## **FILED**

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KING COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT CLERK E-FILED

CASE NUMBER: 15-2-18663 9 SEA

IN THE SUPERIOR	COURT OF	THE STATE OF	WASHINGTON
	FOR KING	3 COUNTY	

MOUN KEODALAH and AUNG ) Case No.: KEODALAH, husband and wife,

Plaintiffs,

COMPLAINT FOR INSURANCE BAD FAITH, BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY, AND VIOLATIONS OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT AND INSURANCE FAIR CONDUCT ACT

ALLSTATE INSURANCE COMPANY, a corporation, and TRACEY SMITH and JOHN DOE SMITH, husband and wife,

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Defendants.

COMES NOW the plaintiff, Moun Keodalah, by and through his attorney of record,

Vonda M. Sargent, and states, claims, and alleges as follows:

# I. JURISDICTION

1.1 The above-captioned Court has jurisdiction over the parties and subject matter.

#### II. VENUE

2.1 The above-captioned Court is the proper venue pursuant to RCW 4.12.025 because defendant ALLSTATE INSURANCE COMPANY ("Allstate") transacts business in King County, Washington.

# III. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PARTIES

3.1 At all times material hereto, plaintiff Keodalah has resided in King County, Washington.

Complaint - 1

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l	4.9	Mr. Keodalah used his PIP policy to obtain medical care.
2	4.10	Defendant Allstate paid Mr. Keodalah's medical bills.
3	4.11	The motorcyclist was uninsured.
4	4.12	The Seattle Police Department ("SPD") investigated the collision.
5	4.13	SPD determined the motorcyclist was traveling between 70 and 74 miles per hour.
6	4.14	The speed limit was 30 miles per hour.
7	4.15	SPD concluded that the motorcyclist's speed caused the collision.
8	4.16	SPD reviewed Mr. Keodalah's cell phone records.
9	4.17	Mr. Keodalah was not using his cell phone at the time of the collision.
10	4.20	Dr. Brian Mazrim, of the King County Medical Examiner's Office, opined that the
11		motorcyclist died "from the injuries suffered upon impact with the vehicle."
12	4.21	SPD concluded Mr. Keodalah did not kill the motorcyclist.
13	4.22	SPD did not charge Mr. Keodalah.
14	4.23	SPD did not cite Mr. Keodalah.
15		V. FACTS RELATED TO ALLSTATE'S CLAIM HANDLING
16	5.1	Mr. Keodalah had a UIM policy with a limit of \$25,000.
17	5.2	Insured Keodalah's Allstate PIP and UIM Policy was in full force and effect on April 2
18	<u>.</u>	2007, the date of the collision.
19	5.2	Defendant Allstates employee Celia A. Hart investigated the collision.
20		5.2.1 Defendant Allstate's employee Celia Hart interviewed witness Jasmine Riach on
21		May 29, 2007.
22		5.2.2 Witness Riach told Allstate/Hart that the motorcyclist had "squeezed in between"
23		her car and the car in the next lane.
24		5.2.3 Witness Riach told Allstate/Hart "the motorcycle guy was going 80, 75 miles -
25		80 miles an hour plus."

5.2.4	Witness Riach	told Allstate/Hart that "I was cursing this guy, like, this guy nee	ds
	to slow down.	Something could happen."	

- 5.2.5 Witness Riach told Allstate/Hart that the motorcyclist "was going ridiculously fast."
- 5.2.6 Defendant Alistate's employee Hart documented her investigation on or about May 31, 2007.
- 5.2.7 Defendant Allstate employee Hart recorded that its insured Keodalah "did stop at the traffic control."
- 5.2.8 Defendant Allstate's employee Hart recorded that, per witness Raich, if the motorcyclist hadn't "cheated" the "accident would not have happened".
- 5.2.9 Defendant Allstate's employee Hart recorded that, per witness Raich, if the motorcyclist hadn't "sped," the "accident would not have happened".
- 5.2.10 Defendant Allstate's employee Hart assessed liability 100% to Keodalah.
- 5.3 Defendant Allstate's employee Scott McFarland investigated the collision.
  - 5.3.1 Defendant Allstate's employee Scott McFarland interviewed witness Sean Healy on June 15, 2007.
  - 5. 3.2 Witness Healy told Allstate/McFarland that when the motorcyclist got to the bottom of the hill, he "began to rev up his bike, and looked like he increased in speed fairly quickly."
  - 5. 3.3 Witness Healy told Allstate/McFarland the speed limit was "like 30 or so."
  - 5. 3.4 Witness Sean Healy told Allstate/McFarland the motorcyclist was "going probably a lot faster than that. 'Cause, uh, I heard it rev up."
  - 5. 3.5 Witness Sean Healy told Allstate that he heard the bike "constantly changing gears."

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1	6.10	Defendant Allstate responded to the IFCA notice on July 17, 2009.
2	6.11	Defendant Allstate increased its offer to \$5,000 in its response.
3	6.12	Insured Keodalah did not provide any additional facts related to his claim.
4	6.13	Defendant Allstate failed to explain why it found its insured 70% at fault.
5		VII. <u>FACTS RELATED TO LITIGATION</u>
6	7.1	Insured Keodalah filed suit on June 28, 2012. Keodalah v. Allstate Ins. Co., CV 125-
7		02941.
8	7.2	Defendant Allstate's Answer to plaintiff Keodalah's Complaint was due July 18, 2012.
9	7.3	Defendant Allstate did not serve its Answer until August 13, 2012.
10	7.4	Defendant Allstate denied liability.
11	7.5	Defendant Allstate alleged plaintiff Keodalah failed to mitigate his damages.
12	7.6	Defendant Allstate alleged plaintiff Keodalah's own negligence proximately caused his
13		injuries.
14	7.7	Defendant Allstate requested that the Court dismiss plaintiff Keodalah's case with
15		prejudice.
16	7.8	Defendant Allstate requested that the Court award defendant Allstate costs and attorney
17		fees for having to defend against plaintiff Keodalah.
18	7.9	Plaintiff Keodalah served discovery requests on defendant Allstate on October 19, 2012.
19	7,10	Defendant Allstate's responses were due 30 days later.
20	7.11	Defendant Allstate, through its attorney, Jodi Held, and its claim representative
21		defendant Smith, responded on December 4, 2012.
22	7.12	Defendant Allstate asserted plaintiff Keodalah was at fault for the collision.
23	7.13	Defendant Allstate asserted plaintiff Keodalah failed to stop, at the stop sign, and caused
24		the collision.
25	7.14	Defendant Allstate acknowledged that it had the SPD report.
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1	8.26	Defendant Allstate could not explain how it determined plaintiff Keodalah was 70% a
2		fault for the collision.
3	8.27	No one testified that plaintiff Keodalah was 100% at fault for the collision.
4	8.28	Defendant Allstate, in its closing argument to the jury, argued plaintiff Keodalah was
5		100% at fault for the collision.
6	8.29	Defendant Allstate argued that the motorcycle's speed was a "red herring".
7	8.30	Defendant Allstate argued that plaintiff Keodalah failed to stop at a stop sign.
8	8.31	Defendant Allstate's argument placed the full fault of the motorcyclist's death on its
9		insured, plaintiff Keodalah.
10	8.32	The jury determined the motorcyclist to be 100% at fault for the collision on March 12
11		2014.
12	8.33	The jury and awarded plaintiff Keodalah \$108,868.20 for his injuries, lost wages, and
13		medical bills.
14		IX. FACTS RELATED TO POST-TRIAL PROCEEDINGS
15	9.1	Defendant Allstate, through its attorney, Marilee Erickson, filed a motion for new trial
16		on May 12, 2014.
17	9.2	Defendant Allstate alleged it had been denied a fair trial due to irregularities.
18	9.3	Defendant Allstate alleged it had been denied a fair trial due to plaintiff's counsel's
19		misconduct in "purposefully interjecting claims handling evidence" into the case.
20	9.4	Defendant Allstate argued it had been required to regularly object because plaintiff's
21		counsel insisted upon bringing up evidence of defendant Allstate's liability conclusion.
22	9.5	Defendant Allstate alleged it had been denied a fair trial because the jury's general
23		damages award was "so excessive to indicate that it is a result of passion and prejudice".
24	9.6	The Superior Court ruled against defendant Allstate and entered judgment against it on
25		May 19, 2014 for \$25,302.95, to bear interest at 5.25 percent per annum.
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0.2.3	Defendants Allstate and Smith failed to conduct a reasonable investigation to
	fully evaluate the facts of the crash, nature and extent of plaintiff Keodalah's
	injuries, and amount of plaintiff Keodalah's damages;

- 10.2.4 Defendants Allstate and Smith failed to attempt, in good faith, to effectuate a prompt, fair, and equitable settlement of plaintiff Keodalah's claim for UIM benefits where liability was reasonably clear;
- 10.2.5 Defendants Allstate and Smith compelled plaintiff Keodalah to initiate litigation to recover amounts due him under his insurance policy by offering substantially less to settle plaintiff Keodalah's claim than he ultimately recovered in the litigation; and
- 10.2.6 Defendants Allstate and Smith failed to promptly provide a reasonable explanation of the basis in the insurance policy to the facts or applicable law for denial of plaintiff Keodalah's claim or for the offer of a compromise settlement.

### X. INSURANCE BAD FAITH

- 10.1 Defendants Allstate and Smith had a duty to act in good faith, which required that all of defendant Allstate's and Smith's actions be actuated by good faith, that they abstain from deception and practice honesty and equity in all insurance matters, and that they deal fairly with its insured, giving equal consideration to the insured's interests.
- 10.2 Defendant Allstate's and Smith's actions and omissions alleged herein are in violation of RCW 48.01.030 and their duty to act in good faith.
- 10.3 Defendant Allstate's and Smith's acts and omissions directly and proximately caused plaintiff Keodalah to suffer injuries and damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

#### XI. BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY

11.1 Defendant Allstate, by virtue of its position and authority to engage in the insurance business in the State of Washington, owed a fiduciary or quasi-fiduciary duty and

THE LAW OFFICES OF VONDA M. SARGENT 119 1st Ave. S., Suite 500 Seattle, WA 98104 206.638.4970