-judgment interest
28 as prescribed by law;

1 (e) An order awarding reasonable attorneys' fees and costs as permitted by law; and

2 (f) All other and further relief as may be just and proper.

3 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

4 Plaintiff hereby demands a jury trial.

5 Dated: August 8, 2024

GIBBS LAW GROUP LLP

6
7 /s/ Rosemary M. Rivas

Rosemary M. Rivas

8 Rosanne L. Mah

Brian E. Johnson (*pro hac vice forthcoming*)

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JS-CAND 44 (Rev. 10/2020)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-CAND 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS
 Daniel Varady
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff
 (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)
 Union County
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)
 Rosemary M. Rivas (SBN 209147), Gibbs Law Group LLP
 1111 Broadway, Suite 2100, Oakland, CA 94607; (510) 350-9700

DEFENDANTS
 Wells Fargo & Company and Wells Fargo Clearing Services, LLC,
 dba Wells Fargo Advisors
 County of Residence of First Listed Defendant
 (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)
 NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF
 THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.
 Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

1 U.S. Government Plaintiff 3 Federal Question
 (U.S. Government Not a Party)

2 U.S. Government Defendant 4 Diversity
 (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

	PTF	DEF	PTF	DEF
Citizen of This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> 1	Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4
Citizen of Another State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 2	Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/> 5
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 3	Foreign Nation	<input type="checkbox"/> 6 <input type="checkbox"/> 6

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC § 881	422 Appeal 28 USC § 158	375 False Claims Act
120 Marine	310 Airplane	690 Other	423 Withdrawal 28 USC § 157	376 Qui Tam (31 USC § 3729(a))
130 Miller Act	315 Airplane Product Liability	LABOR	PROPERTY RIGHTS	400 State Reapportionment
140 Negotiable Instrument	320 Assault, Libel & Slander	710 Fair Labor Standards Act	820 Copyrights	410 Antitrust
150 Recovery of Overpayment Of Veteran's Benefits	330 Federal Employers' Liability	720 Labor/Management Relations	830 Patent	430 Banks and Banking
151 Medicare Act	340 Marine	740 Railway Labor Act	835 Patent—Abbreviated New Drug Application	450 Commerce
152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans)	345 Marine Product Liability	751 Family and Medical Leave Act	840 Trademark	460 Deportation
153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	350 Motor Vehicle	790 Other Labor Litigation	880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016	470 Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Organizations
160 Stockholders' Suits	355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability	791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act	SOCIAL SECURITY	480 Consumer Credit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract	360 Other Personal Injury	IMMIGRATION	861 HIA (1395ff)	485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act
195 Contract Product Liability	362 Personal Injury -Medical Malpractice	462 Naturalization Application	862 Black Lung (923)	490 Cable/Sat TV
196 Franchise	CIVIL RIGHTS	465 Other Immigration Actions	863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange
REAL PROPERTY	440 Other Civil Rights		864 SSID Title XVI	890 Other Statutory Actions
210 Land Condemnation	441 Voting		865 RSI (405(g))	891 Agricultural Acts
220 Foreclosure	442 Employment		FEDERAL TAX SUITS	893 Environmental Matters
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	443 Housing/Accommodations		870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant)	895 Freedom of Information Act
240 Torts to Land	445 Amer. w/Disabilities—Employment		871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC § 7609	896 Arbitration
245 Tort Product Liability	446 Amer. w/Disabilities—Other			899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision
290 All Other Real Property	448 Education	OTHER		950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
		540 Mandamus & Other		
		550 Civil Rights		
		555 Prison Condition		
		560 Civil Detainee—Conditions of Confinement		

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

1 Original Proceeding 2 Removed from State Court 3 Remanded from Appellate Court 4 Reinstated or Reopened 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) 6 Multidistrict Litigation—Transfer 8 Multidistrict Litigation—Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
 28 U.S.C. § 1332
 Brief description of cause:
 Breach of fiduciary duty, contract, and implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing; gross negligence; and unjust enrichment

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, Fed. R. Civ. P. DEMAND \$ _____ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S), IF ANY (See instructions): JUDGE Vince Chhabria DOCKET NUMBER 3:24-cv-04616

IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT (Civil Local Rule 3-2)
 (Place an "X" in One Box Only) SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND Text SAN JOSE EUREKA-MCKINLEYVILLE

DATE 08/08/2024 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/ Rosemary M. Rivas

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS-CAND 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet. The JS-CAND 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I. a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the “defendant” is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section “(see attachment).”
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a), which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an “X” in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
- (1) United States plaintiff. Jurisdiction based on 28 USC §§ 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
 - (2) United States defendant. When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an “X” in this box.
 - (3) Federal question. This refers to suits under 28 USC § 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
 - (4) Diversity of citizenship. This refers to suits under 28 USC § 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS-CAND 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an “X” in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin.** Place an “X” in one of the six boxes.
- (1) Original Proceedings. Cases originating in the United States district courts.
 - (2) Removed from State Court. Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 USC § 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
 - (3) Remanded from Appellate Court. Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
 - (4) Reinstated or Reopened. Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
 - (5) Transferred from Another District. For cases transferred under Title 28 USC § 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 - (6) Multidistrict Litigation Transfer. Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 USC § 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.
 - (8) Multidistrict Litigation Direct File. Check this box when a multidistrict litigation case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. Please note that there is no Origin Code 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC § 553. Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an “X” in this box if you are filing a class action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS-CAND 44 is used to identify related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.
- IX. Divisional Assignment.** If the Nature of Suit is under Property Rights or Prisoner Petitions or the matter is a Securities Class Action, leave this section blank. For all other cases, identify the divisional venue according to Civil Local Rule 3-2: “the county in which a substantial part of the events or omissions which give rise to the claim occurred or in which a substantial part of the property that is the subject of the action is situated.”
- Date and Attorney Signature.** Date and sign the civil cover sheet.