

1 Fabrice N. Vincent (State Bar No. 160780)
LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN & BERNSTEIN, LLP
2 275 Battery Street, 29th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111-3339
3 Telephone: 415.956.1000
Facsimile: 415.956.1008
4

5 Wendy R. Fleishman (*pro hac vice forthcoming*)
Kelly McNabb (*pro hac vice forthcoming*)
LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN & BERNSTEIN, LLP
6 250 Hudson Street, 8th Floor
New York, New York 10013-1413
7 Telephone: 212.355.9500
Facsimile: 212.355.9592
8

9 *Attorneys for Plaintiffs*

10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
11 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

12 DANIEL BROSNAN and ROBERTA
13 BROSNAN,

14 Plaintiffs,

15 v.

16 ZIMMER, INC.; ZIMMER US, INC.; and
17 ZIMMER BIOMET HOLDINGS, INC.,
f/k/a ZIMMER HOLDINGS,

18 Defendants.
19
20

Case No. 18-cv-5948

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

- (1) Negligence
- (2) Strict Products Liability – Design Defect
- (3) Strict Products Liability – Manufacturing Defect
- (4) Strict Products Liability – Failure to Warn
- (5) Negligent Misrepresentation
- (6) Breach of Implied Warranty
- (7) Violation of California Competition Law
- (8) Punitive Damages
- (9) Loss of Consortium

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

21
22 Plaintiffs DANIEL BROSNAN and ROBERTA BROSNAN (“Plaintiffs”), by their
23 undersigned attorneys, brings this Civil Action Complaint against Defendants ZIMMER INC.,
24 ZIMMER US, INC., and ZIMMER BIOMET HOLDINGS, INC. f/k/a Zimmer Holdings, Inc.
25 (collectively, the “Zimmer Defendants” or “Zimmer” or “Defendants”) upon information and
26 belief, investigation and personal knowledge, and at all times hereinafter mentioned, allege as
27 follows:
28

NATURE OF THIS ACTION

1
2 1. This products liability action relates to the design, development, manufacture,
3 testing, marketing, promotion, distribution, and sale of Zimmer’s defective hip implant
4 components known as the Zimmer VerSys Hip System Femoral Head 12/14 Taper (“Zimmer
5 VerSys femoral head”) and the Zimmer M/L Taper Prosthesis (“Zimmer M/L Taper”)
6 (collectively, the “Defective Devices” or “the Products” or “Zimmer hip joint implant products”).

7 2. The Products were surgically implanted in Plaintiff Daniel Brosnan’s left hip on
8 January 26, 2015.

9 3. On March 31, 2017, Mr. Brosnan required revision surgery of his left hip because
10 the Products were causing metal debris to be released into his hip causing adverse local tissue
11 reaction and elevated metal ions in his blood (a condition known as metallosis) and therefore,
12 were defective. This surgery caused Plaintiff to suffer significant injuries, including great pain
13 and agony that restricted his ability to engage in activities of daily living as well as the physical
14 activities that he enjoys.

PARTIES

15
16 4. Plaintiffs Daniel Brosnan and Roberta Brosnan are citizens and residents of
17 Lakeport, Lake County, California. They are married to one another and were married at all times
18 relevant to this action.

19 5. Defendant Zimmer Biomet Holdings, Inc. formerly known as Zimmer Holdings,
20 Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 345 East Main Street,
21 Warsaw, Indiana, 46580-2746. At all relevant times, Zimmer Biomet Holdings, Inc. was the
22 publicly traded holding company with wholly owned subsidiaries that it controlled, including
23 Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc., which designed, manufactured, marketed, supplied and sold
24 to distributors, physicians, hospitals, patients and medical practitioners the Products to be
25 surgically implanted in patients throughout the United States, including in the State of California.

26 6. On April 24, 2014, Zimmer Holdings, Inc. entered into an agreement to acquire
27 Biomet, Inc., and was renamed Zimmer Biomet Holdings, Inc.
28

1 7. Defendant Zimmer, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of
2 business at 1800 West Center Street, Warsaw, Indiana, 46581-0708.

3 8. Zimmer, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Defendant Zimmer Biomet
4 Holdings, Inc.

5 9. Defendant Zimmer, Inc. solicits business within the State of California and derives
6 substantial revenue from goods used and sold in the State of California.

7 10. At all times mentioned in this Complaint, Defendant Zimmer, Inc. designed,
8 testing, manufactured, packaged, and sold the Zimmer VerSys femoral head and Zimmer M/L
9 Taper generally for use in hip replacement surgeries, including Mr. Brosnan's surgery.

10 11. Defendant Zimmer US, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of
11 business at 345 East Main Street, Warsaw, State of Indiana.

12 12. Defendant Zimmer US, Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Zimmer Biomet
13 Holdings, Inc.

14 13. At all times mentioned in this Complaint, Defendant Zimmer US, Inc. sold hip
15 implants, including the Zimmer VerSys femoral head and Zimmer M/L Taper that were used in
16 Mr. Brosnan's surgery.

17 14. At all relevant times, each and all of the Defendant Zimmer entities regularly sold
18 and shipped the Products into the State of California, and in particular, provided the Products to
19 Healdsburg District Hospital, in Healdsburg California, and to Plaintiff's implanting surgeon, Dr.
20 Dr. Michael Bollinger, in Sebastopol, California, for implantation into human patients, including
21 Plaintiff Daniel Brosnan.

22 15. At all relevant times, Zimmer Defendants represented that the subject orthopedic
23 prosthetic hip components, and specifically the Products at issue in this lawsuit, were safe, fit for
24 use, free from defects and suitable for implantation into human patients, including Plaintiff Daniel
25 Brosnan.

26 16. At all relevant times, each of the Defendants and their directors and officers acted
27 within the scope of their authority. At all relevant times each Defendant was responsible for each
28 other's actions and inactions; and, each Defendant acted on behalf of each other Defendant.

1 22. At the time that Plaintiff underwent his total left hip arthroplasty, he received
2 defective, dangerous, hazardous and unsafe products designed, manufactured, developed, tested,
3 promoted, distributed and sold by the Zimmer Defendants.

4 23. Following the total left hip arthroplasty, Plaintiff Daniel Brosnan began
5 experiencing significant pain and discomfort in his left side.

6 24. Diagnostic work-up in December 2016 showed his cobalt serum level elevated and
7 a large pseudotumor.

8 25. Mr. Brosnan was referred to the University of California San Francisco (UCSF)
9 for further evaluation given continuing swelling and pain. Dr. Eric Hansen at UCSF felt that Mr.
10 Brosnan's recently elevated cobalt/chromium levels [*Chromium 1.6; Cobalt 10.2*] and large fluid
11 collection around the joint were likely the underlying cause of the persistent swelling and
12 irritation due to metal ions potentially due to taper/trunnion issues. Due to this, Dr. Hansen
13 suggested a revision surgery to debride the pseudotumor caused by adverse reaction to the
14 metallic debris fretting off the prosthesis; replace the cobalt chrome ball with a ceramic ball; and
15 to replace the hip system liner.

16 26. Prior to his revision surgery, Mr. Brosnan suffered from daily pain and difficulty
17 sleeping, causing a restriction of his normal activities.

18 27. Based upon these findings and in light of worsening symptoms, Plaintiff
19 underwent a complex revision surgery of his left prosthesis on March 31, 2017, performed by
20 Eric Hansen M.D., at University of California San Francisco, in San Francisco, California.

21 28. Intra-operatively, upon removal of the femoral head, there was a large amount of
22 black corrosion of both taper and the opening of the femoral head where the two parts join as part
23 of the prosthetic hip system.

24 29. Pathology from the revision surgery was consistent with aseptic lymphocytic
25 vasculitis-associated lesion (ALVAL)—a complication that has appeared in a subset of patients
26 with metal-on-metal total hip arthroplasties.

27 30. Following revision surgery, Mr. Brosnan's cobalt levels have decreased. Mr.
28 Bronson continued to suffer from pain and recurrent hip dislocations due to extensive abductor

1 damage. He ultimately had four dislocations and required another revision of his left hip on
2 January 1, 2018.

3 31. As a result of the defective hip implants, Plaintiff's well-being has suffered and
4 will continue to suffer. Mr. Brosnan and his wife, Roberta Brosnan have expended and will
5 continue to expend money for his care.

6 32. Spouse Plaintiff Roberta Brosnan has lost the society and love and affection of her
7 beloved spouse.

8 **II. BACKGROUND ON ARTIFICIAL HIPS AND HIP REPLACEMENT DEVICES**

9 33. The human hip joint consists of two parts: a ball and a socket. A portion of the
10 pelvic bone forms a cup-shaped socket; the ball at the top of the thigh bone fits into it. The ball is
11 surrounded with cartilage which, in a healthy hip joint, allows the ball to move smoothly within
12 the socket. Conditions such as osteoarthritis and avascular necrosis can cause degeneration of the
13 hip joint such that hip replacement is required. A hip implant is designed to replicate the human
14 anatomy—that is, the relatively simple ball and socket structure of the human hip joint. Total hip
15 replacement surgery involves implanting an artificial ball and socket into the patient.

16 34. The artificial hip implantation process requires a surgeon to insert a metal cup with
17 a smooth lining into the patient's diseased pelvic socket. The lining (known as a liner) serves the
18 same purpose as natural cartilage: allowing for smooth movement of the ball portion of the thigh
19 bone. The diseased or degenerated ball part of the thigh bone is then removed and replaced by a
20 metal or sometimes ceramic ball mounted onto a thin metal stem. The metal stem is then fit into
21 the thigh bone. Finally, the ball is placed securely into the pelvic socket that has been fitted with
22 the artificial metal cup, where it should move easily, without friction or pain to the patient.

23 35. Total hip replacement is most commonly used to treat joint failure caused by
24 osteoarthritis. Other indications include rheumatoid arthritis, avascular necrosis, traumatic
25 arthritis, protrusion acetabuli, certain hip fractures, benign and malignant bone tumors, arthritis
26 associated with Paget's disease of the bone, ankylosing spondylitis and juvenile rheumatoid
27 arthritis. The aims of the procedure are pain relief and improvement in hip function. Hip
28

1 replacement is usually considered only once other therapies, such as pain medications, have
2 failed.

3 36. Total hip arthroplasty (“THA”), or total hip replacement, is a common medical
4 procedure performed on more than 420,000 patients in the U.S. each year. It is designed to help
5 relieve pain and improve joint function in people with severe hip degeneration due to arthritis or
6 trauma. Traditional devices to replace degenerative hips utilize implantable metal or ceramic
7 heads fitting into a modular metal-backed polyethylene bearing. One concern that historically
8 plagues successful THAs is the wear of the bearing. As the THA becomes more common among
9 younger patients who want to maintain a physically active lifestyle, alternative bearing surfaces
10 such as cross-linked polyethylene, ceramic-on-ceramic and metal-on-metal have been developed
11 to address the issue of wear.

12 **III. ZIMMER M/L TAPER and the VERSYS 12/14 FEMORAL HEAD**

13 37. The Zimmer M/L Taper prosthesis is a femoral implant comprised of Tivanium®
14 Ti-6Al-4V alloy that is used for hip replacements.

15 38. The Zimmer VerSys femoral heads are manufactured with Zimaloy® cobalt-
16 chromium-molybdenum alloy.

17 39. During hip replacement surgery, the damaged portions of the hip joint are removed
18 and replaced with an integrated system of products, which includes the femoral stem and neck.
19 The Zimmer VerSys femoral head is used in connection with the M/L Taper.

20 40. The Zimmer M/L Taper is used with a spray coating called a “Circumferential
21 Plasma Spray” intended to facilitate surgical placement. The device components, together with
22 the acetabular cup are intended to be used in patients with adequate bone stock, like Plaintiff
23 Brosnan.

24 41. The Zimmer M/L Taper was approved pursuant to a 510(k) on or about October
25 22, 2003, and Zimmer proceeded to sell the components to be used together with the Zimmer
26 VerSys femoral head.

27 42. Zimmer introduced the M/L Taper as part of a modular system that had a modular
28 stem and neck components that were intended to offer the orthopedic surgeon more options in the

1 operating room. The three failure modes were considered when developing and manufacturing
2 this modular neck and stem system:

- 3 a. Proximal implant strength;
- 4 b. Fretting and corrosion; and,
- 5 c. Junction stability.

6 43. The Zimmer VerSys femoral heads were first tested in 1996 by Zimmer to be used
7 with cobalt chromium tapers and with titanium alloy tapers. According to Zimmer, there was not
8 significant fretting or corrosion using either form of taper.

9 44. Plaintiff Daniel Brosnan's cause for revision was metal-related pathology.

10 45. Defendant Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc. failed to disclose the greater risk of
11 wear, metal debris and corrosion associated with these devices prior to Mr. Brosnan's implant
12 surgeries and continuously through his revision surgery. Zimmer, Inc.'s and Zimmer US, Inc.'s
13 continued fraud worsened Mr. Brosnan's outcome.

14 46. Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc. used its distributors and its sales
15 representatives to communicate with the doctors, such as Dr. Bollinger and the doctors at
16 Healdsburg District Hospital.

17 47. In particular, Zimmer, Inc.'s sales representative, Colby Leonelli, was present
18 during Mr. Brosnan's implant surgery on January 26, 2015 and, upon information and belief, Mr.
19 Leonelli was reasonable for detailing Dr. Bollinger and provided, or failed to provide, Dr.
20 Bollinger with information, including the benefits and risks, about the Products.

21 48. Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc. provided distributors and sales representatives
22 with all marketing and sales materials. Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc. trained all distributors
23 and sales representatives on the Zimmer products, including the Products at issue in this
24 Complaint, including the risks and benefits of the Zimmer products. At all relevant times,
25 Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc. directed and controlled the activities of the distributors and
26 sales representatives of Zimmer products, including the Products at issue in this Complaint.

27 49. Prior to Mr. Brosnan's implanting surgery on January 26, 2015 and continuing
28 through his revision surgery on March 31, 2017, Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc. and its sales

1 representatives, specifically Colby Leonelli, intentionally or negligently failed to accurately
2 describe the risks of fretting and corrosion, release of metal debris and metal ions into the
3 surrounding tissue and the blood associated with the use of the M/L Taper and the VerSys
4 femoral head to Dr. Bollinger and other surgeons at Healdsburg District Hospital.

5 50. Prior to Mr. Brosnan's implanting surgery on January 26, 2015 and continuing
6 through his revision surgery on March 31, 2017, Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc. did not
7 include a warning of an increased risk of corrosion when the M/L Taper was paired with a VerSys
8 femoral head in the "Warnings" or "Precautions" sections of the Products' package inserts.

9 51. The statements made by Zimmer sales representatives, including Colby Leonelli,
10 as directed by Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc., and contained in Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US
11 Inc.'s written literature, instructions for use, package insert, and advertisements were false and
12 misleading because the Products had an increased rate of failure because of mechanically assisted
13 crevice corrosion (i.e. fretting and corrosion).

14 52. In fact, the M/L Taper stem has a greater prevalence (4.9%) of mechanically
15 assisted crevice corrosion ("MACC") than all other Zimmer stem types,¹ with a significantly
16 higher prevalence found in patients with M/L Taper style stem and total hip arthroplasty
17 performed in 2009 and between 2009-2012 (when Mr. Pride's prosthetic was implanted). Hussey,
18 D.K. & McGrory, B.J., Ten-Year Cross-Sectional Study of Mechanically Assisted Crevice
19 Corrosion in 1352 Consecutive Patients with Metal-on-Polyethylene Total Hip Arthroplasty, J.
20 Arthroplasty, 1-6 (2017), incorporated by reference herein.

21 53. Dr. Bollinger relied on the information provided by Zimmer, Inc., Zimmer US,
22 Inc., and its sales representatives acting as Zimmer agents, including Colby Leonelli. Had
23

24 ¹ MACC is a term given to a complex interaction of crevice corrosion, initiated by changes in
25 local chemistry within crevices, and fretting, which disrupts the protective oxide layer on the
26 taper. "MACC produces cobalt (Co) and chromium (Cr) ions, fretting products, and corrosive
27 debris that may cause adverse local tissue reaction (ALTR)." Hussey, D.K. & McGrory, B.J.,
28 Ten-Year Cross-Sectional Study of Mechanically Assisted Crevice Corrosion in 1352
Consecutive Patients with Metal-on-Polyethylene Total Hip Arthroplasty, J. Arthroplasty, 1-6
(2017) (incorporated by reference herein). Patient outcome worsens the longer the defective hip
prosthetic devices are implanted, due to increased tissue damage caused by the metal debris in the
surrounding tissue and ALTR. *Id.*

1 Zimmer disclosed the accurate information about this particularly dangerous failure mode—
2 increased rate of MACC (i.e., fretting and corrosion)—Plaintiff and his surgeon, Dr. Bollinger,
3 would not have used these components.

4 54. Despite their knowledge of the serious injuries associated with use of these
5 Products, Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc. engaged, and continue to engage, in a marketing and
6 advertising program which, as a whole, by affirmative and material misrepresentations and
7 omissions, falsely and deceptively sought to create the image and impression that the use of the
8 these Products were safe.

9 55. At all relevant times, Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc. knew or should have
10 known that the M/L Taper when paired with the VerSys femoral head were not safe for the
11 patients in whom it was implanted, including Plaintiff, because of the unacceptable failure rate.

12 56. Notwithstanding the knowledge of predicted failures with the defective devices,
13 Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc. continue to sell these devices for implantation in patients.

14 57. Plaintiff Daniel Brosnan has not only suffered physical injuries, he has endured
15 and continues to endure an unacceptable increase in the risk of severe pain and disability, with or
16 without a costly and painful additional revision surgery. The revision surgery was invasive and
17 painful and was necessitated by these defective devices. It is unknown what the long term effects
18 are of the increased metal ion levels in Mr. Brosnan's blood and tissue. However, Mr. Brosnan
19 lost a good amount of muscle tissue in and around his pelvis and abductors.

20 58. Mr. and Mrs. Brosnan have had to expend large sums of money for care. Plaintiffs
21 will in the future have expenses as a result of the injuries and damages he suffered as a result of
22 Zimmer's omission and misconduct.

23 **IV. VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS**

24 59. The Medical Device Amendments of 1976 ("MDA") to the Food Device Cosmetic
25 Act ("FDCA") established the current regulatory framework for medical device approval.

26 60. According to the U.S. Supreme Court in *Buckman v. Plaintiffs' Legal Comm.*, 531
27 U.S. 341, 346 (2001), the Supreme Court explained that: "[s]ection 510(k) submissions must
28 include the following: 'Proposed labels, labeling, and advertisements sufficient to describe the

1 device, its intended use, and the directions for its use,' 21 CFR § 807.87(e) (2000); and must
2 include “[a] statement indicating the device is similar to and/or different from other products of
3 comparable type in commercial distribution, accompanied by data to support the statement,”
4 § 807.87(f); “[a] statement that the submitter believes, to the best of his or her knowledge, that all
5 data and information submitted in the premarket notification are truthful and accurate and that no
6 material fact has been omitted,” § 807.87(k); and “any additional information regarding the
7 device requested by the [FDA] Commissioner that is necessary for the Commissioner to make a
8 finding as to whether or not the device is substantially equivalent to a device in commercial
9 distribution,” § 807.87(l). Here, the Zimmer M/L Taper and the VerSys femoral head were
10 cleared pursuant to this 510(k) process.

11 61. The FDCA requires cleared medical devices to be demonstrated to be safe and
12 effective for each intended use. *See* 21 U.S.C. § 360e(c)(2)(A)(v). Not only is the medical
13 device itself part of the 510(k) process, but so is the labeling and packaging that comes with it.

14 62. Pursuant to federal law, a device is deemed to be misbranded if, among other
15 things, its labeling is false or misleading in any particular manner, or if it is dangerous to health
16 when used in the manner prescribed, recommended, or suggested in the labeling thereof. *See* 21
17 U.S.C. §352.

18 63. Pursuant to federal law, a device is deemed to be adulterated if, among other
19 things, it fails to meet established performance standards, or if the methods, facilities or controls
20 used for its manufacture, packing, storage or installation are not in conformity with federal
21 requirements. *See* 21 U.S.C. §351.

22 64. Pursuant to federal law, manufacturers are required to comply with FDA
23 regulation of medical devices, including FDA requirements for records and reports, in order to
24 prohibit introduction of medical devices that are adulterated or misbranded, and to assure the
25 safety and effectiveness of medical devices. In particular, manufacturers must keep records and
26 make reports if any of its medical devices may have caused or contributed to death or serious
27 injury, or if the devices have malfunctioned in a manner likely to cause or contribute to death or
28 serious injury. Federal law also mandates that the FDA establish regulations requiring a

1 manufacturer of a medical device to report promptly to FDA any correction or removal of a
2 device undertaken to reduce a risk to health posed by the device, or to remedy a violation of
3 federal law by which a device may present a risk to health. *See* 21 U.S.C. §360(i).

4 65. Pursuant to FDA regulation, adverse events associated with a medical device must
5 be reported to FDA within 30 days after the manufacturer becomes aware that (a) a device may
6 have caused or contributed to death or serious injury, or (b) that a device has malfunctioned and
7 would be likely to cause or contribute to death or serious injury if the malfunction was to recur.
8 Such reports must contain all information reasonably known to the manufacturer, including any
9 information that can be obtained by analysis, testing, or other evaluation of the device, and any
10 information in the manufacturer's possession. In addition, manufacturers are responsible for
11 conducting an investigation of each adverse event, and must evaluate the cause of the adverse
12 event. *See* 21 CFR §803.50.

13 66. Pursuant to federal regulations, manufacturers of medical devices must also
14 describe in every individual adverse event report whether remedial action was taken with regard
15 to the adverse event, and whether the remedial action was reported to FDA as a removal or
16 correction of the device. *See* 21 CFR §803.52.

17 67. Pursuant to federal regulations, manufacturers must report any reportable Medical
18 Device Reporting ("MDR") event or events, including a trend analysis that necessitates remedial
19 action to prevent an unreasonable risk of substantial harm to the public health, to the FDA within
20 5 business days after becoming aware of such event or events. *See* 21 CFR §803.53.

21 68. Pursuant to federal regulations, device manufacturers must report promptly to
22 FDA any device corrections and removals and must also maintain records of device corrections
23 and removals. FDA regulations require submission of a written report within ten working days of
24 any correction or removal of a device initiated by the manufacturer to reduce a risk to health
25 posed by the device, or to remedy a violation of the Act caused by the device which may present
26 a risk to health. The written submission must contain, among other things, a description of the
27 event giving rise to the information reported, the corrective or removal actions taken, and any
28 illness or injuries that have occurred with use of the device, including reference to any device

1 report numbers. Manufacturers must also indicate the total number of devices manufactured or
2 distributed which are subject to the correction or removal, and provide a copy of all
3 communications regarding the correction or removal. *See* 21 CFR §806.

4 69. Pursuant to federal regulations, manufacturers must comply with specific quality
5 system requirements promulgated by FDA. These regulations require manufacturers to meet
6 design control requirements, including but not limited to conducting design validation to ensure
7 that devices conform to defined user needs and intended uses. Manufacturers must also meet
8 quality standards in manufacture and production of the devices. Manufacturers must establish and
9 maintain procedures for implementing corrective actions and preventive actions, and investigate
10 the cause of nonconforming products and take corrective action to prevent recurrence.
11 Manufacturers are also required to review and evaluate all complaints and determine whether an
12 investigation is necessary. Further, manufacturers are required to use statistical techniques, where
13 necessary, to evaluate product performance. *See* 21 CFR §820.

14 70. Pursuant to federal regulations, a manufacturer must report to the FDA any new
15 indications for use of a device, labeling changes, or changes in the performance or design
16 specifications, circuits, components, ingredients, principle of operation or physical layout of its
17 devices. Federal regulations require that: “A PMA supplement must be submitted when
18 unanticipated adverse effects, increases in the incidence of anticipated adverse effects, or device
19 failures necessitate a labeling, manufacturing, or device modification.” *See* 21 CFR §814.

20 71. Specifically, it is believed that with respect to the Zimmer M/L Taper and Zimmer
21 VerSys femoral head, Defendants failed to timely report adverse events; failed to timely conduct
22 failure investigations and analyses; failed to timely report any and all information concerning
23 product failures and corrections; failed to timely and fully inform FDA of unanticipated adverse
24 effects, increases in the incidence of adverse effects, or device failures necessitating a labeling,
25 manufacturing or device modification; failed to conduct necessary design validation; and sold a
26 misbranded and adulterated product.

27 72. Zimmer’s violation of the FDCA statutes and accompany regulations, as discussed
28 above, directly caused or significantly contributed to the use of the M/L Taper and the VerSys

1 Femoral Head; and, generally, and directly caused or significantly contributed to the use of these
2 Defective Devices in Plaintiff and Zimmer's misconduct in this regard thus directly caused or
3 contributed to Plaintiff's injuries and damages.

4 **CLAIMS FOR RELIEF**

5 **CLAIM ONE**

6 **NEGLIGENCE**

7 73. Plaintiffs adopt and re-alleges the allegations contained in the above paragraphs as
8 if set forth fully herein.

9 74. At all times mentioned in this complaint, Zimmer had a duty to properly
10 manufacture, compound, test, inspect, package, distribute, market, examine, maintain, and
11 prepare for use and sell its above-mentioned hip joint implant products.

12 75. In placing the Products onto the market, Zimmer was careless, reckless and
13 negligent by virtue of the following acts or omissions, which are listed herein as illustrative and
14 not exhaustive:

15 a. Failure to adequately and properly design and manufacture the aforesaid
16 Products; there were alternative safer designs of the hip prosthetic components that had a much
17 lower incidence of fretting, corrosion, release of metal ions, metallosis, and adverse tissue
18 reactions, specifically using a ceramic femoral head with the M/L Taper;

19 b. Distributing the products when Zimmer knew, or in the exercise of
20 reasonable care should have known, that its hip joint implant products were of such a nature that
21 if such products were not properly manufactured, compounded, tested, inspected, packaged,
22 distributed, marketed, examined, and/or sold, such products were likely to cause serious injury in
23 patients;

24 c. Negligently and carelessly manufacturing, packaging, distributing,
25 recommending, displaying, selling, examining and failing to examine its above-mentioned hip
26 joint implant products that such were dangerous and unsafe for the user and for the purpose for
27 which the products were intended;

28

1 d. Failing to adequately and properly test and inspect the products before
2 placing them on the market;

3 e. Failing to have adequate or appropriate quality controls over the design
4 and/or manufacturing process;

5 f. Failing to warn the public in general, Dr. Michael T. Bollinger, and the
6 medical community and the patients, such as Daniel Brosnan in particular, of the risks and
7 dangers associated with the use of its products;

8 g. Failing to take reasonably prompt steps to withdraw the products, notify
9 learned intermediaries such as physicians, or otherwise remove the products from the stream of
10 commerce as soon as the defects therein were discovered; and

11 h. Zimmer failed to adequately disclose the fretting and corrosion caused by
12 these devices to the medical community, to the medical journals and to the medical community at
13 large who depended on Zimmer for accurate and truthful information about its products so that
14 the physicians could make appropriate judgments and choices of products for their patients;

15 i. And, as the information increased that there was an increasing risk of
16 failure, Zimmer failed to disclose it to the medical community and the patients who had been
17 implanted with these devices that there was a previously undisclosed increased rate of corrosion,
18 fretting and the release of metal debris and metal ions.

19 76. The Zimmer Defendants were negligent in carrying out the manufacturing,
20 retailing, design, wholesaling, testing, advertising, promotion, marketing, sales and/or distribution
21 of the Products.

22 77. The personal injuries sustained by Daniel Brosnan were caused by the latent
23 effects of his exposure to and implantation with the defective, dangerous, hazardous and unsafe
24 products designed, manufactured, distributed and supplied by Zimmer, which defects were not
25 discovered by the Plaintiff and could not have been discovered through the exercise of reasonable
26 diligence by Plaintiff until, at the earliest, in or about December 2016, when he received blood
27 and other test results evidencing adverse local tissue reaction surrounding his hip implant and
28 metallosis.

1 under a strict duty not to design, manufacture, distribute, market or otherwise place into the
2 stream of commerce a product that was defective, dangerous, hazardous or otherwise unsafe to
3 human health.

4 86. As a direct and proximate result of Zimmer's placing the defective hip implant
5 products onto the market, Plaintiff was implanted with these defective products.

6 87. Zimmer is strictly liable to Plaintiffs for manufacturing, designing, retailing,
7 distributing, wholesaling, modifying, fabricating, supplying and/or placing on the market and in
8 the flow of commerce, defective products knowing that the Products would be used by the public
9 and particularly by the recipients without inspection. The Products were not fit for their intended
10 purpose; the risks inherent in the design of the Products outweighed the benefits; and the Products
11 were more dangerous than Plaintiff or his doctor anticipated. All of these defects proximately
12 caused the injuries and damages to Plaintiff as alleged.

13 88. Zimmer's Products were defective, unsafe and unreasonably dangerous for use in
14 hip arthroplasty surgery and caused and will continue to cause grievous and debilitating bodily
15 injury when used for such purposes.

16 89. The defective condition of Zimmer's above-mentioned hip joint implant products
17 existed when the product left the manufacturer's control.

18 90. Zimmer's above-mentioned hip joint implant products reached Plaintiff and his
19 surgeons without substantial change.

20 91. Zimmer knew that its hip joint implant products were to be used by the user
21 without inspection or testing for defects in the product.

22 92. Plaintiff was injured by the defect in the product. The product as composed
23 caused fretting and corrosion at the juncture where the taper met the femoral head. That resulted
24 in the release of metal ions and debris into the surrounding tissue causing Plaintiff to suffer an
25 adverse tissue reaction, due to the death of the tissue from the metal ions. Had Zimmer sold
26 Plaintiff's surgeon a safer, alternative design existed, then Plaintiff would never have been injured
27 by this dangerous and defective set of products, designed and sold to be used together.
28

1 99. As a direct and proximate result of Zimmer's placing the said defective hip
2 implant products into the market, Plaintiff was implanted with same.

3 100. The hip joint implant products implanted into Plaintiff, as manufactured, deviated
4 from Zimmer's design and/or internal quality standards.

5 101. Zimmer is strictly liable to Plaintiffs for manufacturing, designing, retailing,
6 distributing, wholesaling, modifying, fabricating, supplying and/or placing on the market and in
7 the flow of commerce, defective products knowing that the products would be used by the public
8 and particularly by the recipients without inspection. The hip joint implant products were not fit
9 for their intended purpose and/or the risks inherent in the design of the hip joint implant products
10 outweighed the benefits and/or the hip joint implant products were more dangerous than Plaintiff
11 anticipated. All of these defects proximately caused the injuries and damages to Plaintiff as
12 alleged herein.

13 102. Zimmer's above-mentioned hip joint implant products were defective, unsafe and
14 unreasonably dangerous for use in hip arthroplasty surgery and caused and will continue to cause
15 grievous and debilitating bodily injury when used for such purposes.

16 103. The defective condition of Zimmer's above-mentioned hip joint implant products
17 existed when the product left the manufacturer's control.

18 104. Zimmer's above-mentioned hip joint implant products reached Plaintiff and his
19 surgeons without substantial change.

20 105. Zimmer knew that its hip joint implant products were to be used by the user
21 without inspection for defects in the product.

22 106. Plaintiff was injured by the manufacturing defect in the product. The product as
23 manufactured caused fretting and corrosion at the juncture where the taper met the femoral head.
24 That resulted in the release of metal ions and debris into the surrounding tissue causing Plaintiff
25 to suffer an adverse tissue reaction, due to the death of the tissue from the metal ions. Had
26 Zimmer sold Plaintiff's surgeon a safer, alternative design, then Plaintiff would never have been
27 injured by this dangerous and defective set of products, designed, manufactured, and sold to be
28 used together.

1 107. Zimmer knew and had reason to know that there the hip joint implant products
2 were defectively manufactured at the time it sold and distributed the products.

3 108. Plaintiff neither knew, nor had reason to know, at the time of the use of Zimmer's
4 products, or at any time prior to such use, of the existence of the above-described manufacturing
5 defect or that there were other, safer hip implants available on the market at the time of his total
6 hip arthroplasty.

7 109. As a direct and proximate result of being implanted with Zimmer's defective,
8 dangerous, hazardous and unsafe hip implant products, Plaintiff Daniel Brosnan has been
9 severely and permanently damaged; has sustained economic losses; and will be required to incur
10 additional medical expenses in the future to care for himself as a result of the injury and damages
11 he has suffered; and Plaintiff Roberta Brosnan has lost the society, comfort and consortium of her
12 beloved husband. Plaintiffs are therefore entitled to damages in an amount to be proven at trial,
13 together with interest thereon and costs.

14 110. Defendants' conduct as alleged above was malicious, intentional and outrageous
15 and constitutes a willful and conscious disregard for the rights and safety of others. Such conduct
16 was directed specifically at Plaintiffs and as such, warrants an imposition of punitive damages.

17 **CLAIM FOUR**

18 **STRICT LIABILITY: FAILURE TO WARN**

19 111. Plaintiffs adopt and re-alleges the allegations contained in the above paragraphs as
20 if set forth fully herein.

21 112. At the time the hip joint implant products were supplied to Plaintiff, the products
22 were defective as a result of Zimmer's failure to adequately test for safety, and to give adequate
23 warnings, labeling, or instructions regarding the development of medical problems associated
24 with the presence of metal ions in Plaintiff's body and/or intended users as described herein and
25 other dangers which might be associated with the use of the hip joint implant.

26 113. Zimmer's above-mentioned hip joint implant products were defective, unsafe and
27 unreasonably dangerous for use in hip arthroplasty surgery and caused and will continue to cause
28 grievous and debilitating bodily injury when used for such purposes.

1 114. The defective condition of Zimmer’s above-mentioned hip joint implant products
2 existed when the product left the manufacturer’s control.

3 115. Zimmer’s above-mentioned hip joint implant products reached Plaintiff and his
4 surgeons without substantial change.

5 116. Zimmer failed to adequately test the hip joint implant products before marketing
6 them to consumers such as Plaintiff, failed to disclose to Plaintiff that such testing had not been
7 done, and which testing would have disclosed the magnitude of the potential risks associated with
8 the use of the hip joint implant.

9 117. Zimmer failed to warn of the increased incidents of fretting and corrosion, or that
10 the pre-market data demonstrated a greater probability of failure than was initially described to
11 FDA or implant physicians, including Dr. Bollinger. Zimmer’s failure to warn was willful and
12 malicious in that Zimmer’s conduct was carried out with a conscious disregard for the safety and
13 the rights of Plaintiff.

14 118. Specifically, prior to Mr. Brosnan’s implanting surgery on January 26, 2015 and
15 continuing through his revision surgery on March 31, 2017, Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc.
16 did not include a warning of an increased risk of corrosion when the M/L Taper was paired with a
17 VerSys femoral head in the “Warnings” or “Precautions” sections of the Products’ package
18 inserts.

19 119. As a direct and proximate result of being implanted with Zimmer’s defective,
20 dangerous, hazardous and unsafe hip implant products, Plaintiff Daniel Brosnan has been
21 severely and permanently damaged; has sustained economic losses; and will be required to incur
22 additional medical expenses in the future to care for himself as a result of the injury and damages
23 he has suffered; and Plaintiff Roberta Brosnan has lost the society, comfort and consortium of her
24 beloved husband. Plaintiffs are therefore entitled to damages in an amount to be proven at trial,
25 together with interest thereon and costs.

26 120. Defendants’ conduct as alleged above was malicious, intentional and outrageous
27 and constitutes a willful and conscious disregard for the rights and safety of others. Such conduct
28 was directed specifically at Plaintiffs and as such, warrants an imposition of punitive damages.

CLAIM FIVE

NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION

1
2
3 121. Plaintiffs adopt and re-alleges the allegations contained in the above paragraphs,
4 specifically paragraphs 44-55, as if set forth fully herein.

5 122. Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc., as the designers, manufacturers, and sellers of
6 the Products had knowledge of material facts about the quality, safety, and effectiveness of the
7 Products that was superior to the knowledge that Plaintiff and Plaintiff’s surgeon possessed or
8 could have possessed. Zimmer’s knowledge that the Zimmer M/L Taper and the Zimmer VerSys
9 femoral head, when used together, were associated with an increased risk of corrosion and
10 fretting was not available to the public or medical community. This is so because Zimmer, Inc.
11 and Zimmer US, Inc. had exclusive knowledge about, and possession, of the following:

12 a. Pre-market documents, including the Design History and Risk
13 Management Files. These files are required for medical devices that can cause or contribute to
14 death, serious illness, or injury and document that medical device manufacturers are complying
15 with design controls. The files include information about: the design inputs, which are the
16 product requirements that include the physical and performance characteristics of the device that
17 are used as a basis for device design; design outputs—known as the product specifications, which
18 are broadly speaking the “blueprints” for the product; design verifications and validations, which
19 are the test protocols and test reports to confirm the products meet the design requirements and
20 specifications and conform to user needs and intended uses; engineering change orders, which are
21 intended design changes; internal audit reports of the Design History File; and device/design
22 failure modes and effects analysis, which identifies possible failures in a design or manufacturing
23 process.

24 b. Regulatory submissions. This includes premarket notification and all
25 communications related to the clearance from and to the FDA; letters to file regarding
26 modifications to the Products that are not reported to the FDA; and correction and removal
27 reports to the FDA, which is any correction or removal of a medical device if the correction or
28 removal was initiated to reduce a risk to health posed by the device.

1 c. Post-market surveillance. This includes complaint files with documents
2 that are not in the public domain; corrective and preventive action files with documents that are
3 not in the public domain such as Health Hazard Evaluations and verifications or validation
4 reports, which are used to identify and investigate product and quality problems, and full Medical
5 Device Reports that report adverse events.

6 123. Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc. have a special relationship with implanting
7 surgeons, and thus a duty to doctors that significantly exceeds the duty between ordinary buyers
8 and sellers, for the following reasons:

9 a. Doctors, such as Dr. Bollinger, rely on information from medical device
10 manufacturers and they expect this information to be truthful. For this reason, Zimmer, Inc. and
11 Zimmer US, Inc. knew or should have known that surgeons rely on information provided by
12 Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc.

13 b. Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc. affirmatively tell doctors to rely on
14 Zimmer. For example, in the Zimmer M/L Taper Hip Prosthesis Surgical Techniques guide,²
15 Zimmer, Inc. expressly states “[t]his documentation is intended exclusively for physicians and is
16 not intended for laypersons.” It directs physicians to “refer to the package inserts for important
17 product information, including, but not limited to, contraindications, warnings, precautions, and
18 adverse effects.” Nowhere in the package insert does Zimmer, Inc. or Zimmer US, Inc. warn or
19 disclose that the Products are associated with an increased risk of corrosion and fretting, or that
20 the patients’ metal ion levels should be monitored for early detection of corrosion that can lead to
21 adverse local tissue reaction, which kills the tissue and muscle surrounding the hip prosthesis,
22 worsening the patient’s outcome the longer the device is implanted. Because Zimmer directs
23 doctors to rely on this information, Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc. knew or should have
24 known that surgeon’s rely on this information.

25 c. Zimmer Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc. knew or should have known that Dr.
26 Bollinger specifically, the surgeon who performed Mr. Brosnan’s surgery, relied on Zimmer.

27 _____
28 ² Available at <http://www.zimmerbiomet.com/content/dam/zimmer-biomet/medical-professionals/000-surgical-techniques/hip/zimmer-ml-taper-hip-prosthesis-surgical-technique.pdf>, incorporated by reference herein.

1 This is so because Zimmer Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc. representative Colby Leonelli was in the
2 operating room during Mr. Brosnan's initial total hip replacement surgery for the specific
3 purposes of providing expert information about the Zimmer Products to Dr. Bollinger.

4 124. Zimmer, Inc. affirmatively misrepresented that "the M/L Taper Hip Prosthesis met
5 performance requirements and is as safe and effective as the predicate devices." See Zimmer Inc.
6 Summary of Safety and Effectiveness.³ In fact, the M/L Taper stem has a greater prevalence
7 (4.9%) of mechanically assisted crevice corrosion ("MACC") than all other Zimmer stem types,
8 with a significantly higher prevalence found in patients with M/L Taper style stem and total hip
9 arthroplasty performed in 2009 and between 2009-2012. Hussey, D.K. & Bollinger, B.J., Ten-
10 Year Cross-Sectional Study of Mechanically Assisted Crevice Corrosion in 1352 Consecutive
11 Patients with Metal-on-Polyethylene Total Hip Arthroplasty, J. Arthroplasty, 1-6 (2017)
12 (incorporated as referenced herein).

13 125. In addition to this affirmative misrepresentation, Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer, US,
14 Inc. failed to disclose that the Zimmer M/L Taper and the Zimmer VerSys femoral head, when
15 used together, were associated with a higher prevalence of metallosis, trunnionosis, high cobalt
16 and/or chromium levels, corrosion, pseudotumors, adverse tissue reaction and/or necrotic tissue,
17 and required patients to monitor metal ion levels accordingly and undergo revision surgery as
18 compared to competitor hip implant devices. Zimmer Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc. omitted this
19 material information from its written literature, advertisements, the Zimmer M/L Taper Hip
20 Prosthesis Brochure,⁴ the Zimmer M/L Taper Hip Prosthesis Surgical Technique guide,⁵ Zimmer,
21 Inc.'s M/L Taper Hip Prosthesis website,⁶ the Products package inserts, and Zimmer, Inc.'s
22
23

24 ³ Available at https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/cdrh_docs/pdf3/K032726.pdf, incorporated by
25 reference herein.

26 ⁴ Available at <http://www.zimmerbiomet.com/medical-professionals/hip/product/ml-taper-hip-system.html>, incorporated by reference herein.

27 ⁵ Available at <http://www.zimmerbiomet.com/content/dam/zimmer-biomet/medical-professionals/000-surgical-techniques/hip/zimmer-ml-taper-hip-prosthesis-surgical-technique.pdf>, incorporated by reference herein.

28 ⁶ Available at <http://www.zimmerbiomet.com/medical-professionals/hip/product/ml-taper-hip-system.html>, incorporated by reference herein.

1 Summary of Safety and Effectiveness, and other information, submitted to the FDA for 510(k)
2 clearance.⁷

3 126. Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc. knew or should have known that its affirmative
4 misrepresentation and concealments were false. This is so because Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US,
5 Inc. had the legal obligation, discussed above, to demonstrate the Products were safe and effective
6 for their intended use, adequately warn of the risks associated with the Products, and conduct
7 post-market surveillance and report adverse events.

8 127. The facts concealed or not disclosed by Defendants to Plaintiff and Plaintiff's
9 surgeon were material facts that a reasonable person, including Mr. Brosnan and his implanting
10 surgeon, would have considered to be important in deciding whether or not to undergo a
11 procedure or surgery using the Zimmer hip joint implant products.

12 128. Plaintiff and his physician were ignorant of Zimmer's misrepresentations and
13 concealments at all material times. In fact, it would have been impossible for them to have
14 known of these misrepresentations and concealments because Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc.
15 were in exclusive possession of this information.

16 129. Plaintiffs and his surgeon were induced to rely on Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US,
17 Inc.'s misrepresentations and omissions. But for this reliance Plaintiff would not have permitted
18 his surgeon to proceed as usual, using the Zimmer Products; Plaintiff's surgeon would not have
19 selected the Products for Mr. Brosnan's initial hip replacement; and Plaintiff and his surgeon
20 would have closely monitored the metal ion levels in Mr. Brosnan's blood for early detection of
21 corrosion and fretting of the Products (via regular metal ion lab testing and MRI imaging), which
22 caused severe necrosis of the tissue and muscle surrounding the hip prosthetics, worsening Mr.
23 Brosnan's outcome.

24 130. Plaintiffs and his surgeon were justified in relying on Zimmer because, as
25 explained above, Zimmer was in a superior position to know the true facts and to be the experts of
26 the Products. The reliance was also justified because Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc. were in
27

28 ⁷ Available at https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/cdrh_docs/pdf3/K032726.pdf, incorporated by
reference herein.

1 a special or fiduciary relationship with Plaintiff's surgeon, and Plaintiff and Plaintiff's surgeon
2 reasonably relied upon Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc.'s representations and omissions
3 concerning the Products, having no independent knowledge that the information provided by
4 Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc. was anything other than what Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US,
5 Inc. stated.

6 131. By failing to disclose this information, Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc. gained a
7 competitive advantage in the prosthetic hip industry. Indeed, the purpose of Zimmer, Inc. and
8 Zimmer US, Inc. marketing scheme to withhold this information was for orthopedic surgeons to
9 rely on this information and select Zimmer products over competitor products.

10 132. As a proximate result of Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc.'s false representations
11 and concealment, Plaintiff was caused to sustain the injuries and damages described in this
12 Complaint.

13 133. As a direct and proximate result of Zimmer's conduct, Plaintiff Daniel Brosnan
14 has been severely and permanently damaged; has sustained economic losses; and will be required
15 to incur additional medical expenses in the future to care for himself as a result of the injury and
16 damages he has suffered; and Plaintiff Roberta Brosnan has lost the society, comfort and
17 consortium of her beloved husband. Plaintiffs are therefore entitled to damages in an amount to
18 be proven at trial, together with interest thereon and costs.

19 134. Defendants' conduct as alleged above was malicious, intentional and outrageous
20 and constitutes a willful and conscious disregard for the rights and safety of others. Such conduct
21 was directed specifically at Plaintiffs and as such, warrants an imposition of punitive damages.

22 **CLAIM SIX**

23 **BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTIES**

24 135. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth above as
25 if set forth herein.

26 136. At all relevant and material times, Defendants manufactured, distributed,
27 advertised, promoted, and sold the Products for the purpose of total hip replacement surgery.
28

1 137. At all relevant times, Defendants intended that the Products be used in the manner
2 that Plaintiff herein in fact used the Products, and Defendants impliedly warranted each of the
3 Products to be of merchantable quality; safe and fit for such use; and warranted that each of the
4 Products was adequately tested.

5 138. Defendants were aware that consumers, including Plaintiff, would use the Products
6 as hip implants; which is to say that Plaintiff was a foreseeable user.

7 139. The Products were expected to reach and did in fact reach consumers, including
8 Plaintiff herein, without substantial changes in the condition in which the Products were
9 manufactured and sold by Defendants.

10 140. Defendants breached various implied warranties with respect to the Products in the
11 following manner:

12 a. Defendants represented through their labeling, advertising, marketing
13 materials, detail persons, seminar presentations, publications, notice letters, and regulatory
14 submissions that the Products were safe and fraudulently withheld and concealed information
15 about the substantial risks of serious injury and/or death associated with using the Products;

16 b. Defendants represented that the Products were safe, and/or safer than other
17 alternative hip implants and fraudulently concealed information which demonstrated that the
18 Products were not safer than alternatives available on the market; and

19 c. Defendants represented that the Products were more efficacious than other
20 alternative devices and fraudulently concealed information, regarding the true efficacy of the
21 Products.

22 141. In reliance upon Defendants' implied warranties, Plaintiff herein used the Products
23 as prescribed and in the foreseeable manner normally intended, recommended, promoted, and
24 marketed by Defendants.

25 142. Defendants breached their implied warranty to Plaintiff in that the Products were
26 not of merchantable quality, safe and fit for their intended use, or adequately tested.

27 143. As a direct and proximate result of Zimmer's conduct, Plaintiff Daniel Brosnan
28 has been severely and permanently damaged; has sustained economic losses; and will be required

1 to incur additional medical expenses in the future to care for himself as a result of the injury and
2 damages he has suffered; and Plaintiff Roberta Brosnan has lost the society, comfort and
3 consortium of her beloved husband. Plaintiffs are therefore entitled to damages in an amount to
4 be proven at trial, together with interest thereon and costs.

5 144. Defendants' conduct as alleged above was malicious, intentional and outrageous
6 and constitutes a willful and conscious disregard for the rights and safety of others. Such conduct
7 was directed specifically at Plaintiffs and as such, warrants an imposition of punitive damages.

8 **CLAIM SEVEN**

9 **VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW**

10 *(Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200, et seq.)*

11 145. Plaintiffs adopt and re-alleges the allegations contained in the above paragraphs as
12 if set forth fully herein.

13 146. Plaintiffs are informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendants, by the
14 acts and misconduct alleged, violated the California Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof.
15 Code § 17200, *et seq.* ("UCL").

16 147. The UCL applies to Defendants' actions and conduct described herein because it
17 extends to transactions which are intended to result, of which have resulted, in the sale of goods
18 to consumers.

19 148. Plaintiff purchased (directly, or through his surgeon, and/or the health care facility
20 at which his surgery was performed) primarily for personal use the Products implanted into his
21 body during surgery and, thereby, suffered ascertainable losses as a result of Defendants' actions
22 in violation of the consumer protection laws.

23 149. Upon information and belief, said purchase occurred in the State of California.

24 150. Defendants have violated the UCL in representing that goods have characteristics
25 and benefits which they do not have.

26 151. Had Defendants not engaged in the deceptive conduct described herein, Plaintiff
27 would not have purchased and/or paid for the Products (directly, or through his surgeon, and/or
28

1 the health care facility at which his surgery was performed), and would not have incurred related
2 medical costs and injury.

3 152. Defendants engaged in knowingly wrongful conduct while at the same time
4 obtaining, under false pretenses, moneys from Plaintiffs for the Products, that would not have
5 been paid for had Defendants not engaged in such unfair and deceptive conduct.

6 153. Defendants engaged in unfair methods of competition or deceptive acts or
7 practices that were proscribed by law, including the following:

8 a. making untrue, misleading, and/or deceptive assertions, representations, or
9 statements of fact that goods or services have characteristics, components, uses benefits, or
10 quantities that they do not have;

11 b. advertising goods or services with the intent not to sell them as advertised;
12 and

13 c. engaging in fraudulent or deceptive conduct that creates a likelihood of
14 confusion or misunderstanding.

15 154. The untrue, misleading, and/or deceptive assertions, representations, or statements
16 of fact regarding the Products were made by Zimmer, Inc. and Zimmer US, Inc. to the public in
17 promotional materials, Defendants-sponsored medical literature, videos, Defendants-sponsored
18 presentations, and/or face-to-face sales calls with Defendants sales representatives and/or agents,
19 with the intent to induce an obligation.

20 155. Plaintiff and his surgeon justifiably relied on the untrue, misleading, and/or
21 deceptive assertions, representations or statement of fact made by Defendants to the public in
22 promotional materials, Defendants-sponsored medical literature, videos, Defendants-sponsored
23 presentations, and/or face-to-face sales calls regarding the Products, in selecting the Products for
24 Mr. Brosnan.

25 156. Under the UCL, Defendants are the suppliers, manufacturers, advertisers, and
26 sellers, who are subject to liability under this statute for unfair, deceptive, fraudulent, and
27 unconscionable consumer sales practices.
28

1 157. Defendants violated the statutes that were enacted to protect consumers against
2 unfair, deceptive, and misleading business practices and false advertising by knowingly and
3 falsely representing that their Products were fit to be used for the purpose for which they were
4 intended, when in fact the devices were defective and dangerous, and by other acts alleged herein.

5 158. Plaintiff was injured by the nature of Defendants' conduct. The effect of
6 Defendants' conduct directed at patients, physicians, and consumers was to create demand for and
7 sell their Products. Each aspect of Defendants' conduct combined to artificially create sales of
8 said Products.

9 159. The actions and omissions of Defendants alleged herein are uncured or incurable
10 deceptive acts under the statutes enacted in the states to protect consumers against unfair,
11 deceptive, fraudulent and unconscionable trade and business practices and false advertising.

12 160. The acts of untrue and misleading statements by Defendants described above
13 presented a threat to members of the public and individual consumers, and the public and
14 individual consumers suffered harm.

15 161. Defendants had actual knowledge of the defective and dangerous conditions of the
16 Products and failed to take immediate action to cure the defective and dangerous conditions.

17 162. Plaintiffs and the medical community relied upon Defendants' misrepresentations
18 and omissions in determining which treatment to prescribe.

19 163. Reasonable consumers, including Plaintiffs, were injured by Defendants' unfair
20 and deceptive acts.

21 164. As a direct and proximate result of the false representations described herein,
22 Plaintiff was injured, as described above.

23 165. As a direct and proximate result of Zimmer's conduct, Plaintiff Daniel Brosnan
24 has been severely and permanently damaged; has sustained economic losses; and will be required
25 to incur additional medical expenses in the future to care for himself as a result of the injury and
26 damages he has suffered; and Plaintiff Roberta Brosnan has lost the society, comfort and
27 consortium of her beloved husband. Plaintiffs are therefore entitled to damages in an amount to
28 be proven at trial, together with interest thereon and costs.

1 166. Defendants' conduct as alleged above was malicious, intentional and outrageous
2 and constitutes a willful and conscious disregard for the rights and safety of others. Such conduct
3 was directed specifically at Plaintiffs and as such, warrants an imposition of punitive damages.

4 **CLAIM EIGHT**

5 **PUNITIVE DAMAGES**

6 167. Plaintiffs adopt and re-alleges the allegations contained in the above paragraphs as
7 if set forth fully herein.

8 168. At all times herein referenced, officers, directors, and managing agents of Zimmer
9 knew, and were aware, and concealed, hid, and/or otherwise downplayed the true risks of Zimmer
10 hip joint implant products.

11 169. At all times herein referenced, officers, directors, and managing agents of Zimmer
12 knew, and were aware, that the Zimmer hip joint implant products was associated with metallosis,
13 trunnionosis, high cobalt and/or chromium levels, corrosion, pseudotumors, adverse tissue
14 reaction and/or necrotic tissue, need for revision and/or explanation, and other adverse medical
15 conditions as described herein

16 170. Zimmer designed, engineered, developed, manufactured, fabricated, assembled,
17 equipped, tested or failed to test, inspected or failed to inspect, labeled, advertised, promoted,
18 marketed, supplied, distributed, wholesaled, and sold the Zimmer hip joint implant products,
19 products which Defendants knew to be dangerous and unsafe for the purpose for which it was
20 intended to be used.

21 171. At all times herein mentioned, prior to and at the time that Defendants designed,
22 engineered, developed, manufactured, fabricated, assembled, tested or failed to test, promoted,
23 marketed, supplied, distributed, and/or sold the Zimmer hip joint implant products to Plaintiff and
24 Plaintiff's physicians, and prior to the time that the product was used, Zimmer knew, or should
25 have known, that the Zimmer hip joint implant products were defectively designed and
26 manufactured, that it had extremely dangerous properties and defects, and that it had defects
27 which would cause serious injuries and damage to users of said product, thereby threatening the
28

1 life and health of the users. Further, at all times, all Defendants knew that the Zimmer hip joint
2 implant products had caused serious injuries and damage to other members of the public.

3 172. At all times herein mentioned, Zimmer, despite actual knowledge described herein,
4 intentionally suppressed the complaints and adverse events, actively concealed and downplayed
5 the risks associated with the Zimmer hip joint implant products, actively promoted the Zimmer
6 hip joint implant products, failed to warn Plaintiffs and the medical community of the true risks
7 associated with the Zimmer hip joint implant products, saturated the scientific and medical
8 literature with biased, industry-funded studies to conceal the true risks of the Zimmer hip joint
9 implant products, and otherwise failed to warn Plaintiffs, the medical community, of the true risks
10 of the Zimmer hip joint implant products.

11 173. At all times herein mentioned, Zimmer had actual knowledge of the facts
12 hereinabove alleged demonstrating that serious injuries occur to patients in whom the Zimmer hip
13 joint implant products were implanted. Nevertheless, Zimmer deliberately suppressed, concealed,
14 downplayed, and/or otherwise hid any information demonstrating the true risks associated with
15 the Zimmer hip joint implant products from Plaintiffs, the medical community, and/or the general
16 public Zimmer continued, and continues, to actively promote the Zimmer hip joint implant
17 products to orthopedic surgeons in an effort to maintain and increase the Zimmer hip joint
18 implant products enormous profitability.

19 174. As a legal and proximate result of Zimmer's misconduct, callous, disregard, and
20 omissions as alleged, Plaintiffs sustained the injuries, damages and losses described.

21 175. Zimmer's conduct and omissions in allowing such an extremely dangerous product
22 to be used by members of the general public, including Plaintiffs, constitutes fraud, malice and
23 oppression toward Plaintiffs and others, and demonstrates a callous and intentional disregard of
24 the rights of Plaintiffs and others.

25 176. Plaintiffs are therefore entitled to exemplary or punitive damages, which would
26 serve to punish Zimmer and to deter wrongful conduct in the future.

27 **CLAIM NINE**

28 **LOSS OF CONSORTIUM**

1 177. Plaintiffs adopt and re-allege the allegations contained in the above paragraphs as
2 if set forth fully herein.

3 178. Daniel Brosnan was and still is the lawful husband of Plaintiff Roberta Brosnan.

4 179. As a result of Zimmer's actions, Plaintiff Roberta Brosnan has been deprived of
5 the consortium of her husband, including, but not limited to, his services, love, companionship,
6 affection, society, loss of physical relations and solace.

7 180. The damages sustained by Plaintiff Roberta Brosnan are a direct and consequential
8 result of the action or inaction of negligence and palpable negligence of Zimmer.

9 181. As a result of Zimmer's negligent and outrageous conduct, by its agents, servants
10 and/or employees, described herein, Zimmer acted with gross reckless disregard for the
11 probability of causing Plaintiff Roberta Brosnan, to suffer severe emotional distress and loss of
12 the consortium of her husband.

13 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

14 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against the Defendants, and each of them, in
15 an amount which exceeds the jurisdictional limits of all lower courts, together with interests,
16 costs, and disbursements of this action, including damages including, but not limited to:

- 17 a. Compensatory damages in excess of the jurisdictional amount of this
18 Court, in an amount to be proven at trial;
- 19 b. Exemplary damages to be proven at trial;
- 20 c. Incidental, hospital, and medical expenses according to proof;
- 21 d. Punitive damages for the conscious, willful, fraudulent, reckless acts of
22 Defendants who demonstrated a complete disregard and reckless indifference for the safety and
23 welfare of the general public and to the Plaintiffs in an amount sufficient to punish Defendants
24 and to deter future similar conduct;
- 25 e. Loss of consortium damages on behalf of Plaintiff's spouse;
- 26 f. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs;
- 27 g. For pre-judgment interest; and
- 28

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

h. For such further and other relief the Court deems just, equitable, and proper.

Dated: September 27, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/Frabice N. Vincent

Fabrice N. Vincent (State Bar No. 160780)
LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN & BERNSTEIN, LLP
275 Battery Street, 29th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111-3339
Telephone: 415.956.1000
Facsimile: 415.956.1008

Wendy R. Fleishman (*pro hac vice forthcoming*)
Kelly McNabb (*pro hac vice forthcoming*)
LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN & BERNSTEIN, LLP
250 Hudson Street, 8th Floor
New York, New York 10013-1413
Telephone: 212.355.9500
Facsimile: 212.355.9592

Attorneys for Plaintiff

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

Dated: September 27, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/Fabrice N. Vincent

Fabrice N. Vincent (State Bar No. 160780)
LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN & BERNSTEIN, LLP
275 Battery Street, 29th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111-3339
Telephone: 415.956.1000
Facsimile: 415.956.1008

Wendy R. Fleishman (*pro hac vice forthcoming*)
Kelly McNabb (*pro hac vice forthcoming*)
LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN & BERNSTEIN, LLP
250 Hudson Street, 8th Floor
New York, New York 10013-1413
Telephone: 212.355.9500
Facsimile: 212.355.9592

Attorneys for Plaintiff

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

CERTIFICATION OF OTHER ACTIONS

The undersigned hereby certifies that the matter in controversy is not the subject of any other action pending in any court, arbitration, or administrative proceeding other than the following matters:

1. GLEN DAVIS and DARCY DAVIS v. ZIMMER, INC., et al., Case No. 4:18-CV-04412-JSW; and
2. JENNIFER ROBERTS v. ZIMMER, INC., et al., Case No. 4:18-CV-03564-JSW.

Dated: September 27, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/Fabrice N. Vincent

Fabrice N. Vincent (State Bar No. 160780)
LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN & BERNSTEIN, LLP
275 Battery Street, 29th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94111-3339
Telephone: 415.956.1000
Facsimile: 415.956.1008

Wendy R. Fleishman (*pro hac vice forthcoming*)
Kelly McNabb (*pro hac vice forthcoming*)
LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN & BERNSTEIN, LLP
250 Hudson Street, 8th Floor
New York, New York 10013-1413
Telephone: 212.355.9500
Facsimile: 212.355.9592

Attorneys for Plaintiff

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 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 by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

DANIEL BROSAN and ROBERTA BROSAN

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Lake County (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Fabrice N. Vincent, LIEFF CABRASER HEIMANN & BERNSTEIN, LLP 275 Battery Street, 29th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94111-3339 Telephone: 415.956.1000; fvincent@lchb.com

DEFENDANTS

ZIMMER BIOMET, INC., f/k/a ZIMMER, INC.; ZIMMER BIOMET US, INC., f/k/a ZIMMER US, INC.; and ZIMMER BIOMET HOLDINGS, INC., f/k/a ZIMMER HOLDINGS

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, 2 U.S. Government Defendant, 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party), 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)

Table with columns for Plaintiff (PTF) and Defendant (DEF) citizenship and business location. Includes categories like Citizen of This State, Citizen of Another State, and Foreign Nation.

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

Large table with categories: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, CIVIL RIGHTS, TORTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES.

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: Product liability and negligence for injuries caused by defective medical device.

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$ in excess of \$75,000. CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: X Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE Jeffrey S. White DOCKET NUMBER 4:18-CV-04412; 4:18-CV-03564

DATE 09/27/2018 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD Fabrice N. Vincent

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 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 by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating 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 Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., 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.
 United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
 United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
 Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 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.
 Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 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 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 there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions](#).
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
 Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
 Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
 Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
 Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
 Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.
 Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN 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 Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.
 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 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.