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Counsel for Plaintiffs and the Proposed Classes

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SAN JOSE DIVISION

**CV 11-02174**

Case No:

Free FreeHand Corp., Jabez Palmer, Eric  
Rosenberg, Mark Oliver, Inc., and Jamie  
Pritchett, on Behalf of Themselves and All  
Others Similarly Situated,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

Adobe Systems Inc.,

Defendant.

RICHARD W. WIEKING  
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
SAN JOSE

**Filed**

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**PSG**

Pleading Type: Class Action

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT AND  
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

1 Plaintiffs, through their undersigned attorneys, upon personal knowledge as to their own  
2 acts, and on information and belief as to all others based upon their own and their attorneys'  
3 investigation, allege as follows:

#### 4 NATURE OF THE ACTION

5 1. Defendant Adobe Systems Inc. ("Adobe") has engaged in unlawful, willful  
6 acquisition and maintenance of monopoly power in the market for professional vector graphic  
7 illustration software. In 2005, Adobe purchased Macromedia, and thus acquired FreeHand, the  
8 primary competitor to Adobe's professional graphic illustration software product, Illustrator.  
9 With its acquisition of FreeHand, Adobe acquired monopoly power in the Relevant Markets  
10 (defined herein). Since acquiring FreeHand, Adobe has significantly raised the price of  
11 Illustrator while, at the same time, effectively removing FreeHand from the market by failing to  
12 update the program. Adobe announced that it would stop developing FreeHand in 2007. Adobe  
13 has since published documents showing consumers how to migrate from FreeHand to Illustrator  
14 and explicitly encourages would-be purchasers of FreeHand to purchase the higher priced  
15 Illustrator software product due to the lack of support and development of FreeHand and its  
16 increasing advance to total obsolescence. If consumers are forced to transition to Illustrator, they  
17 will lose the use of designs they have created in FreeHand. Adobe has also refused to release the  
18 FreeHand code, which would allow FreeHand to continue to be used and developed as an open  
19 source code.

20 2. This action seeks to restore competitive conditions in the vector graphic  
21 illustration software market. On behalf of the Class Members (defined herein), Plaintiffs Free  
22 FreeHand Corp. ("Free FreeHand") and the Consumer Plaintiffs (defined herein) seek an  
23 injunction against Adobe preventing it from taking further steps to implement its unlawful  
24 scheme, including without limitation, appropriate relief to restore competitive conditions in the  
25 professional vector graphic illustration software market. The Consumer Plaintiffs also seek  
26 damages on behalf of the Class for injury to their business or property.



1 and in the future. Free FreeHand was formed for the purpose of challenging the unlawful  
2 monopolization scheme described herein, and works to accomplish its' goals through  
3 advertising, media, internet, traditional forms of activism, and now legal action. Free FreeHand  
4 brings this action for injunctive relief on behalf of its members and the Class for the violations of  
5 federal antitrust laws described in this Complaint. Free FreeHand does not seek damages on  
6 behalf of its members, nor does it seek damages or injunctive relief directly on behalf of itself.

7 10. Free FreeHand's members own FreeHand software licenses for either Windows or  
8 Macintosh. As a result of the unlawful conduct alleged herein, Free FreeHand's members have  
9 been injured and are threatened with continued injury in their business or property.

10 11. Most of Free FreeHand's members purchased software licenses for Illustrator for  
11 either Windows or Macintosh from Adobe during the Class Period (defined herein) and have  
12 been injured and threatened to be injured in their business or property as a result of the unlawful  
13 conduct alleged herein.

14 12. Plaintiff Jabez Palmer is an individual and resident of Seattle, Washington. Mr.  
15 Palmer purchased a software license for Illustrator from Adobe during the Class Period (defined  
16 herein). Mr. Palmer also owns a software license for FreeHand. Mr. Palmer has been injured in  
17 his business or property as a result of the unlawful conduct alleged herein. Mr. Palmer is a  
18 member of Free FreeHand.

19 13. Plaintiff Eric Rosenberg is an individual and resident of Los Angeles, California.  
20 Mr. Rosenberg purchased a software license for Illustrator from Adobe during the Class Period  
21 (defined herein). Mr. Rosenberg also owns a software license for FreeHand. Mr. Rosenberg has  
22 been injured in his business or property as a result of the unlawful conduct alleged herein. Mr.  
23 Rosenberg is a member of Free FreeHand.

24 14. Plaintiff Mark Oliver, Inc. ("MOI") is a California corporation with its principal  
25 place of business in Solvang, California. MOI purchased a software license for Illustrator from  
26 Adobe during the Class Period (defined herein). MOI also owns a software license for  
27 FreeHand. MOI has been injured in its business or property as a result of the unlawful conduct  
28 alleged herein. Mr. Oliver, the principal of MOI, is a member of Free FreeHand.



1 for font design. Graphic designers use page layout software to achieve print layout designs.  
2 Internet design is done using website layout programs and code editor tools, as well as bitmap  
3 and vector graphic illustration software for web graphics, and other software used to create  
4 content rich websites, such as audio editing and visual effects tools.

5         21.     Bitmap graphic illustration software programs are used primarily for editing  
6 photographs and web graphics. Such software allows the designer to edit images by modifying  
7 the “pixels” that make up the form of the image. A pixel is a single point in a raster image, or the  
8 smallest addressable screen element in a display device; it is the smallest unit of picture that can  
9 be represented or controlled. The pixels in a bitmap image are arranged in a fine grid, and each  
10 pixel is colored separately. The pixels can be modified individually or as large groups. Global  
11 color adjustments are also possible to allow the designer to modify either the entire image or a  
12 selected area for color balance, brightness, contrast, saturation levels, color replacement, and  
13 other fine tuning. Bitmap graphic illustration software programs are sometimes called “paint”  
14 programs because the software allows the designer to, in effect, sweep across an image and alter  
15 the characteristics of the underlying pixels.

16         22.     Bitmap graphic illustration software lends itself well to photographic images  
17 because digital photographs capture hues and shades that merge imperceptibly with each pixel in  
18 every direction. When these colors are displayed on a computer monitor or in print, they are too  
19 small to see individually but give the viewer the impression of continuous tone change. Bitmap  
20 graphic illustration software allows the user to alter pixels in a gradual way to maintain photo  
21 realism.

22         23.     Bitmap images are of limited utility in graphic design. Because bitmap images  
23 have no structure other than the underlying sequence of pixels arranged in the grid, the only way  
24 to enlarge a bitmap image is to make every pixel bigger. As the image is enlarged, the image  
25 loses the impression of a continuous smooth image, and the viewer becomes aware of the  
26 individually colored squares that form the image. This is called “pixelation.”

27         24.     Professional bitmap graphic illustration software products include Adobe  
28 Photoshop, Corel PHOTO-PAINT, and Corel PAINT.

1           25.     Vector graphic illustration software is used for designing typographic elements;  
2 graphic shapes; cartoons; logos; and scientific, technical, and graphic illustrations. Vector  
3 graphic illustration software renders vector images using mathematical formulas. The graphic  
4 designer strategically plots points on the screen and then connects the points with lines that are  
5 controlled by mathematical formulas. The lines are called vectors.

6           26.     Features of professional vector graphic illustration software include shape  
7 coloring and manipulation, layering, filtering, blending, morphing, and alignment. Shapes may  
8 be outlined, filled, cut, rotated, skewed, distorted, duplicated, mirrored, scaled, and added to.  
9 Shapes may also be grouped, fused, cropped or used to crop others, used to mask or contain a  
10 picture, and used to make patterns. Vector image layers can be used to build up images in  
11 coherent groupings. Layers may be locked or hidden while other layers are being worked on.  
12 Numerous filters are available to create special alterations and effects with shapes or groups of  
13 shapes. Multiple blends may be used between two shapes to act as a morphing technique.  
14 Spacing and align tools allow for swift arrangement of disparate elements.

15           27.     Vector images can have lines with thickness and color, and shapes and objects can  
16 also be filled with a color, gradient, and texture. Each object can be moved around a page  
17 independently, which allows the designer to arrange and rearrange, and overlay or underlay  
18 objects as appropriate. Vector graphic illustration software programs are sometimes called  
19 "draw" programs because the software allows the designer to, in effect, draw images by plotting  
20 and connecting lines.

21           28.     By altering the position of the points and the ways in which the vectors connect  
22 them, the vectors and the resulting shapes can be reformulated. For example vector images may  
23 be scaled up many times without distortion or pixelation. When a vector image is resized, the  
24 mathematical formulas ensure that all the points and paths are repositioned so as to maintain  
25 their original relationships. Since vector art will print crisply even when resized, vector art is  
26 ideal for printing. For instance, one can print a vector logo on a small sheet of copy paper, and  
27 then enlarge the same vector logo to billboard size and keep the same crisp quality. A low-

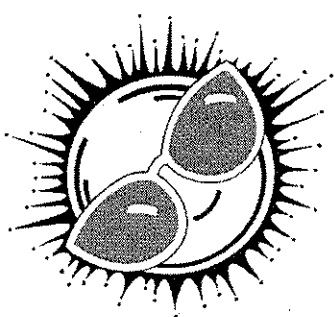
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1 resolution bitmap graphic would blur or pixelate excessively if it were enlarged from business  
2 card size to billboard size thereby rendering the image unusable commercially.

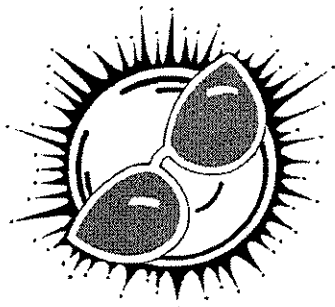
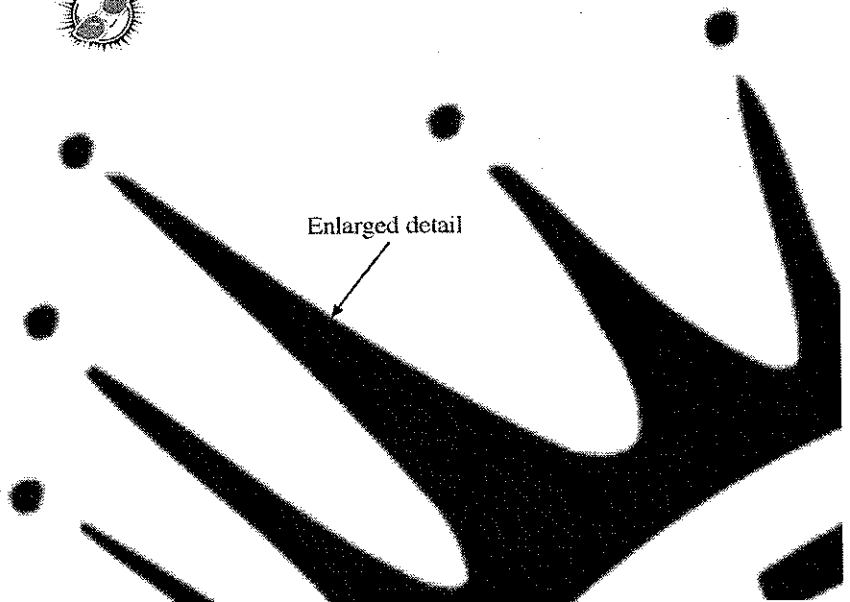
3       29.     The following illustrations show the differences between bitmap image scaling  
4 and vector image scaling. The raster image becomes pixelated when it is reduced or enlarged.  
5 The vector image maintains its crispness at all sizes:

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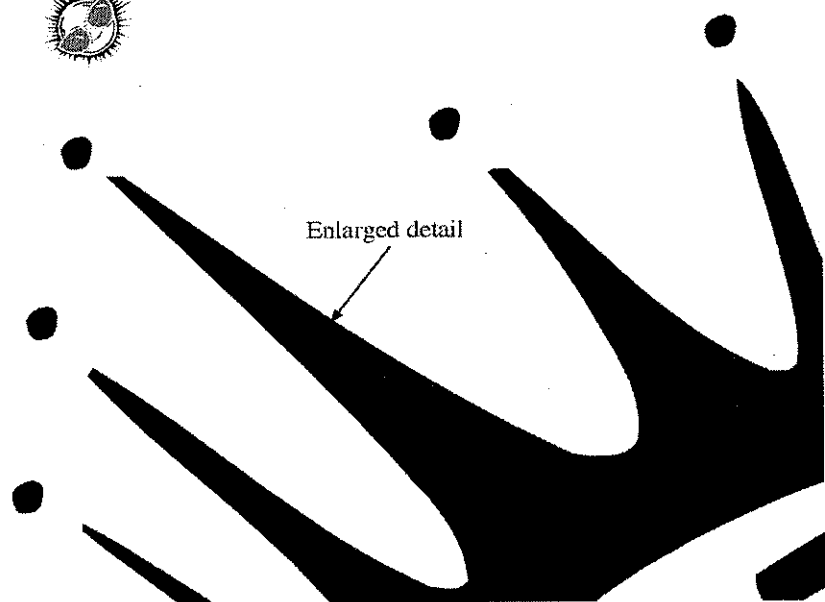
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Photoshop:  
Raster image  
(300 dpi)



FreeHand:  
Vector image





1 Spanish and French versions of Illustrator and FreeHand. Free FreeHand has members  
2 throughout the world. There are no significant impediments to the sale of imported software  
3 programs in the United States. Neither are there any significant impediments to the sale of  
4 Adobe's Illustration and FreeHand products outside the United States. In fact, Illustrator and  
5 FreeHand can both be purchased and downloaded over the internet directly from Adobe's  
6 website, which allows purchasers to select their location from more than 50 countries.

7 37. In the alternative, the geographic scope of both the Mac OS Market and the  
8 Windows OS Market is the entire United States. U.S. consumers can purchase Illustrator and  
9 FreeHand in stores throughout the United States, or can purchase these products online and  
10 download the programs directly from Adobe's website, or can have the programs shipped  
11 anywhere within the United States.

12 38. The Mac OS Market is distinct from the Windows OS Market, as demonstrated by  
13 the fact that Adobe sells separate versions of both Illustrator and FreeHand for the Windows and  
14 Macintosh platforms. Similarly, CorelDRAW, a professional vector graphic illustration software  
15 product, runs on the Windows operating system but not on the Macintosh operating system; thus,  
16 CorelDRAW competes in the Windows OS Market but not in the Mac OS Market. Absent the  
17 purchase of additional costly software, products created for the Windows operating system  
18 cannot run on Macintosh operating systems. Products created for the Macintosh operating  
19 system cannot run on non-Apple IBM – PC compatible computers because, among other reasons,  
20 the Macintosh software licensing agreement permits the use of the Macintosh operating system  
21 on only Apple-branded systems.

22 39. Vector graphic illustration software programs are used to create vector images on  
23 computers using vector graphic technology, which employs geometric primitives, such as points,  
24 lines, curves, and polygon shapes, all based on mathematical equations, to represent images in  
25 computer graphics.

26 40. Excluded from the Relevant Markets are "hobbyist" level vector graphic  
27 illustration programs, such as Serif DrawPlus, Xara X, Draw well, Photoline, Inkscape,  
28 Lineform, Sketsa SVG editor, Zeusdraw, Easy draw, and Intaglio. Hobbyist level programs are

1 not substitutes for professional grade products because they: (1) do not output "CMYK" images,  
2 which are necessary for commercial printing; (2) do not output native files accepted by  
3 commercial printers; (3) are not interoperable with other software that professional designers  
4 use; (4) are less efficient because they do not allow for multiple designs within one project  
5 (called "multipaging") or offer the full suite of features professional level software that design  
6 professionals require; (5) do not offer technical support; and (6) offer only limited file sharing  
7 capabilities.

8         41. Hobbyist level software is not a substitute for professional level software because  
9 hobbyist software cannot produce CMYK images. CMYK refers to the four inks used in  
10 commercial color printing: cyan-magenta-yellow-key (black). Hobbyist level software produces  
11 images in "RGB," that is, red-green-blue. Thus, RGB images are based on three colors that are  
12 different than the four colors of commercial printer ink. Considering that commercial print jobs  
13 can easily cost thousands of dollars, commercial printers require CMYK images or "calibrated  
14 CMYK" images because such images accurately depict the colors of the ink that the commercial  
15 printer will combine to form the color image.

16         42. Hobbyist level software is not a substitute for professional level software because  
17 hobbyist level software programs' native file outputs are not accepted by commercial printers.  
18 Commercial printers have their own software, which needs to be compatible with the files the  
19 designer sends to be printed. Commercial printers generally accept only Adobe, FreeHand, and,  
20 to a lesser extent, Corel files. Designers who want to print commercially cannot use file types  
21 that commercial printers cannot accept.

22         43. Hobbyist level file outputs are not interoperable with the many other software  
23 programs that designers use to create design products. For example, a designer can create a  
24 vector image in Illustrator or FreeHand and then import it into a bitmap program and finally to a  
25 page layout program. Hobbyist level software does not have this capability.

26         44. Hobbyist level software is not a substitute for professional level software because  
27 such programs are not as efficient and do not offer as many features. For example, Illustrator  
28 and FreeHand both offer multipaging, which allows designers to work more efficiently by

1 allowing them to keep multiple designs within one project. This function eliminates the need to  
2 open separate programs and files. Further, professional vector graphic illustration software  
3 products have more extensive feature sets than hobbyist software. Hobbyist level programs are  
4 less mature than professional level programs, which means that more features are works in  
5 progress, and much fewer development hours have been spent on the programs, so there are  
6 more bugs and the operations are less streamlined. Further, companies offering hobbyist level  
7 software do not offer technical support, whereas professional grade products have devoted  
8 technical support.

9 45. Hobbyist level software programs lack the file sharing capabilities of professional  
10 vector graphic illustration programs. Professionals need their software to handle both “EPS” and  
11 “PDF” files in order to share files with printers and design agencies, and this functionality is only  
12 included in professional level software.

13 46. Further, hobbyist level software programs cost far less than professional products,  
14 indicating they are not substitutes for professional level products. Hobbyist level software costs  
15 no more than \$100 (most programs cost between \$50 and \$60), whereas Adobe sells Illustrator  
16 for \$599 and FreeHand for \$399.

17 47. Also excluded from the Relevant Markets are computer-aided design (“CAD”)  
18 programs, such as Acadsee Canvas. These programs are used for creating technical drawings  
19 where accuracy is needed. For example, CAD programs are used to draw motor parts and  
20 engineering and architectural drawings. Such drawings may be sent directly to a machinist for  
21 production. CAD programs are not substitutes for professional vector graphic illustration  
22 software as it is very difficult for designers to create original artwork using CAD programs  
23 because creating artwork is not the intended purpose of such programs.

24 48. Also excluded from the Relevant Markets is bitmap graphic illustration software.  
25 Bitmap graphic illustration software is not a substitute for vector graphic illustration software, as  
26 bitmap graphic illustration software falls far short of performing all the functions of vector  
27 graphic illustration software that professional graphic designers require. Bitmap software  
28 painting techniques cannot be used to draw images. Further, unlike images created with vector

1 graphics, which can be scaled indefinitely without degrading quality, bitmap images become  
2 increasingly pixilated as the image is enlarged.

3 49. Also excluded from the Relevant Markets is page layout software. Professional  
4 graphic designers cannot substitute page layout programs for dedicated vector graphic  
5 illustration software programs, as they fall far short of performing all the functions of vector  
6 graphic illustration software that professional graphic designers require.

7 50. Illustrator and FreeHand are the only products competing in the Mac OS Market  
8 because these products are the only vector illustration software products available for Macintosh  
9 operating systems that offer features and performance characteristics enabling graphic  
10 professionals to efficiently and reliably create and print high quality illustrations.

11 51. Illustrator, FreeHand, and CorelDRAW are the only products competing in the  
12 Windows OS Market because these are the only vector illustration software products available  
13 for Windows operating systems that offer features and performance characteristics enabling  
14 graphic professionals to efficiently and reliably create and print high quality illustrations.

15 52. Graphic designer consumers view FreeHand and Illustrator as the only  
16 competitors in the Mac OS Market. Further, when discussing Illustrator, trade press and stock  
17 analysts reports list its only competitors as FreeHand and CorelDRAW.

18 53. There are currently no close substitutes for professional graphic illustration  
19 software, and no other product significantly constrains the price of this software.

20 54. There are not likely to be any reasonably interchangeable products in the Relevant  
21 Markets in the near future that professional designers can substitute for the same purpose  
22 because developing a professional vector illustration software is difficult, time consuming, and  
23 unlikely. Marketing a technically comparable or even an improved software program would be  
24 difficult, time consuming, and unlikely because of network externalities associated with the  
25 current competitors' extensive installed user bases. Further, any new software product would  
26 have to simultaneously overcome a second network effect in the commercial printer software  
27 market. For the same reasons, repositioning other programs to compete in the Relevant Market  
28 would also be difficult, time consuming, and unlikely. Thus, no potential substitutes constrain

1 pricing in the vector graphic illustration software market. In addition, switching to a new vector  
2 illustration software product would impose significant costs on consumers, both in terms of time  
3 and money. This acts as a barrier to entry because firms considering entering the professional  
4 vector illustration software market know that it will be difficult to convince consumers to invest  
5 the time and money necessary to purchase and learn how to use the new program.

#### 6 **ADOBE'S MONOPOLY POWER IN THE RELEVANT MARKETS**

7 55. Adobe possesses monopoly power in the Macintosh Submarket. Adobe owns the  
8 only two products that compete in the Mac OS Market, Illustrator and FreeHand, and thus  
9 possesses 100% market share of the Macintosh Submarket.

10 56. Adobe possesses monopoly power in the Windows OS Market, which is  
11 comprised of FreeHand, Illustrator and CorelDRAW. Adobe owns two of the three products that  
12 compete in the Windows OS Market. Its ownership of these two products, FreeHand and  
13 Illustrator, gives Adobe approximately 80% market share of the Windows OS Market.

14 57. Adobe's monopoly position in both Relevant Markets is protected by high  
15 barriers to entry. Entry into the Relevant Markets has not been timely and will not be timely,  
16 likely, or sufficient in magnitude, character, and scope to deter or counteract the anticompetitive  
17 effects of Adobe's conduct. Developing a competing professional grade vector graphic  
18 illustration software program would likewise be difficult and time consuming. Marketing a  
19 technically comparable or even an improved illustration program would be expensive, difficult  
20 and time consuming because of the network externalities associated with Illustrator's and  
21 FreeHand's extensive installed user bases and adoption as the standard file types accepted by  
22 commercial printers. In addition, entrants to the market would face strong consumer resistance  
23 to transitioning to a new product because doing so would require consumers to purchase the new  
24 product and then invest a significant amount of time learning how to use the new product.

25 58. Entry into the professional grade vector graphic illustration software market has  
26 been limited. Entrants have not achieved commercial success on any significant scale.

27 59. Accordingly, Adobe has the power to extract supracompetitive prices in the  
28 Relevant Markets.

## ADOBE'S ACQUISITION OF FREEHAND

1  
2       60.     In 1994, Adobe acquired Aldus, a software company that developed  
3 groundbreaking desktop publishing software and owned a number of other software used in the  
4 graphic design field, including FreeHand. Aldus marketed and sold FreeHand pursuant to a  
5 software license with Altsys, the company that developed and first published the FreeHand  
6 software under the name Virtuoso before licensing it to Aldus.

7       61.     The Federal Trade Commission ("FTC") challenged Adobe's acquisition of  
8 Aldus, charging that the effect of the acquisition may be substantially to lessen competition, or to  
9 tend to create a monopoly in the market for "professional illustration software for use on Apple  
10 Macintosh and Power Macintosh computers." *In the Matter of Adobe Systems Inc.*, 188 F.T.C.  
11 940, 942 (1994).

12       62.     The FTC found the Illustrator and FreeHand products to be differentiated from  
13 other illustration software based on features and customer preferences. The FTC limited its  
14 market definition to *professional* illustration software running on Apple computers,  
15 distinguishing programs that offer "features and performance characteristics enabling graphic  
16 professionals efficiently and reliable to create and print high-quality illustrations." *Id.* Further,  
17 the FTC found that even assuming a broader illustration software market, "a significant share of  
18 sales in the broader markets is accounted for by customers who regard Illustrator and FreeHand  
19 as their first and second choices." *Id.*

20       63.     The FTC also limited its market definition to those software programs that run on  
21 Apple Macintosh and Power Macintosh computers and excluded IBM-compatible computers  
22 with the Windows operating system. Even if computers running the Windows operating system  
23 were included, the FTC concluded that Adobe's acquisition of the FreeHand software would  
24 substantially lessen competition, or to tend to create a monopoly in the market. *Id.*

25       64.     The FTC found that Adobe and Aldus had "competed vigorously against each  
26 other with respect to pricing and development of new versions of Illustrator and FreeHand." *Id.*  
27 at 943. Accordingly, the FTC found that Adobe's proposed acquisition of Aldus, if  
28

1 consummated, may substantially lessen competition or tend to create a monopoly in the relevant  
2 markets, in the following ways, among others:

- 3 a. It will increase the already high concentration in the relevant markets;
- 4 b. It will eliminate Aldus as a substantial independent competitive force in the  
relevant markets;
- 5 c. It will eliminate actual, direct and substantial competition between Adobe and  
Aldus;
- 6 d. It will eliminate competition between the two closest substitutes, Illustrator and  
FreeHand, among differentiated products in the relevant markets;
- 7 e. It will allow the merged firm unilaterally to exercise market power;
- 8 f. It will allow the merged firm to raise prices, either directly or through reduced  
discounting, promotion, or services, on either Illustrator or FreeHand or on both products;
- 9 g. It will allow the merged firm to reduce innovation by delaying or reducing  
product development; and
- 10 h. It will increase the likelihood of coordinated interaction.

11 *Id.*

12 65. Adobe, Aldus, and the FTC signed a consent order, dated October 18, 1994,  
13 divesting Adobe of FreeHand. The purpose of the divestiture was “to ensure the continuation of  
14 FreeHand as an ongoing viable Professional Illustration Software program, to maintain FreeHand  
15 as an independent competitor in the Professional Illustration Software business, and to remedy  
16 the lessening of competition resulting from the acquisition as alleged in the Commission’s  
17 complaint.” *Id.* at 946.

18 66. In addition to requiring Adobe to divest FreeHand, the FTC prohibited Adobe  
19 from acquiring FreeHand or any other professional illustration software for a period of 10 years.  
20 *See id.* at 947.

21 67. Following the FTC consent order, FreeHand reverted to Altsys. In January 1995,  
22 Macromedia acquired Altsys.

23 68. In 2005, at the conclusion of the 10 year non-acquisition period mandated by the  
24 FTC consent order, Adobe acquired FreeHand by purchasing Macromedia.

### 25 **COMPETITION BETWEEN ILLUSTRATOR AND FREEHAND**

26 69. In the late 1980s and through Adobe’s acquisition of FreeHand, there was  
27 vigorous innovation in professional vector illustration software and vigorous competition  
28

1 between Illustrator and FreeHand. FreeHand was a serial innovator, consistently releasing new  
2 versions with first to market features:

3       • 1988: FreeHand 2 introduced auto trace, edible blends, Tiff import, custom fills,  
4 and tiled fills features.

5       • 1991: FreeHand 3 was the first vector illustration software program to allow  
6 multiple pages in any mix of sizes and orientation.

7       • 1994: FreeHand 4 allowed 24 letter size pages tiled on the screen and featured  
8 wrapping tabs to wrap paragraphs within columns and tables as well as auto fit text  
boxes.

9       • 1995: FreeHand 5 introduced new features including a knife tool that closed the  
10 paths it cut, the ability cut and paste attributes from one object to another, a perspective  
11 tool to create 2-D objects that appeared three dimensional, a zoom tool of up to  
12 1,638,400%, automatic trapping, an eye dropper tool that picks up colors from imported  
images, and graduated and radial fills with up to 64 colors.

13       • 1996: FreeHand 7 introduced new features including drag and drop in both  
14 direction between FreeHand and Photoshop, the ability to blend between colors and  
gradients, and a chart tool.

15       • 1998: FreeHand 8 new features including transparency, a graphic hose to spray  
16 symbols, a reshape tool to push and pull paths, and a magnifying lens to zoomed copy of  
any area.

17       • 2000: FreeHand 9 had the ability to add hyperlinks to objects and export to PDF,  
18 HTML, and Flash as well as to Photoshop with layers intact, and also included a lasso  
19 tool to select freeform areas, a magic wand tool for selecting objects, an envelope tool to  
20 distort graphics and text, perspective grids that reshape objects as the grid is edited, and  
the ability to convert a document to grayscale.

21       • 2001: FreeHand 10 had a symbol library, master pages, and the ability to print an  
22 area of a page.

23       • 2003: FreeHand MX introduced an extrude tool for adding 3-D effects to objects,  
24 the ability to edit gradients directly within an object, and an eraser tool to erase portions  
of objects.

25       70. In 2005, Adobe acquired and then discontinued FreeHand in order to end  
26 competition in the Relevant Markets.

1           71.     Since its acquisition of FreeHand, Adobe has continually and significantly  
2 increased the price of Illustrator. In 2004, prior to the acquisition, the price for Adobe Illustrator  
3 (when purchased as a standalone product, as opposed to as part of a software suite) was \$399. In  
4 2005, Adobe raised the price of Illustrator 25% to \$499. In 2008, Adobe released a new version  
5 of Illustrator and again raised the price of Illustrator 20% over 2005 prices, to \$599.

6           72.     In 2005, simultaneous with its Illustrator price increase, upon purchasing  
7 FreeHand, Adobe stopped its development.

8           73.     During its ownership of FreeHand, Adobe has not delivered any new features for  
9 the software. In 2007, Adobe publicly announced that it would stop developing FreeHand.  
10 Adobe has effectively acknowledged its intent to cripple innovation in the Relevant Markets. For  
11 example, the 2005 version of FreeHand is available for purchase on Adobe's website; however,  
12 Adobe explicitly encourages consumers to purchase Illustrator, making it clear that Adobe will  
13 not update FreeHand, and that failure to do so has crippled FreeHand's functionality, despite  
14 Adobe's acknowledgement of FreeHands' "loyal following":

15           **Adobe and the Future of FreeHand**

16           No updates to FreeHand have been made for over four years, and Adobe has no  
17 plans to initiate development to add new features or to support Intel-based Macs  
18 and Windows Vista.

19           **Note: Freehand does not work with Mac OS X 10.6 or higher.**

20           To support customer workflows, we will continue to sell FreeHand and offer  
21 technical and customer support in accordance with our policies.

22           While we recognize FreeHand has a loyal customer base, we encourage users to migrate  
23 to the new Adobe Illustrator CS5 software which supports both PowerPC and Intel-based  
24 Macs and Microsoft Windows XP and Windows Vista..

25           74.     Thus, Adobe has crippled innovation in the Relevant Markets.

26           75.     Post-acquisition, Adobe has simply been incorporating existing FreeHand features  
27 into Illustrator, instead of innovating and developing features not already developed for  
28 FreeHand. These features include, among others, perspective tool, paste/draw inside, blob brush,  
and multiple pages.

**ADOBE OBTAINED AND PROTECTS ITS MONOPOLY POWER THROUGH  
ANTICOMPETITIVE CONDUCT**

1  
2       76. Adobe's monopoly power did not result from superior business acumen or simple  
3 good fortune. Rather, Adobe willfully acquired, maintains, and unlawfully exercises its  
4 monopoly position in the Relevant Submarkets through predatory, exclusionary, and  
5 anticompetitive conduct.

6       77. Adobe's purchase and subsequent continuing failure to update FreeHand was an  
7 improper and exclusionary way to gain and maintain monopoly power. Adobe did not achieve  
8 monopoly by competing legitimately in the Relevant Market, for example by developing a  
9 superior product or by offering Illustrator at a lower price. Rather, Adobe willfully acquired and  
10 maintained its monopoly power with improper conduct, by crippling FreeHand, Illustrator's  
11 primary competitor. In acquiring and failing to update and support FreeHand, and providing  
12 materials to help consumers transition from FreeHand to Illustrator, Adobe has engaged in  
13 willful anticompetitive behavior instead of lawfully competing in the Relevant Submarkets on  
14 the merits of Adobe's products.

15       78. Throughout the Class Period, Adobe has "bundled" Illustrator, selling it as part of  
16 its Illustrator Creative Suite ("CS") product along with other Adobe products. In different  
17 versions of Adobe's CS product, Illustrator was bundled with various related Adobe graphics  
18 programs, including Bridge (organizational program), InDesign (desktop publishing), Photoshop  
19 (raster graphics editor), Version Cue (file tracking), Acrobat Professional (used to manage and  
20 create PDF documents), Dreamweaver (web development), and GoLive (web development).  
21 Adobe's bundling of Illustrator constitutes a significant entry barrier by limiting the ability of  
22 potential rival professional software manufacturers to enter the market without a full array of  
23 graphics software.

24       79. Adobe's course of conduct warrants antitrust liability even if Adobe's acts would  
25 be considered lawful if viewed individually.

26       80. There is no legitimate business justification for Adobe's actions, including its  
27 acquisition of FreeHand through its purchase of Macromedia, and its subsequent failure to  
28 support FreeHand.

1                   **ADOBE REFUSED TO MAKE FREEHAND SOURCE CODE PUBLIC SO**  
2                   **THAT FREEHAND CAN BECOME AN OPEN-SOURCE PROGRAM**

3           81.     Generally, commercial software products use a “Cathedral” approach, in which  
4 the CEO is seen as a kind of “pope” who decides on the vision and directs paid managers and  
5 workers to carry it out.

6           82.     In contrast, open-source software is developed using the “Bazaar” approach, in  
7 which there is no dictator and instead people call out requests for new features, point out bugs,  
8 and contribute new code and bug fixes. In other words, software is produced by the loosely  
9 coordinated and voluntary efforts of users and programmers. The Linux operating system is a  
10 good example of software produced by a large numbers of volunteers.

11          83.     Currently, there are open source alternatives to nearly every significant piece of  
12 commercial software. For example, OpenOffice.org is a complete alternative to Microsoft’s  
13 office suite and has been downloaded almost 100,000,000 times. Estimates are that about 60%  
14 of servers and 4% of user desktops run the Linux operating system, and more than half of all  
15 servers use the open-source Apache web-server software in preference to a commercial  
16 alternative. SourceForge.com is a site that provides collaborative web-tools that facilitate and  
17 coordinate open source software projects of all kinds. SourceForge claims participation by some  
18 2.7 million developers involved in over 260,000 projects with more than 2,000,000 items being  
19 downloaded by consumers each day.

20          84.     After fighting a losing battle with Internet Explorer in the late 1990s, NetScape  
21 released their source code in January 1998 and the result was the highly successful open-source  
22 Mozilla project.

23          85.     Contributors to open-source software are unpaid volunteers. Research suggests  
24 that these volunteers are motivated by (1) a desire to consume the public good produced as a  
25 result of these contributions, (2) an expectation of reaping benefits from being noticed as a  
26 contributor, and (3) an enjoyment of the act of contributing.

27          86.     Voluntary contributions to open-source codes are economically significant. An  
28 estimate for 2001 by the *Independent Sector* suggests that 89 percent of US households make

1 contributions and that the average annual contribution for contributors is \$1,620. In addition,  
2 83.9 million American adults volunteer the equivalent of over 9 million full-time employees at a  
3 value of \$239 billion.

4 87. Releasing popular software that a company has abandoned or otherwise does not  
5 plan to monetize (NetScape, and StarOffice, for example) in open-source format seems like a  
6 win-win. The company gets good will from both the user and developer communities, and the  
7 communities get access to interesting and useful code.

8 88. Both FreeHand and Illustrator are examples of "Cathedral" commercial programs.

9 89. Free FreeHand's members have repeatedly requested that Adobe make the source  
10 code of FreeHand public, so that FreeHand can be updated and continue to evolve as an open-  
11 source software.

12 90. Despite the fact that Adobe has no plans to update FreeHand, it has refused to  
13 make its source code public.

#### 14 **ANTICOMPETITIVE EFFECTS**

15 91. Adobe's monopolistic conduct has produced significant anticompetitive effects.  
16 Instead of competing in the Relevant Market on the merits of its products through price and  
17 feature innovation, Adobe attacked FreeHand, Illustrator's primary rival. Adobe's monopolistic  
18 conduct has harmed competition in the Relevant Submarkets and thereby harmed Plaintiffs and  
19 the Class Members.

20 92. The anticompetitive effects of Adobe's conduct far outweigh any conceivable  
21 procompetitive benefits or justifications.

1 **HARM SUFFERED BY PLAINTIFFS**

2 93. Plaintiffs have been injured in their business or property by Adobe's  
3 monopolization of the relevant market. None of the harms Plaintiffs' suffered, detailed herein,  
4 are conditional on any future acts or decisions of the parties. All of the harms are real and will  
5 continue to occur if equitable relief is not ordered by this Court.

6 ***Free FreeHand Members***

7 94. As noted above, Free FreeHand was formed for the purpose of challenging  
8 Adobe's unlawful scheme as alleged herein.

9 95. Free FreeHand's members include graphic designers that desire to continue to use  
10 FreeHand software.

11 96. Members of Free FreeHand will be harmed by the actions detailed in this  
12 Complaint because Adobe's failure to update FreeHand will cause it to become incompatible  
13 with future versions of computer operating system software. Not only are Free FreeHand  
14 members threatened by the imminent obsolescence of the software, but they are also threatened  
15 by the loss of their designs because images created in FreeHand are not useable when imported  
16 into Illustrator.

17 ***Consumer Plaintiffs***

18 97. Consumer Plaintiffs who purchased Illustrator licenses are harmed through the  
19 actions detailed in this Complaint by the unlawful monopoly prices that Adobe exacts for  
20 purchases of Illustrator and FreeHand.

21 98. Consumer Plaintiffs who own FreeHand software licenses are harmed by the  
22 actions detailed in this Complaint because Adobe's failure to update FreeHand will cause it to  
23 become incompatible with future versions of computer operating system software. Not only are  
24 Free FreeHand members threatened by the imminent obsolescence of the software, but they are  
25 also threatened by the loss of their designs because images created in FreeHand are not useable  
26 when imported into Illustrator.

1 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

2 99. Plaintiffs seek to represent four classes (collectively the "Class Members")  
3 pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a), 23(b)(2), and 23(b)(3).

- 4 a. The first class, "Mac Damages Class," seeks damages only for violations of 15  
5 U.S.C. § 2, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 16700 *et seq.* and RCW 19.86.020 *et seq.*  
6 and is defined as:

7 All persons or entities that purchased FreeHand or Illustrator for a Macintosh  
8 operating system from at any time since Adobe's purchase of Macromedia in  
9 2005 (the "Class Period"). Excluded from the Mac Damages Class are  
10 Defendants and their subsidiaries, parents, or affiliates, and government entities.

- 11 b. The second class, "Windows Damages Class," seeks damages only for violations  
12 of 15 U.S.C. § 2, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 16700 *et seq.* and RCW 19.86.020 *et*  
13 *seq.* and is defined as:

14 All persons or entities that purchased FreeHand or Illustrator for a Windows  
15 operating system from at any time since Adobe's purchase of Macromedia in  
16 2005 (the "Class Period"). Excluded from the Windows Damages Class are  
17 Defendants and their subsidiaries, parents, or affiliates, and government entities.

- 18 c. The third class, "Mac Injunctive Class," seeks declaratory and injunctive relief  
19 only for violations of 15 U.S.C. § 2, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 16700 *et seq.* and  
20 RCW 19.86.020 *et seq.* and is defined as:

21 All persons or entities that currently use professional vector graphic illustration  
22 software on a Macintosh operating system, in addition to Free FreeHand.  
23 Excluded from the Mac Injunctive Class are Defendants and their subsidiaries,  
24 parents, or affiliates, and government entities.

- 25 d. The fourth class, "Windows Injunctive Class," seeks declaratory and injunctive  
26 relief only for violations of 15 U.S.C. § 2, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 16700 *et seq.*  
27 and RCW 19.86.020 *et seq.* and is defined as:

28 All persons or entities that currently use professional vector graphic illustration  
software on a Windows operating system, in addition to Free FreeHand.  
Excluded from the Windows Injunctive Class are Defendants and their  
subsidiaries, parents, or affiliates, and government entities.

100. The Mac Damages Class and Windows Damages Class are collectively referred to  
as the "Damages Classes." The Mac Injunctive Class and Windows Injunctive Class are  
collectively referred to as the "Injunctive Classes."

101. Consumer Plaintiffs bring this action under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure  
23(a) and (b)(3), on behalf of themselves and the Damages Classes. Consumer Plaintiffs are

1 members of the Damages Classes; their claims are typical of the claims of the other Damages  
2 Class members, and Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of Damages  
3 Classes. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class have all sustained damage in that during the  
4 Class Period they purchased Illustrator or FreeHand directly from Defendant Adobe at artificially  
5 maintained, non-competitive prices, established by the actions of Adobe in connection with the  
6 anticompetitive behavior alleged herein. Plaintiffs are represented by counsel who are  
7 competent and experienced in the prosecution of class-action antitrust litigation. Plaintiffs'  
8 interests are coincident with, and not antagonistic to, those of the other members of the Damages  
9 Classes.

10 102. Consumer Plaintiffs and Free FreeHand bring this action under Federal Rules of  
11 Civil Procedure 23(a) and (b)(2), on behalf of themselves and the Injunctive Classes. These  
12 Plaintiffs are members of Injunctive Classes; their claims are typical of the claims of the other  
13 Injunctive Class members, and Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of  
14 Injunctive Classes. Plaintiffs are represented by counsel who are competent and experienced in  
15 the prosecution of class-action antitrust litigation. Plaintiffs' interests are coincident with, and  
16 not antagonistic to, those of the other members of Injunctive Classes.

17 103. The Classes are individually so numerous that joinder of all members is  
18 impracticable. While the exact number of members of the Classes is unknown to Plaintiffs at this  
19 time, based on the nature of the trade and commerce involved, Plaintiffs reasonably believe that  
20 there are thousands of members in the Classes and that their identities can be learned from  
21 records in Defendants possession, custody or control. Class Members are geographically  
22 dispersed throughout the United States and the entire world.

23 104. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all Class Members and predominate  
24 over any questions affecting solely individual Class Members.

25 105. The questions of law and fact common to the Mac Damages Class include, but are  
26 not limited to:

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- a. whether the market for professional vector graphic illustration software operating on a Macintosh operating system is the relevant product market;
- b. whether the relevant geographic market is worldwide, or in the alternative is limited to the United States;
- c. whether Adobe possesses monopoly power in the Relevant Market;
- d. whether, through the conduct alleged herein, Adobe willfully acquired, maintained and enhanced its monopoly power in the professional vector illustration graphic software market.
- e. whether and to what extent, Defendant's conduct caused Class members to pay supra-competitive prices and, thereby, suffer antitrust injuries; and
- f. whether Plaintiffs and Mac Damages Class members are entitled to any damages and, if so, the appropriate Class-wide measure of damages.

106. The questions of law and fact common to the Windows Damages Class include, but are not limited to:

- a. whether the market for professional vector graphic illustration software operating on a Windows Operating System is the relevant product market;
- b. whether the relevant geographic market is worldwide, or in the alternative is limited to the United States;
- c. whether Adobe possesses monopoly power in the Relevant Market;
- d. whether, through the conduct alleged herein, Adobe willfully acquired, maintained and enhanced its monopoly power in the professional vector illustration graphic software market.
- e. whether and to what extent, Defendant's conduct caused Class members to pay supra-competitive prices and, thereby, suffer antitrust injuries; and
- f. whether Plaintiffs and Windows Damages Class members are entitled to any damages and, if so, the appropriate Class-wide measure of damages.

107. The questions of law and fact common to the Mac Injunctive Class include, but are not limited to:

- 1 a. whether the market for professional vector graphic illustration  
2 software operating on a Macintosh operating system is the relevant  
3 product market;
- 4 b. whether the relevant geographic market is worldwide, or in the  
5 alternative is limited to the United States;
- 6 c. whether Adobe possesses monopoly power in the Relevant Market;
- 7 d. whether, and to what extent, Defendant's conduct caused members  
8 of the Mac Injunctive Class to suffer irreparable harm because of  
9 Adobe's failure to update FreeHand or make public FreeHand's  
10 sourcecode so that FreeHand can become an open source software;
- 11 e. whether, through the conduct alleged herein, Adobe willfully  
12 acquired, maintained and enhanced its monopoly power in the  
13 professional vector illustration graphic software market.

14 108. The questions of law and fact common to the Windows Injunctive Class include,  
15 but are not limited to:

- 16 a. whether the market for professional vector graphic illustration  
17 software operating on a Windows operating system is the relevant  
18 product market;
- 19 b. whether the relevant geographic market is worldwide, or in the  
20 alternative is limited to the United States;
- 21 c. whether Adobe possesses monopoly power in the Relevant Market;
- 22 d. whether, and to what extent, Defendant's conduct caused members  
23 of the Windows Injunctive Class to suffer irreparable harm  
24 because of Adobe's failure to update FreeHand or make public  
25 FreeHand's sourcecode so that FreeHand can become an open  
26 source software;
- 27 e. whether, through the conduct alleged herein, Adobe willfully  
28 acquired, maintained and enhanced its monopoly power in the  
professional vector illustration graphic software market.

109. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient  
adjudication of this controversy because joinder of all the Class Members is impracticable. The  
prosecution of separate actions by individual Class Members would impose heavy burdens upon  
the courts and Defendant Adobe, and would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications  
of the questions of law and fact common to all of the Class Members. A class action would

1 achieve substantial economies of time, effort and expense, and would assure uniformity of  
2 decision as to persons similarly situated without sacrificing procedural fairness. There will be no  
3 material difficulty in the management of this action as a class action on behalf of the Class  
4 Members.

5 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

6 ***Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 2***

7 110. Plaintiffs repeat and incorporate by reference the allegations set forth above as if  
8 fully set forth herein.

9 111. Adobe possesses monopoly power in the vector graphic illustration software  
10 market. By such acts, practices, and conduct, Adobe has unlawfully monopolized the vector  
11 graphic illustration software market, in violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 2.

12 112. By reason of Adobe's violations of Section 2 of the Sherman Act, Consumer  
13 Plaintiffs have been injured in their business or property, including through the payment of  
14 supracompetitive prices.

15 113. Consumer Plaintiffs and members of Free FreeHand have suffered irreparable  
16 injury by reason of the acts, practices, and conduct of Adobe alleged above, and will continue to  
17 suffer such injury until and unless the Court enjoins such acts, practices, and conduct.

18 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

19 ***Violation of California Business and Professions Code §16700 et seq.***

20 114. Plaintiffs repeat and incorporate by reference the allegations set forth above as if  
21 fully set forth herein.

22 115. Adobe possesses monopoly power in the Relevant Markets. By its acts, practices,  
23 and conduct, Adobe has unlawfully engaged in a continuing unlawful trust in restraint of trade  
24 and commerce described above in violation of California Business and Professions Code  
25 §16720.  
26  
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1 116. By reason of Adobe's violation of California Business and Professions Code  
2 §16720, Plaintiffs have been injured in their business or property, including through payment of  
3 supracompetitive prices.

4 117. Consumer Plaintiffs and members of Free FreeHand have suffered irreparable  
5 injury by reason of the acts, practices, and conduct of Adobe alleged above, and will continue to  
6 suffer such injury until and unless the Court enjoins such acts, practices, and conduct.

7 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

8 *Violation of California Business and Professions Code § 17200 et seq.*

9 118. Plaintiffs repeat and incorporate by reference the allegations set forth above as if  
10 fully set forth herein.

11 119. Adobe took the actions described above for the twin purposes of injuring  
12 competition and harming Plaintiffs and the Classes. In doing so, Adobe committed unlawful,  
13 unfair, and fraudulent business acts and practices, thus violating the provisions of the Unfair  
14 Competition Law, California Business and Professions Code § 17200 et seq.

15 120. As a legal and proximate result of Adobe's wrongful course of conduct, Plaintiffs  
16 and the Classes are entitled to decrees enjoining Adobe from all further unfair competition,  
17 ordering it to cease and desist therefrom, and enjoining it to disgorge and/or make restitution of  
18 all ill-gotten gains received to Plaintiffs and the Classes, all pursuant to the provisions of  
19 California Business and Professions Code § 17203.

20 **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

21 *Violation of the Washington Consumer Protection Act, RCW 19.86.020 et seq.*

22 121. Plaintiffs repeat and incorporate by reference the allegations set forth above as if  
23 fully set forth herein.

24 122. The Washington Consumer Protection Act ("CPA"), RCW 19.86.020 et seq.,  
25 provides consumers with a procedure for redressing violations of applicable law. RCW  
26 19.86.090, in conjunction with RCW 19.86.020, provides a private right of action to any person  
27 injured by "unfair or deceptive acts or practices."  
28



1 131. Adjudge and decree that Adobe has monopolized interstate trade and commerce  
2 in the relevant market in violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Act, 15 U.S.C. § 2;

3 132. Adjudge and decree that Adobe has violated California Business and Professions  
4 Code §§ 16700 *et seq.* and 17200 *et seq.*;

5 133. Adjudge and decree that Adobe has violated Washington Consumer Protection  
6 Act, RCW 19.86.20 *et seq.* and 19.86.040 *et seq.*;

7 134. Enter judgment against Adobe for treble the amount of Plaintiffs' damages proven  
8 at trial in accordance with Section 4 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. § 15;

9 135. Enjoin Adobe's continuing violations of law by requiring divestiture of the  
10 FreeHand software by Adobe in accordance with Section 16 of the Clayton Act, 15 U.S.C. § 26;

11 136. Award Plaintiffs and the Class Members their costs and expenses of litigation,  
12 including attorneys' fees and expert witness fees; and

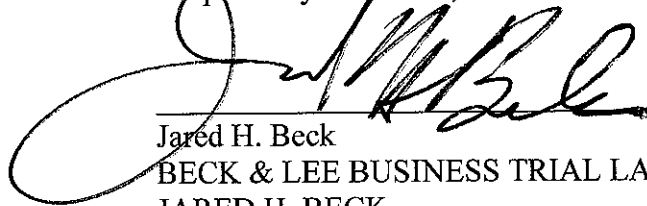
13 137. Order other relief as the Court may consider necessary or appropriate to restore  
14 competitive conditions in the relevant market affected by Adobe's unlawful conduct.

15 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

16 Plaintiffs hereby demand trial by jury in this action on all issues so triable.

17 DATED: May 2, 2011

18 Respectfully submitted,

19 

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