JS 44 (Rev. 11/95)

I.(a) PLAINTIFFS

### CIVIL COVER SHLET

**DEFENDANTS** 

The JS-44  $^{\circ}$  Toover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except the 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 THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

HIGHER BALANCE LLO INSTITUTE.	C, dba HIGHER BAL.	ANCE	QUANTUM FUTURE GROUP, INC.; LAURA KNIGHT- JADCZYK.					
(b) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF Oregon.	FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF: N	•	COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED DEFENDANT: California, France (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED					
(C) ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, A	DDRESS, AND THE TELEPH	ONE NUMBER)	ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN)					
Renée E. Rothauge, OSI renee.rothauge@bullivar. Chad M. Colton, OSB #0 chad.colton@bullivant.co BULLIVANT HOUSER B 888 SW 5 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suit Portland, OR 97204-208 Phone: (503) 228-6351 Facsimile: (503) 295-091	nt.com 165774 om AILEY, P.C. e 300 9							
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION	(PLACE AN "X" IN ONE		NSHIP OF PRINCIPAL I					
☐ 1 U.S. Government	☐ 3 Federal Question	(For Dive	rsity Cases Only) PLF DE	AND FOR DI	EFENDANT) PLF DEF			
Plaintiff	(U.S. Government No	ot a Party)	of This State					
☐ 2 U.S. Government	■ 4 Diversity			of Business in This Stat	te			
Defendant	(Indicate Citizenship In Item III)	of Parties Citizen o	of Another State	Incorporated and Princip Of Business in Another				
	,		or Subject of a    Country	Foreign Nation				
	ite Court LI3 Appell	nded from						
CONTRACT	TOF		FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES			
110 Insurance	Personal Injury	Personal Injury	☐610 Agriculture	☐422 Appeal 28 USC 158	☐400 State Reapportionment			
☐120 Marine	□310 Airplane	☐362 Personal Injury –	☐620 Other Food & Drug	□423 Withdrawal	☐410 Antitrust ☐430 Banks and Banking			
130 Miller Act	☐315 Airplane Product Liability	Med. Malpractice  ☐365 Personal Injury –	☐625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881	28 USC 157	450 Commerce/ICC Rates/e			
☐140 Negotiable Instrument ☐150 Recovery of Overpayment	⊠320 Assault, Libel &	Product Liability	☐630 Liquor Laws	PROPERTY RIGHTS  ☐820 Copyrights	☐ 460 Deportation ☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced			
& Enforcement of Judgment	Slander	☐368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	☐640 R.R. & Truck	□830 Patent	and Corrupt Organizatio			
151 Medicare Act	☐330 Federal Employers Liability	Personal Property	☐650 Airline Regs.	☐840 Trademark	□810 Selective Service			
☐152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans	□340 Manne	☐370 Other Fraud	☐660 Occupational Safety/Health		B50 Securities/ Commodities Exchange			
(Excl. Veterans)	☐345 Marine Product	☐371 Truth in Lending	☐690 Other		□875 Customer Challenge			
☐153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	Liability  ☐350 Motor Vehicle	☐380 Other Personal Property Damage	LABOR	SOCIAL SECURITY	12 USC 3410  ■891 Agricultural Acts			
☐160 Stockholders Suits	□355 Motor Vehicle	☐385 Property Damage	☐710 Fair Labor Standards Act	☐ 861 HIA (1395ff) ☐ 862 Black Lung (923)	□892 Economic Stabilization /			
☐190 Other Contract	Product Liability	Product Liability	☐720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations	☐863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	■893 Environmental Matters ■894 Energy Allocation Act			
195 Contract Product Liability	☐360 Other Personal Injury		☐730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting	☐864 SSID Title XVI ☐865 RSI (405(g))	■895 Freedom of			
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIONS	& Disclosure Act		Information Act ☐900 Appeal of Fee			
210 Land Condemnation	□441 Voting	□510 Motions to Vacate	☐790 Other Labor Litigation	FEDERAL TAX SUITS	Determination Under Equal Access			
220 Foreclosure	☐442 Employment	Sentence	☐791 Empl. Ret. Inc.	☐870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff	to Justice			
☐230 Rent Lease & Ejectment ☐240 Torts to Land	☐ 443 Housing/ Accommodations	Habeas Corpus ☐530 General	Security Act	or Defendant) □871 IRS Third Party	☐950 Constitutionality of State Statutes			
240 Tents to Land	444 Welfare	☐535 Death Penalty		26 USC 7609	□890 Other Statutory Actions			
☐290 All Other Real Property	☐ 440 Other Civil Rights	☐540 Mandamus & Other ☐550 Civil Rights						

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ACTION (CITE THE U.S. CIVIL 5" TUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE BRIEF ST "MENT OF CAUSE DO NOT CITE JURISL" ) WAL STATUTES UNLESS DIVERSITY)

28 U.S.C. § 1332

QUESTED IN	CHECK IF THI UNDER F.R.C.	IS IS A CLASS ACTION	DEMAND	Exceeds \$75,000	CHECK YES only if JURY DEMAND:		nplaint □ No
OMPLAINT:	🗆				- DEMAND		L 140
RELATED CAS	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE		טטרא. 	ET NUMBER		
- IF ANY		<b>1000</b> C					_
.re		SIGNATURE OF ATT	TORNEY OF RECORE	)			
2/25/08		Renee E. Rothau Chad M. Colton,		312			

JS 44 Reverse (Rev. 11/95) Renée E. Rothauge, OSB #903712 E-mail: renee.rothauge@bullivant.com Chad M. Colton, OSB #065774

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Attorneys for Plaintiff Higher Balance

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

#### DISTRICT OF OREGON

HIGHER BALANCE, LLC, an Oregon Limited Liability Company, dba HIGHER BALANCE INSTITUTE,

Plaintiff,

QUANTUM FUTURE GROUP, INC., a California corporation, and LAURA KNIGHT-JADCZYK,

v.

Defendants.

Civil No.:

PLAINTIFF'S CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to FRCP 7.1(a), Plaintiff Higher Balance LLC, dba Higher Balance Institute states that it is an Oregon limited liability corporation and is a wholly owned subsidiary of Auxien Enterprises, Inc., an Oregon corporation.

DATED this 25th day of February, 2008.

BULLIVANT HOUSER BAILEY PC

BY (

Renée E. Rothauge, OSB #903712 Chad M. Colton, OSB #065774

Telephone: 503.228.6351

Attorneys for Plaintiff Higher Balance

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PLAINTIFF'S CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
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## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

#### DISTRICT OF OREGON

HIGHER BALANCE, LLC, an Oregon Limited Liability Company, dba HIGHER BALANCE INSTITUTE,

Plaintiff,

v.

QUANTUM FUTURE GROUP, INC., a California corporation, and LAURA KNIGHT-JADCZYK,

Defendants.

CV '08-0233 HA

Civil No.:

COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff Higher Balance LLC, dba Higher Balance Institute ("HBI") files this Complaint against defendants Quantum Future Group, Inc. ("QFG") and Laura Knight-Jadczyk and alleges the following:

#### PARTIES, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE

1. Plaintiff HBI is an Oregon limited liability company with its principal place of

business in the State of Oregon.

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COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
Page 1

- 2. Defendant QFG is a California corporation, and on information belief, its principal place of business is located in the State of Colorado.
- 3. Defendant Laura Knight-Jadczyk is the Vice President of defendant QFG, and on information and belief, is a U.S. citizen residing in France. At all material times, Knight-Jadczyk acted within the course and scope of her agency for QFG.
- 4. The amount in controversy in this case exceeds \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.
- 5. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1332.
- 6. This Court has specific personal jurisdiction over defendants, as defendants committed intentional torts that were purposefully targeted at HBI within the State of Oregon; defendants knew that HBI is a resident of the State of Oregon; defendants' tortious conduct caused HBI to suffer economic harm within the State of Oregon; HBI's claims arise out of defendants' activities relating to the State of Oregon; and the exercise of jurisdiction over defendants is reasonable in light of their intentional misconduct directed toward a resident of the State of Oregon.
- 7. As this Court has specific personal jurisdiction over the defendants, venue is proper in this district and division under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a)(3).

#### **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

8. HBI is an Oregon-based company with over 40,000 customers from all over the world. HBI is dedicated to helping its customers relieve stress, reduce anxiety, and achieve emotional balance and spiritual enlightenment through meditation techniques. The majority of HBI's revenues are derived from the online sale of its books and CDs, which are

designed to help its customers learn these meditation techniques.

9. HBI conducts sales within the State of Oregon and ships its products to

customers from the State of Oregon.

10. Defendant QFG operates a website known as Signs of the Times ("SOTT").

QFG posts articles and sponsors forums regarding various conspiracy theories and allegedly

corrupt organizations on the SOTT website.

11. Employees and agents of QFG, including defendant Knight-Jadczyk, serve as

administrators and moderators of SOTT forums. QFG employees and agents, including

defendant Knight-Jadczyk, post comments and analyses in SOTT forums. These employees

and agents act within the course and scope of their agency for QFG when serving as

administrators and moderators of the SOTT website and when posting comments and

analyses on the SOTT website.

12. SOTT forums are available to the general public online.

13. According to the SOTT website, more than 14 million people have viewed the

SOTT website since October 2006.

14. Many of HBI's existing and potential customers read the SOTT website as a

source of alternative media.

15. Defendants hold themselves out as experts in identifying "cointelpro"

organizations, identifying conspiracies, exposing improper motives and operations of various

organizations, and in identifying psychopathic behavior.

16. According to the SOTT website, "cointelpro" was originally a counter

intelligence program that the Federal Bureau of Investigation operated in the 1970s to target

U.S. domestic dissent.

17. According to the SOTT website, defendants see much of the "New Age movement" as "cosmic cointelpro" aimed at "propagating plausible lies for misleading those who are no longer content with the answers of standard religion." According to the SOTT website, "cointelpro" is essentially "any covert or underhanded activity aimed at destroying movements or ideas the power structure finds threatening while maintaining deniability."

#### FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

#### (Defamation – Libel)

- 18. HBI incorporates pargraphs 1 through 17 as if fully stated herein.
- 19. Beginning in May 2006, QFG sponsored a forum on the SOTT website concerning HBI under the heading "Cointelpro."
- 20. Beginning in November 2007, defendants intentionally posted several false, baseless, and derogatory accusations concerning HBI on the SOTT website including, but not limited to:
  - a. HBI is a "front for pedophilia";
  - b. HBI is a "cointelpro" organization;
  - c. Meditation, as sold by HBI, is an act of "falling into confluence with a psychopathic reality";
  - d. Those associated with HBI must be careful to avoid sexual molestation by HBI members;
  - e. HBI is "conning" the public;
  - f. "Fishy" sexual conduct is occurring at HBI; and
  - g. HBI "leads people more deeply into sleep."

21. By posting these statements in a public internet forum, defendants have

published and communicated false and baseless accusations concerning HBI to third parties,

including existing and potential HBI customers.

22. Defendants' statements tend to subject HBI to hatred, contempt, and ridicule

and tend to diminish the esteem, respect, goodwill, and confidence in which HBI is held by

the public and by its customers.

23. Defendant made these false statements with knowledge of their falsity or with

reckless disregard for their truth.

24. As a result of defendants' false and defamatory statements, HBI suffered

general damages in the form of loss of reputation in an amount to be determined at trial, but

in any event, not less than \$500,000. HBI has also suffered special damages in the form of

lost income in amounts to be determined at trial, but in any event, not less than \$834,732.

25. Defendants' defamatory statements are still available to the general public on

the SOTT website and are easily found through internet searches relating to HBI.

Defendants' conduct causes HBI irreparable harm, and HBI is entitled to an injunction

preventing defendants' continued defamation of HBI.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(False Light)

26. HBI incorporates paragraphs 1 through 25 as if fully stated herein.

27. By posting the false and defamatory statements listed in paragraph 20,

defendants intentionally gave publicity to matters concerning HBI that placed HBI in a false

light before the public.

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COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL Page 5

- 28. The false light in which defendants placed HBI would be highly offensive to a reasonable person.
- 29. Defendants had knowledge of or acted in reckless disregard as to the falsity of the statements listed in paragraph 20 and of the false light in which HBI would be placed.
- 30. As a result of defendants' actions, HBI has suffered general damages in the form of loss of reputation in an amount to be determined at trial, but in any event, not less than \$500,000.
- 31. As a result of defendants' actions, HBI has suffered economic damages in an amount to be determined at trial, but in any event, not less than \$834,732.
- 32. Defendants' false statements are still available to the general public on the SOTT website and are easily found through internet searches relating to HBI. Defendants' conduct causes HBI irreparable harm, and HBI is entitled to an injunction preventing defendants' continued placement of HBI in a false light.

#### THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

# (Intentional Interference with Economic Relations – Interference with Business Relationships)

- 33. HBI incorporates paragraphs 1 through 32 as if fully stated herein.
- 34. HBI has ongoing business relationships with its existing customers, who continually purchase HBI's products and attend HBI's yearly retreats. Defendant was not a party to the business relationships between HBI and its customers.
- 35. Defendant intentionally interfered with many of these business relationships by communicating the false and defamatory information listed in paragraph 20 to HBI's customers through the SOTT website.

36. Defendant published this false and distressing information in bad faith, and in

doing so was motivated solely by malice toward HBI, the desire to harm HBI's business, and

to diminish the esteem, respect, goodwill, and confidence in which HBI is held by its

customers.

37. Defendants' interference has harmed HBI's business relationship with many of

its customers by diminishing the esteem, respect, goodwill and confidence in which HBI is

held by its customers.

38. As a result of defendants' interference, HBI has suffered economic damages in

an amount to be proven at trial, but in any event, not less than \$97,299.

As a result of defendants' interference, HBI has also suffered damages in the 39.

form of loss of reputation in an amount to be proven at trial, but in any event, not less than

\$500,000. The injury to HBI's reputation is the kind of injury that should have been

expected as a common and predictable accompaniment of disrupting the prospective business

relationships with which the defendants interfered.

40. Defendants' conduct was malicious and warrants punitive damages in an

amount to be determined at trial.

41. Defendants' false comments are still available to the general public on the

SOTT website, are easily found through internet searches relating to HBI, and continue to

interfere with HBI's business relationships. Defendants' conduct causes HBI irreparable

harm, and HBI is entitled to an injunction preventing defendants' interference with HBI's

prospective business relationships.

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COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL Page 7

FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Intentional Interference With Economic Relations – Prospective Economic Advantage)

42. HBI incorporates paragraphs 1 through 41 as if fully stated herein.

43. HBI conducts its sales through a combination of various media, and had a

prospective business relationship with many potential customers. Defendants were not

parties to the prospective business relationships between HBI and these potential customers.

44. HBI also obtains many of its new customers through the recommendations of

its existing customers, thereby giving HBI a further prospective economic advantage.

Defendant was not a party to the prospective business relationships between HBI and these

potential customers.

45. Defendants intentionally interfered with these prospective business

relationships by communicating the false and defamatory statements listed in paragraph 20 to

the public through the SOTT website.

46. Defendant in bad faith published this false and distressing information, and in

doing so was motivated by malice toward HBI, the desire to harm HBI's business, and the

desire to diminish the esteem, respect, goodwill, and confidence in which HBI is held.

47. Defendant's interference has diminished the esteem, respect, goodwill, and

confidence in which HBI is held by the general public, thereby hindering HBI's ability to

obtain many new customers with whom HBI had a prospective business relationship.

48. Defendant's false and defamatory statements have also diminished the esteem,

respect, goodwill, and confidence in which HBI is held by many of its existing customers.

thereby hindering HBI's ability to obtain new customers through them.

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COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL Page 8

- 49. As a result of defendants' actions, HBI has suffered economic damages in an amount to be proven at trial, but in any event, not less than \$705,000.
- 50. As a result of defendant's interference, HBI has also suffered damages in the form of loss of reputation in an amount to be proven at trial, but in any event, not less than \$500,000. The injury to HBI's reputation is the kind of injury that should have been expected as a common and predictable accompaniment of disrupting the prospective business relationships with which the defendants interfered.
- 51. Defendants' conduct was malicious and warrants punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial.
- 52. Defendants' false comments are still available to the general public on the SOTT website, are easily found through internet searches relating to HBI, and continue to interfere with HBI's prospective business relationships. Defendants' conduct causes HBI irreparable harm, and HBI is entitled to an injunction preventing defendants' continued interference with HBI's prospective business relationships.

WHEREFORE, HBI respectfully requests that judgment in its favor and against defendants be entered as follows:

- A. On its First Claim for Relief, that HBI be awarded general and special damages in amounts to be determined at trial, but in any event, not less than \$1,334,732, and that defendants be enjoined from their continued defamation of HBI.
- B. On its Second Claim for Relief, that HBI be awarded damages in an amount to be determined at trial, but in any event, not less than \$1,334,732, and that defendants be enjoined from continuing to place HBI in a false light.

C. On its Third Claim for Relief, that HBI be awarded damages in an amount to be determined at trial, but in any event, not less than \$597,299 plus punitive

damages, and that defendants be enjoined from their continued interference

with HBI's prospective business relationships.

D. On its Fourth Claim for Relief, that HBI be awarded damages in an amount to

be determined at trial, but in any event, not less than \$1,205,000 plus punitive

damages, and that defendants be enjoined from their continued interference

with HBI's business relationships.

E. That HBI be awarded pre-judgment and post-judgment interest on all damages

recovered;

F. That HBI be awarded its costs and disbursements incurred in this action;

G. That HBI be awarded other and further relief as the Court deems just and

appropriate under the circumstances.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL** 

Harry and David demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.

DATED this 25th day of February, 2008.

BULLIVANT HOUSER BAILEY PC

BY

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Chad M. Colton, OSB #065774

Telephone: 503.228.6351

Attorneys for Higher Balance Institute

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