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17	Plaintiffs in MDL No. 2029	Plaintiffs in MDL No. 2029
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18		ATES DISTRICT COURT
19	NORTHERN DI	ISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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20	IN RE ONLINE DVD RENTAL	Master File No. M:09-CV-2029 PJH
	ANTITRUST LITIGATION	Master File No. MI:09-CV-2029 FJH
21		MDL No. 2029
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24	This document relates to:	BLOCKBUSTER SUBSCRIBERS' CONSOLIDATED AMENDED CLASS
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		ISOLIDATED AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
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1 NOW COME Plaintiffs, DANIEL KAFFER, JASON LAWTON, ALAN LEVY, JUSTIN MEADOWS, ROSEMARY PIERSON, and REBECCA SILVERMAN, for their Complaint brought under Sections 1 and 2 of 2 3 the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1-2, and Sections 4 and 16 of the Clayton Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 15 & 26, for treble damages and injunctive relief, against Defendants Netflix, Inc. 4 5 ("Netflix"), Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. ("Wal-Mart Stores"), and Wal-Mart.com USA LLC 6 ("Walmart.com").

7 Based upon personal knowledge, information, and belief, and the investigation of counsel, Plaintiffs allege as follows: 8

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NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This suit is brought as a class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil 10 Procedure on behalf of a plaintiff Class, defined more fully below, consisting of all persons and entities 11 that paid a subscription fee to Blockbuster, Inc. ("Blockbuster") to rent DVDs through its online rental 12 service, "Blockbuster Online," between August 19, 2005 and the date of class certification (the "Class 13 Period"). 14

15 2. This Complaint does not name Blockbuster as a defendant, nor does it allege that Blockbuster violated the antitrust laws. Rather, Blockbuster's online subscribers were injured when, as 16 a direct, foreseeable, and proximate result of the loss of competition caused by Defendants' anti-17 18 competitive conduct, Blockbuster charged higher prices to its subscribers to its Blockbuster Online 19 services. But for the conduct alleged herein, Blockbuster, as a competitor in this market, would have charged lower prices to Plaintiffs and other members of the Class. Defendants are liable for those 20 injuries to Plaintiffs and other members of the Class. 21

22 3. On or before May 19, 2005, Defendants completed and entered into an illegal 23 anticompetitive agreement (the "Market Allocation Agreement") to divide the markets for sales and online rentals of DVDs in the United States, with the purpose and effect of monopolizing and 24 unreasonably restraining trade, in at least the market for online DVD rentals (the "Online DVD Rental 25 26 Market"). The mechanics of the Market Allocation Agreement, as set forth herein, allowed Defendant 27 Netflix to charge supracompetitive prices to its subscribers. Those supracompetitive prices and the other anticompetitive conduct and effects alleged herein were the proximate cause of Blockbuster 28

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1 charging higher prices in that market than it otherwise would have charged.

4. At the beginning of 2005, Defendants Netflix and Walmart.com, as well as third-party 2 3 Blockbuster, were competing directly in the Online DVD Rental Market. Walmart.com viewed its relatively new online rental program, "Wal-Mart DVD Rentals," as a success, expressing considerable 4 optimism about the future growth of that service. In early January 2005, Walmart.com reduced the 5 6 price of its most popular online DVD rental program, reflecting its plans to expand in that market, which placed further price pressure on Netflix. Facing growing competition from Walmart.com, in 7 January 2005, Netflix CEO Reed Hastings invited Walmart.com CEO John Fleming to dinner for a 8 meeting to discuss their (then) competing businesses. 9

5. Fleming accepted the invitation; that meeting and other communications led to Defendants
 entering the Market Allocation Agreement, pursuant to which Walmart.com agreed to exit the Online
 DVD Rental Market and Netflix agreed not to enter the retail DVD market, but instead to actively
 promote DVD sales by Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com.

14 6. Since entering into the Market Allocation Agreement, neither Wal-Mart Stores nor Walmart.com has rented DVDs online and Netflix has not sold new DVDs. The Market Allocation 15 Agreement served to eliminate all competition (including price competition) between Walmart.com 16 and Netflix in the Online DVD Rental Market, entrench and enhance Defendants' dominant market 17 18 positions, and otherwise cause harm to competition, including enabling both Netflix and Blockbuster 19 to charge higher subscription prices for online DVD rentals than they would have had Defendants not 20 entered into the Agreement. As a direct, proximate, and foreseeable result of Defendants' violations of 21 law, millions of Blockbuster Online subscribers did in fact pay and continue to pay higher subscription prices than they otherwise would have as a result of Defendants' conduct. 22

23

PLAINTIFFS

7. DANIEL KAFFER is an adult individual who resides in San Diego, California. During the
Class Period, Mr. Kaffer directly subscribed to Blockbuster Online for his personal, non-commercial
use and paid Blockbuster fees in connection therewith. The subscription fees Mr. Kaffer paid to
Blockbuster were supracompetitive; they were greater than he would have paid, but for the antitrust

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violations alleged herein. Mr. Kaffer thereby suffered injury in his property, in the form of
 overcharges, injury which the antitrust laws are intended to prevent and remedy.

8. JASON LAWTON is an adult individual who resides in Holmen, Wisconsin. During the Class
 Period, Mr. Lawton directly subscribed to Blockbuster Online for his personal, non-commercial use
 and paid Blockbuster fees in connection therewith. The subscription fees Mr. Lawton paid to
 Blockbuster were supracompetitive; they were greater than he would have paid, but for the antitrust
 violations alleged herein. Mr. Lawton thereby suffered injury in his property, in the form of
 overcharges, injury which the antitrust laws are intended to prevent and remedy.

9 9. ALAN LEVY is an adult individual who resides in Highland Park, Illinois. During the Class
10 Period, Mr. Levy directly subscribed to Blockbuster Online for his personal, non-commercial use and
11 paid Blockbuster fees in connection therewith. The subscription fees Mr. Levy paid to Blockbuster
12 were supracompetitive; they were greater than he would have paid, but for the antitrust violations
13 alleged herein. Mr. Levy thereby suffered injury in his property, in the form of overcharges, injury
14 which the antitrust laws are intended to prevent and remedy.

15 10. JUSTIN MEADOWS is an adult individual who resides in Indianapolis, Indiana. During the
16 Class Period, Mr. Meadows directly subscribed to Blockbuster Online for his personal, non17 commercial use and paid Blockbuster fees in connection therewith. The subscription fees Mr.
18 Meadows paid to Blockbuster were supracompetitive; they were greater than he would have paid, but
19 for the antitrust violations alleged herein. Mr. Meadows thereby suffered injury in his property, in the
20 form of overcharges, injury which the antitrust laws are intended to prevent and remedy.

11. ROSEMARY PIERSON is an adult individual who resides in Yuba City, California. During the
Class Period, Ms. Pierson directly subscribed to Blockbuster Online for her personal, non-commercial
use and paid Blockbuster fees in connection therewith. The subscription fees Ms. Pierson paid to
Blockbuster were supracompetitive; they were greater than she would have paid, but for the antitrust
violations alleged herein. Ms. Pierson thereby suffered injury in her property, in the form of
overcharges, injury which the antitrust laws are intended to prevent and remedy.

27 12. REBECCA SILVERMAN is an adult individual who resides in Deerfield, Illinois. During the
28 Class Period, Ms. Silverman directly subscribed to Blockbuster Online for her personal, non-

1 commercial use and paid Blockbuster fees in connection therewith. The subscription fees Ms. Silverman paid to Blockbuster were supracompetitive; they were greater than she would have paid, but 2 3 for the antitrust violations alleged herein. Ms. Silverman thereby suffered injury in her property, in the form of overcharges, injury which the antitrust laws are intended to prevent and remedy. 4

DEFENDANTS

NETFLIX

7 13. Defendant NETFLIX is a Delaware corporation headquartered at 100 Winchester Circle, Los 8 Gatos, California, 95032. Netflix is publicly traded on the NASDAQ under the symbol NFLX. Its 9 revenues earned from engaging in interstate commerce exceed \$1 billion annually. Through its 10 website, www.netflix.com, Netflix rents DVDs directly to consumers nationwide by charging monthly subscription fees, which entitle customers to rent DVDs pursuant to various subscription plans. Netflix 11 has possessed a market share of at least 75% of the Online DVD Rental Market in the United States, as 12 13 defined herein, at all times during the Class Period.

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WAL-MART

15 14. Wal-Mart Stores. Defendant WAL-MART STORES is the largest retailer in the United States. Wal-Mart Stores is a Delaware corporation headquartered at 702 S.W. 8th Street, Bentonville, 16 Arkansas, 72716. Wal-Mart Stores is publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the 17 18 symbol WMT. Its revenues earned from engaging in interstate and foreign commerce approach \$400 19 Billion annually. Through its retail stores and its website, www.walmart.com, Wal-Mart Stores sells 20 new DVDs directly to consumers nationwide. Wal-Mart Stores sells far more DVDs than any other 21 retailer in the United States, accounting for about 40% of all new DVDs sold to consumers 22 domestically. During fiscal years 2005-2008 combined, it and Walmart.com had revenues in excess of 23 \$25 billion from selling DVDs to consumers. Prior to the Market Allocation Agreement, Wal-Mart 24 Stores' wholly-owned subsidiary Walmart.com competed with Netflix in the Online DVD Rental 25 Market through the "Wal-Mart DVD Rentals" service, which was available on www.walmart.com.

26 15. **Walmart.com.** Defendant WALMART.COM is a California Limited Liability Company with offices at 7000 Marina Boulevard, Brisbane, California, 94005. Its corporate registration with the 27 28 California Secretary of State (as of May 18, 2009) lists its address as 702 S.W. 8th St., Bentonville, AR

72716—the same address as Wal-Mart Stores. It is the online component of Wal-Mart Stores' retail 1 empire that is the leading seller of new DVDs in the United States. 2

3 16. Prior to the conspiracy alleged herein, Walmart.com was also a major competitor of Netflix in the Online DVD Rental Market through the "Wal-Mart DVD Rentals" service, which was available 4 5 on www.walmart.com. While its financials are not publicly reported by Wal-Mart Stores,

6 Walmart.com is ranked as the 14th largest online retailer in the United States. Walmart.com sells new

DVDs directly to consumers nationwide. Consumers who purchase DVDs via www.walmart.com may 7

have them either mailed or otherwise delivered to them directly, or may pick them up at a Wal-Mart 8

Stores retail location via Walmart.com's and Wal-Mart Stores' "Site to Store" program. 9

10 17. Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com. Walmart.com and Wal-Mart Stores are, in essence, 11 operated as a single commercial enterprise and hold themselves out to the public as such, by which

Walmart.com is an internet sales channel for Wal-Mart Stores, rather than being an independent 12

business entity. Wal-Mart Stores is the registrant of the www.walmart.com domain name that is used 13

to sell products and services by Walmart.com. Likewise, Wal-Mart Stores is the registrant of 14

15 www.walmartdvdrentals.com. Wal-Mart Stores' Chief Marketing Officer John Fleming has explained

the relationship between Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com as follows: 16

Walmart.com was set up as a separate company, with outside investors and with Wal-Mart owning a majority. The idea was that Walmart.com was going to tap into customers Wal-Mart didn't have and, in doing so, would defend our position as the world's largest retailer. We saw very quickly that this wasn't how customers viewed the online channel. Within six months, Wal-Mart bought back the outside interest.

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18. Wal-Mart Stores' Active Participation in the Conspiracy. Wal-Mart Stores was actively 21 involved in the conspiracy alleged herein, as alleged more specifically below. For purposes of these 22 allegations, both Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com are active participants in the conspiracy and each 23 is liable for the unlawful conduct alleged herein, with each, among other things, participating in, and 24 benefiting from, the Market Allocation Agreement. Moreover, Wal-Mart Stores directed, ratified, 25 approved, supported, and otherwise aided and abetted Walmart.com's violations of law.

26 19. Wal-Mart Stores had a strong motive to conspire with Netflix. In addition to its interests as 27 the 100% owner of Walmart.com, Wal-Mart Stores had further incentive to enter into the Market

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Allocation Agreement, since it obtains substantial revenues from sales of new DVDs, as well as store
 traffic resulting in the sales of other goods, which would have been threatened by Netflix's entry into
 new DVD sales, and which were enhanced by Netflix's promotion of Wal-Mart Stores and
 Walmart.com through the Market Allocation Agreement.

5 20. In a letter submitted in connection with a prior antitrust case brought against Netflix by 6 other plaintiffs for other alleged violations of law, an assistant general counsel of Wal-Mart Stores, referring specifically to Wal-Mart Stores, wrote of "Wal-Mart's decision to discontinue renting 7 DVDs." Moreover, it was Wal-Mart Stores that announced in part the Market Allocation Agreement, 8 which identifies Wal-Mart Stores, in the "About" section of the press release. The announcement 9 10 quoted John Fleming, at the time both the Chief Marketing Officer of Wal-Mart Stores and the 11 outgoing CEO of Walmart.com still overseeing Walmart.com operations, regarding the Agreement. It explained that Walmart.com's DVD sales are in fact Wal-Mart Stores' "online movie sales business," 12 13 and that, more generally, Wal-Mart Stores' "[o]nline merchandise sales are available at www.walmart.com." 14

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THIRD-PARTY BLOCKBUSTER

16 21. BLOCKBUSTER is a Delaware corporation headquartered at 1201 Elm Street, Dallas, Texas 75270. Blockbuster is publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol BBI. Its 17 18 revenues earned from engaging in interstate and foreign commerce exceed \$5 billion annually. Among 19 other things, Blockbuster operates the leading chain of video rental stores in the United States. In 20 addition, through its internet division, Blockbuster Online, www.blockbusteronline.com, Blockbuster 21 rents DVDs directly to consumers nationwide by charging monthly subscription fees, which entitle 22 customers to rent DVDs pursuant to various subscription plans, including "Total Access," and 23 "Blockbuster-By-Mail." Blockbuster has possessed a market share of around 25% of the Online DVD 24 Rental Market in the United States, as defined herein, during the Class Period.

25 22. Whenever this Complaint refers to a statement or transaction of any corporation or entity,
26 the allegation means that the corporation or entity acted by or through its directors, members, partners,
27 officers, employees, affiliates, or agents, while engaged in the management, direction, control, or
28 conduct of the corporation's or entity's business and acting within its scope of authority.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

2 23. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1332(d) & 1337
3 and 15 U.S.C. §§ 1-2, 15 & 26.

24. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 15, 22 & 26 and pursuant to 28
U.S.C. § 1391(b), (c) & (d), because at all times relevant to the Complaint: (a) Defendants transacted
business, were found, or acted through subsidiaries or agents present in this District; (b) a substantial
part of the events at issue in Plaintiffs' claims occurred in this District; and (c) a substantial portion of
the affected interstate trade and commerce described below has been carried out in this District.

9 25. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because, *inter alia*, Netflix and
10 Walmart.com are headquartered in this State and each of the Defendants has transacted business;
11 maintained continuous and systemic contacts; purposefully availed itself of the benefits of doing
12 business; and committed acts in furtherance of the alleged conspiracy in this State.

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1

INTERSTATE TRADE AND COMMERCE

26. Defendants' conduct has taken place within the flow of, and substantially affected the
interstate commerce of, the United States. By way of example, Defendants have sold and/or rented
DVDs throughout the United States, involving hundreds of millions or billions of dollars in interstate
commerce, and used the instrumentalities of interstate commerce, including interstate wires and the
U.S. mail, to sell and/or to rent DVDs throughout the United States. In addition, Blockbuster has
rented DVDs online throughout the United States, involving millions of dollars in interstate commerce,
including renting DVDs by use of interstate wires and the U.S. mail.

21

RELEVANT MARKET

27. For those claims that may require market definition, the Relevant Market for purposes of
these allegations during the Class Period at least is: the rental of DVDs online by subscription for
delivery by mail in the United States (the "Online DVD Rental Market"). At all relevant times, Netflix
and Blockbuster have been competitors in the Relevant Market. Prior to entering into the Market
Allocation Agreement, Defendants Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com competed in the Relevant
Market.

28. The Market Allocation Agreement, however, is *per se* illegal and requires no allegation of
 market definition.

29. Plaintiffs also allege, in the alternative, that the Market Allocation Agreement is
anticompetitive and illegal under the Rule of Reason. Among other facts alleged herein, the
Defendants' conduct ended competition between direct competitors in the Online DVD Rental Market,
conferred a monopoly upon Netflix in that market and has no pro-competitive benefits.

30. "DVD," as defined herein, refers to a Digital Video Disc or Blu-ray Disc containing
commercially recorded entertainment programs for personal viewing. DVDs are the primary medium
by which movies and other recorded entertainment are distributed in the United States. Revenues on
DVDs far exceed those generated from box office receipts. In addition, DVDs have become a
particularly lucrative means for the distribution of previously aired television programs, surpassing
even television syndication rights as a revenue stream in many instances. As defined herein, "DVD"
does not refer to blank Digital Video Discs, which are used to store or record data.

31. At all relevant times, there have been no reasonably interchangeable substitutes for the
service of online DVD rentals, which is differentiated, from both the demand and the supply side, from
other methods of DVD distribution channels, as well as other methods of entertainment content
delivery.

32. In the Online DVD Rental Market, for a monthly subscription fee, a consumer may rent
DVDs from an online service provider, such as Netflix, Blockbuster Online, or (prior to its exit from
this market) Wal-Mart DVD Rentals.

21 33. Within any given plan, the consumer pays the subscription fee regardless of how many DVDs he or she rents per month. Thus, even a consumer who does not rent a DVD for months still is 22 charged the subscription fee; Netflix CEO Reed Hastings has called this the "gym membership effect." 23 To rent DVDs, consumers fill out a rental "queue" in their online profile, listing in order of preference 24 25 the DVDs they wish to rent. The DVDs are then sent to the consumer's home via U.S. mail. To return the DVD and receive the next DVD in the queue, the consumer inserts the DVD in a prepaid envelope 26 provided with the rental and mails it back; the service provider then mails the next available movie in 27 28 the queue to the consumer.

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34. From the consumer's perspective, online DVD rentals are a differentiated service that is not 1 reasonably interchangeable with in-store video rental. In video rental from stores, consumers drive to 2 3 or otherwise arrive at the store, find (or do not find) what they are looking for, and, for the most part, pay on a per-DVD basis for their selection(s). After the designated rental period, usually depending 4 upon the release date of the DVD, the consumer returns the selection or potentially incurs late fees. 5 6 During the Class Period as alleged herein, these late fees have accounted for as much as 20% of the revenues in traditional video rental stores; there are no late fees or due dates in the Online DVD Rental 7 Market. 8

9 35. There are numerous other practical indicia of the Online DVD Rental Market being a
10 relevant product market, distinct from other forms of video rental, including:

11 A. **Price Competition.** No direct price competition exists between online DVD rental and other forms of video rental, whether in-store, kiosk, video-on-demand, or video 12 downloading, which are not reasonably interchangeable with online DVD rental. For example, online 13 DVD rentals generally are priced on a monthly subscription basis. Within any given plan, the 14 subscription rate is independent of the number of DVDs the customer actually rents in a month. In-15 store DVD rentals, kiosks, and downloading generally are priced on a pay-per-view basis. Also, 16 changes in the price of online rentals do not closely track changes in the price of in-store rentals. The 17 18 pricing of online DVD rentals is generally nationwide in scope and is not affected by local in-store 19 prices and competition. As a result, the pricing of online DVD rentals would generally be the same to a customer, regardless of whether the nearest rental store is two minutes or two hours away. Online 20 21 DVD rentals generally offer additional services, such as movie reviews, customer-specific recommendations based on viewing and preference history, and other metrics of popularity. The cross-22 23 elasticity of demand between these products and services is such that a small but significant non transitory increase in price ("SSNIP") would not cause consumers to switch from online DVD rental to 24 25 in-store rental or any other arguable method of DVD or video distribution, and vice versa.

B. Functional Differences. Online DVD rentals fundamentally differ from instore rentals in that (1) they do not require travel to a store (including a second trip to return the DVD
and potentially multiple trips if the store does not have the DVD in stock at the right time), (2) are

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1 available to anyone with a postal address, regardless of proximity to a store, (3) are primarily subscription-based services, and (4) provide a much wider selection of titles than can a bricks-and-2 3 mortar store—the library of titles available from online service providers has grown over time, now ranging near 100,000 DVDs-often twenty to one-hundred times the selection of titles stocked (not to 4 mention available) at any single video rental store. For these reasons, among others, online and in-5 6 store DVD rentals are not reasonably interchangeable. Likewise, other modes of video distribution, such as kiosk, video-on-demand, and downloading, among other forms, are not reasonably 7 interchangeable with online DVD rentals for a number of reasons, including relative selection and 8 convenience for consumers, pricing, as well as, from the supply perspective, licensing considerations 9 and technological limitations. 10

11 C. **Public and Industry Perceptions.** The online rental market is recognized as a distinct market by the public and the industry, including by Defendants. For example, Defendants 12 13 have confirmed and recognized the existence of a discrete online rental market. In September 2008, Netflix spokesman Steve Swasey told the Wall Street Journal that other types of rental services, such 14 as kiosk and in-store rentals, do not present a direct competitive threat to Netflix explaining, "We see 15 16 kiosks as competing with video stores. They're very new-release centric-that's all they offer-and that's what the stores offer. You're still going to a destination to pick it up, you have to return it, and 17 18 you pay by the day." Mr. Swasey acknowledged that while video downloads may be a competitive 19 force in the future, "[m]ainstream consumers are still happy with DVDs, and probably will be for five 20 to 10 years."

21 36. With DVD being the dominant medium for years to come, the entry of this technology is 22 not timely enough to be considered a competitive force in the relevant market. Indeed, Netflix CEO 23 Reed Hastings has maintained that DVDs will be the dominant medium for movies for perhaps as long as the gasoline engine. He thus has predicted that the competitive threat of internet downloading to 24 online DVD rental is like that of hydrogen powered cars to gasoline powered cars—inconsequential for 25 26 many years to come.

27 37. As recently as April 24, 2009, during Netflix's First Quarter conference call with financial 28 analysts, Hastings said that online DVD and Blu-ray rental will "continue to grow for many years,"

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1 without regard to any advances in video downloading or other modes of content delivery. Hastings went to explain that the "key takeaway" is that "there is still a lot of growth in rental by mail. The 2 3 studios clearly have a vested interest in extending the life of DVD and Blu-ray and that's good for Netflix as well." Hastings observed video kiosks pose no serious competitive threat to Online DVD 4 Rental, explaining that "Despite kiosk growth . . . we had a record quarter and we expect to have a 5 record year because our differentiators continue to be our vast selection-over 100,000 titles-the 6 convenience of mail and streaming, that you don't have to drive anywhere to receive or return a Netflix 7 8 disk, and our unlimited rentals for one flat fee." He also observed that by year's end, in-store rentals, video streaming and DVD sales would be even less of a competitive threat than video kiosks. 9

38. Online DVD rentals are also a separate market from DVD sales. The pricing of DVD sales 10 and online DVD rentals is very different. For example, the price to buy a new DVD depends heavily 11 on how popular it is, including whether it is a new release or how successful the title originally was at 12 the box office or on television. By contrast, online DVD renters generally charge based on a 13 subscription fee, regardless of whether the consumer is renting popular or obscure DVDs. The 14 15 industry and the public perceive online DVD rentals as separate from DVD sales, whether in-store or 16 online. The factors motivating a consumer to buy a DVD are different from those that lead to renting a 17 DVD. The former generally applies to DVDs that the consumer intends to view (either personally, or 18 their family or friends) numerous times. The latter generally applies to DVDs that the consumer 19 intends to view once and then return. DVDs sold at retail have other distinguishing characteristics, such as packaging and special features not available with rentals, which are delivered unadorned in 20 envelopes. In addition, the fact of whether a DVD is new or used is not an issue in rental, but is a 21 significant factor in sales, for used DVDs are sold at a significant discount to their new counterparts. 22 23 DVD sales and online rentals also are not reasonably interchangeable for consumers intending to collect physical DVDs or to give a DVD as a gift. The cross-elasticity of demand between these 24 products and services is such that a SSNIP would not cause consumers to switch from online renting to 25 26 purchasing DVDs, and vice versa.

39. The Geographic Market for the Online DVD Rental Market is the United States. The 27 United States is the only area of effective competition where buyers can turn for alternative sources of .28

supply of Online DVD Rental services. Among other things, shipping costs and transglobal 1 differences in DVD data encoding make it neither practical nor feasible for entities located in other 2 3 countries to rent DVDs to U.S. consumers.

4

MARKET AND MONOPOLY POWER

40. At all relevant times, Netflix dominated the Online DVD Rental Market. Netflix has had an 5 approximate market share of 75% in the Online DVD Rental Market, and is far and away the market 6 leader in the Online DVD Rental Market. As a result of this market share, Netflix has had and 7 continues to have market and monopoly power in the Online DVD Rental Market; it has the power to 8 9 control prices or exclude competition in this Relevant Market.

10 41. Netflix also has the power to control prices or exclude competition in the Relevant Market for other reasons. Specifically, Netflix (a) set subscription prices well in excess of marginal costs, (b) 11 enjoyed high profit margins thereon, (c) sold such subscriptions generally in excess of the competitive 12 price, and (d) would not, with an SSNIP for its online DVD rental subscriptions (or not reducing its 13 prices to match Blockbuster's lower prices during the Class Period), lose sufficient sales to make such 14 a price increase unprofitable. 15

42. Netflix's market and monopoly power is strengthened by the significant barriers to entry in 16 17 the Relevant Market. There have been no significant market entrants in the nearly four years since the 18 announcement of the Market Allocation Agreement, which increased those barriers. Online DVD 19 rental is highly capital intensive. A firm must operate on a large scale to be successful. It requires the possession of a significant number of shipping facilities strategically located throughout the United 20 States to ensure timely delivery. It also requires stocking an extensive inventory of DVDs to maintain 21 the selection of titles that consumers demand. As Netflix CEO Reed Hastings observed, "When you 22 23 think about the barriers to entry to this business, it is subtle because it appears easy. A kid can open a website. But the barriers to profitability are very large." Hastings further noted that "opening a 24 website that does rental is easy. What's hard is [creating] the scale to be able to do it profitably." 25 These barriers are far greater now that they were when Netflix began. Netflix was able to enter on a 26 much smaller scale but a new entrant today would need a much larger scale of operations. 27

28 43. Since the implementation of the Market Allocation Agreement, the Online DVD Rental

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1 Market has been overwhelmingly comprised of only two firms: Netflix and Blockbuster, which 2 possesses nearly all of the remaining 25% of the Online DVD Rental Market that Netflix does not control. Blockbuster's presence does not preclude Netflix's monopoly and market power. Reed 3 Hastings has stated that Blockbuster actually "works very well for us" because it creates "a lot of 4 press," but, from a competitive perspective, it has a "relatively not strong balance sheet and [is] in the 5 business in a small way." A few minor firms have shares of less than 1-2% of the market. During 6 fiscal years 2005-2008 combined, Netflix earned more than \$5 Billion in revenues and nearly \$2 7 Billion in gross profit from renting DVDs to consumers—a margin of nearly 40%. As a result of 8 Netflix's market and monopoly power alleged herein, its subscription fees have been higher than they 9 10 otherwise would have been.

44. Further evidence of Netflix's market and monopoly power is reflected in the 11 anticompetitive effects alleged herein. 12

13

THE ILLEGAL AGREEMENT

14 45. Pre-Agreement Competition in the Online DVD Rental Market from Walmart and 15 Blockbuster Online. In early 2005, Netflix was coming off a year in which competition was growing and its stock price had dropped precipitously. It faced increasing competition from Wal-Mart DVD 16 Rentals and from Blockbuster Online, the latter of which had just entered the Online DVD Rental 17 Market. 18

19 46. Blockbuster Enters and Undercuts Netflix on Price. On August 11, 2004, Blockbuster 20 launched its online DVD rental service, Blockbuster Online. In doing so, Blockbuster undercut Netflix by 10% per month. Shane Evangelist, Blockbuster Vice President and General Manager of 21 Blockbuster Online stated in the formal announcement: "We think now is the opportune time for 22 Blockbuster to enter the online rental business, and we plan to quickly establish ourselves in this arena 23 by aggressively marketing, pricing and combining our online program and in-store capabilities.... To 24 25 this end, the Blockbuster Online monthly fee is currently priced below our biggest competitor for the three-out rental plan." 26

27 47. The Netflix Price Cut. Netflix responded to this new three-firm market by dropping its price to match Blockbuster Online. On October 14, 2004, Netflix announced that it would be dropping. 28

1 the price of its most popular 3-out subscription plan from \$21.99 to \$17.99, which matched 2 Blockbuster Online's price exactly.

3 48. The First Blockbuster Price Cut. The next day, however, Blockbuster's CEO John Antioco told Reuters that Blockbuster Online would lower its monthly subscription rate from \$19.99 to 4 \$17.49 in order to undercut Netflix's price reduction. According to Antioco, but for Netflix's online 5 DVD rental price cut, Blockbuster Online would have been content to keep its price at \$19.99 per 6 month, he explained "We were growing our business at a very nice clip, but would not have elected to 7 lower our prices. Having said that, we are determined that we are not going to be beaten from a 8 9 price/value perspective."

10 49. Taken aback by the difference in price competition inherent in a three-firm versus a twofirm market, Ted Sarandos, Netflix's Chief Content Officer, responded: "This is really new for us. We 11 have to digest a bit before we can make a comment." 12

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50. On October 27, Antioco elaborated on the rationale for the price cut to investment analysts:

3 weeks ago Netflix lowered its monthly subscription price by \$4 to 17.99, and we believe, in spite of what they may say, that it is in direct response to the impact our service was demonstrating it could have on their business. Naturally, we did what any serious competitor would, we responded. We lowered our price to \$17.49, further enriched our in-store coupon offers by making them good for games, as well as movies, and hopefully sent a message to the marketplace that Blockbuster is determined to do what it takes to be the leader in both the online and in-store rental space. Obviously, the question is, can we make money at 17.49. The short answer is, yes.

19 51. The First Walmart Price Cut. Days later, on November 1, 2005, Walmart.com undercut 20 both Netflix and Blockbuster. As reported by the New York Times: "The recent price wars among online DVD rental companies continued yesterday, as Walmart.com, a unit of Wal-Mart Stores, 21 lowered the price for its DVD rental service to \$17.36 a month, from \$18.76.... Walmart's monthly 22 price is now more than 50 cents lower than Netflix's, and about 15 cents lower than Blockbuster's." 23 52. The Second Blockbuster Price Cut. The next month, Blockbuster once again cut its 24 25 prices; this time even more dramatically. In the press release on the price cut, Evangelist announced: "We are lowering our subscription price to \$14.99 a month. For those who subscribe now, this price is 26

guaranteed through January 2006. Existing Blockbuster Online subscribers will enjoy the same 27

guarantee." Evangelist went on to say: 28

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This is not a promotion. We want to make it clear to anyone who is now subscribing to an online service or considering such a service that Blockbuster is committed to being the high-quality, low-cost provider in the online rental space.

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53. Meanwhile, Wal-Mart Stores and its wholly-owned subsidiary Walmart.com, which had 3 established themselves as the leader in new DVD sales, were facing increasing competition from in-4 store and online channels of distribution in new DVD sales, including competition from Amazon.com. 5 6 At the time, Netflix was a significant potential additional competitor, since it had a subscriber base of millions of customers who were also known to be prolific DVD buyers, and the sales and profits of 7 8 Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com stood to suffer if Netflix began selling new DVDs to these 9 customers. Conversely, Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com stood to gain significant additional sales 10 and profits and to gain further market share in the sale of new DVDs if these customers were to make their purchases of new DVDs from them instead. 11

12 54. Walmart.com's success and plans for the online DVD rental business prior to the 13 Agreement. From its beginnings in 2003 through the January 2005 dinner, Walmart.com trumpeted 14 the success of its online DVD rental service. As early as November 2003, Cynthia Lin, a 15 spokeswoman for Walmart.com, observed that "Customers have really been responsive to the convenience of ordering online.... There's definitely a large appetite for this." And, in February 16 17 2004, Walmart.com said it was "seeing superb growth" in Wal-Mart DVD Rentals. By April 2004, 18 Walmart.com said its gains in monthly subscribers were "exceeding expectations." On October 24, 19 2004, only a few months prior to the January dinner, Kevin Swint, Walmart.com's director of 20 entertainment and photo said that Wal-Mart DVD Rentals had "grown beyond our expectations" and 21 that "We're really bullish about this service . . . and our customers are enthusiastic."

55. The recognition of the potential of its DVD rental business also was reflected in the
dramatic expansion of Wal-Mart DVD Rentals during 2004 by the doubling of its capacity and
expressions of plans to continue that expansion in 2005. During 2004, for instance, Wal-Mart DVD
Rentals expanded its DVD selection from 13,000 titles to 20,000 and doubled the number of
distribution centers from 7 to 14. In December 2004, Amy Colella, a spokeswoman for Walmart.com,
said that the business was going to add even more distribution centers the following year, explaining
on December 29, 2004: "It's a viable business for us, with growth potential." During a January 7,

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2005 interview, within days before the January dinner of CEOs Hastings and Fleming, John Fleming
 told CNBC that Wal-Mart DVD Rentals was among its "very good businesses that we're focused on
 developing over the next year or two."

56. The Second Walmart Price Cut. On that same day, January 7, 2005, and less than two 4 weeks after the Blockbuster price cut was announced, Wal-Mart DVD Rentals dropped the price on its 5 most popular DVD rental plan significantly-to \$12.97 per month-creating further price pressure on 6 7 Netflix to reduce its DVD rental prices. In order to respond to the increased competition, Netflix 8 would have been forced to lower its prices and thereby reduce its profits. This increased competition 9 was not good news for Netflix. "Since its core business is online DVD rentals, Netflix might have 10 been the company most threatened by Wal-Mart's push into the sector," as one industry publication then noted. That publication further explained, "Because of its size, buying power and agreements 11 with movie distributors, Wal-Mart could have put significant pricing pressure on Netflix over time, 12 analysts said." This growing price disparity plainly was not good news for Netflix, even though it was 13 14 for consumers.

57. The January Dinner Meeting. Faced with this increasing competition, Reed Hastings, the
Chairman and CEO of Netflix, called John Fleming, then the CEO of Walmart.com, and invited him to
dinner to discuss their companies' (then) competing businesses. Fleming accepted the invitation; they
met in January 2005, "started talking about how we could work together" (according to Hastings), and
embarked upon a scheme that would result in the Market Allocation Agreement.

58. Hastings' Subsequent "Prediction." On April 21, 2005, in Netflix's First Quarter
earnings call with financial analysts, held after the January dinner, but less than one month prior to the
public announcement of the Market Allocation Agreement, Hastings made plain the motive for Netflix
to conspire with Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com:

In terms of profitability over the coming years, the key issue is the number of major competitors. If there are only two major players, Blockbuster and Netflix, the profitability may be substantial like other two-firm entertainment markets. If, on the other hand, Amazon, Wal-Mart, Blockbuster and Netflix are all major competitors in online rental, then the profits would likely be small.

27 Hastings went on to "predict" on that conference call:

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28 [T]he likely case is [that] online rental becomes a two-firm market over the coming years.

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1 59. The Public Announcement. On May 19, 2005, shortly after Fleming had been promoted 2 by Wal-Mart Stores from his position at Walmart.com in Brisbane to be the Chief Marketing Officer of Wal-Mart Stores in Bentonville, Defendants issued a joint press release that revealed the existence of 3 the Market Allocation Agreement. By entering into the Market Allocation Agreement, Defendants 4 unlawfully divided and allocated the markets for DVD sales and rentals, and did, in fact, create the 5 two-firm market that Hastings sought. Recognizing the tremendous benefits that this improper 6 agreement would bring them, Hastings admitted that "This agreement bolsters both Netflix's 7 leadership in DVD movie rentals and Wal-Mart's strong movie sales business." 8

60. The Media's Reaction. The news of the agreement was featured in a number of
newspapers and other publications, in articles with aptly colorful titles, such as:

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"Wal-Mart and Netflix Scratch Each Other's Backs,"

- "Truce in DVD-Rental Wars,"
- "Wal-Mart and Netflix: An Alliance," and
- "Wal-Mart Loves Netflix: And Vice-Versa."

15 61. The Execution. Beginning on May 19, 2005, Walmart.com, as agreed, did in fact exit the Online DVD Rental Market. Walmart.com announced to all of the subscribers to Wal-Mart DVD 16 17 Rentals that it was exiting the Relevant Market and that those subscribers could be transferred to Netflix. Walmart.com took additional steps to affirmatively implement the Market Allocation 18 19 Agreement by adding a prominently placed link to the Netflix website to encourage customers to transfer their subscriptions to and otherwise rent from Netflix. Since the date of their joint 20 announcement on May 19, 2005 (apart from the 30 days that Walmart.com used to wind down its 21 22 existing online rental business), neither Walmart.com nor Wal-Mart Stores has participated in the 23 Online DVD Rental Market, and Netflix has not sold new DVDs.

62. As a result of the Market Allocation Agreement, downward pricing pressure from
Walmart.com was eliminated and the Online DVD Rental Market was reduced to two competitors.
Absent the Market Allocation Agreement, Netflix would have lowered its prices no later than May 19,
2005. As a result of the elimination of a competitor in this Relevant Market, Netflix was able to hold
its subscription rate steady at \$17.99 per month and its only competitor left, Blockbuster, was able to

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raise its subscription price in July to match that of Netflix, from \$14.99 per month to \$17.99 per
 month. This was in accord with Hastings' expectation that "[i]f there are only two major players,
 Blockbuster and Netflix, the profitability may be substantial like other two-firm entertainment
 markets." As one business publication proclaimed: "That's one less competitor for the DVD rental
 pioneer Now it looks like the competitive storm is dying down." In Netflix's next earnings call,
 on July 25, 2005, Hastings boasted:

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Last quarter we said online rental was shaping up to be a two-player market, and that is indeed what is happening.

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9 63. The Market Allocation Agreement was not in the independent self-interest of Wal-Mart 10 Stores, Walmart.com, or Netflix. Neither Wal-Mart Stores nor Walmart.com would have wanted 11 Walmart.com to withdraw from the online rental market, encourage its subscribers to be transferred to 12 Netflix, and promote Netflix's rental business absent substantial consideration from Netflix, such as an 13 agreement not to compete for new DVD retail sales. But for the Market Allocation Agreement, 14 Walmart.com would not have exited the Online DVD Rental Market when it did. Likewise, Netflix 15 would not have foreclosed its opportunity to sell DVDs to its millions of subscribers-a base of 16 customers who purchase on average 25 DVDs per year each-and would not have promoted new DVD 17 sales by Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com, rather than its own sales, absent an agreement from them 18 not to compete against Netflix's online rental business.

19 64. Walmart.com's exit from the Online DVD Rental Market was not a unilateral decision. It 20 was a key element of the Market Allocation Agreement as set forth herein. First, Walmart.com's exit 21 was expressly part of the Market Allocation Agreement with Netflix that directly stemmed from the 22 meeting between the two companies' CEOs. Prior to that Agreement, Walmart.com had not 23 announced anything about exiting this market. Second, as detailed above, shortly prior to the January 24 dinner Walmart.com repeatedly described its success in the online DVD rental business and expressed 25 its intention to continue and expand in that business. Its conduct after the January meeting thus 26 represents a sudden and sharp reversal in its plans. Third, Walmart.com cut its price shortly before the 27 January dinner. It would not have done so had it planned to exit the Online DVD Rental Market. Such

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a price cut only makes sense if Walmart.com planned to remain a long-term competitor in that market.
 Fourth, the fact that the dinner was initiated by Reed Hastings right around the time of Walmart.com's
 price cut and numerous announcements of its intention to continue and expand its online DVD rental
 business, contradicts any assertion that the dinner stemmed from a unilateral decision by Walmart.com
 to exit the market.

6 65. Single agreement. The conduct alleged herein constitutes a single overarching conspiracy
7 consisting of both the terms that were publicly announced as well as the other aspects of the Market
8 Allocation Agreement.

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ANTICOMPETITIVE EFFECTS

66. Defendants' illegal acts and practices have caused anticompetitive effects in the Online
DVD Rental Market. The subscription fees charged by Netflix were maintained at artificially high and
supracompetitive levels. As one industry publication reported at the time of the Agreement, "[b]ecause
of its size, buying power and agreements with movie distributors, Wal-Mart could have put significant
pricing pressure on Netflix over time, analysts said."

67. The Market Allocation Agreement (i) eliminated one of only three significant competitors
in the Relevant Market, (ii) eliminated competition between Defendants, and (iii) enabled Netflix to
acquire market power and also acquire and maintain monopoly power in the Relevant Market. The
Market Allocation Agreement has enabled Netflix to implement monopolistic and supracompetitive
pricing in the Relevant Market.

20 68. The Market Allocation Agreement and Defendants' acts and practices in furtherance thereof directly, proximately and foreseeably caused Blockbuster to charge higher prices than it otherwise 21 22 would have charged to Plaintiffs and other members of the Class. The elimination of Walmart.com, a 23 low-priced competitor, allowed and caused both Netflix and Blockbuster to charge higher prices than they otherwise would have charged, and they both did in fact charge such higher prices to Plaintiffs 24 25 and the Class. A market from which Walmart.com did not exit and in which Walmart.com continued 26 to compete would not have permitted Netflix and Blockbuster profitably to take price increases and 27 would have correspondingly resulted in lower prices compared with the prices that resulted from the Market Allocation Agreement. 28

1 69. Blockbuster's Change in Prices Resulting from the Execution of the Market 2 Allocation Agreement. Once Wal-Mart DVD Rentals was closed, Netflix was now the only 3 competition in the market and was priced 20% higher than Blockbuster Online for the three DVDs out at a time subscription plan. This provided Blockbuster with the opportunity and incentive to raise its 4 price to the artificially high levels set by reason of the elimination of Wal-Mart DVD Rentals from the 5 marketplace. Indeed, on August 5, The Hollywood Reporter predicted that "Blockbuster might boost 6 the price of its flagship service from \$14.99 to \$17.99 as early as next week, putting it in line with 7 Netflix's most popular price option." 8

9 70. Days later, and just weeks after Wal-Mart DVD Rentals closed, on August 9, Blockbuster 10 Online announced that it would be raising the subscription price of its most popular three-out plan from \$14.99 per month to \$17.99 per month—the very same price charged by Netflix. As the 11 Associated Press reported on the Blockbuster Online price increase, with the Online DVD Rental 12 13 Market growing, "Blockbuster moved to take advantage of that island of strength yesterday by raising its monthly price for renting three movies at a time from \$14.99 to \$17.99, matching the higher price 14 charged by rival Netflix, Inc." Reuters heralded the price hike as a "sign of worsening competition" in 15 the marketplace. 16

71. Other plans offered by Blockbuster either had price increases shortly after the May 19, 17 2005 announcement or would have had price decreases but-for the Market Allocation Agreement. The 18 19 elimination of Walmart.com as a competitor allowed and caused Blockbuster and Netflix to continue 20 charging higher prices than they otherwise would have charged but-for the Market Allocation 21 Agreement. All of this was a proximate and foreseeable result of the Market Allocation Agreement.

22 72. The Market Allocation Agreement and Defendants' acts and practices in furtherance 23 thereof have no procompetitive benefits. The co-promotion aspects of the Agreement do not create information that consumers need, nor do they create new or better products or services. Rather, they 24 25 have served to reinforce the true anticompetitive nature of the Market Allocation Agreement by 26 assuring, for example, that Walmart.com not only withdrew from the Online DVD Rental Market, but 27 further enhanced Netflix's position in that market. Even if there were any such benefits, they would 28 not outweigh any of the anticompetitive effects described herein, and, in any event, could be achieved

1 by less restrictive means.

2	73. Defendants' market allocation scheme is a naked restraint of trade; it was not and is not
3	ancillary to any legitimate business collaboration. Rather, the market allocation scheme was a core
4	activity of the Market Allocation Agreement itself. The co-promotion aspects of the Agreement were a
5	means to reinforce the market allocation. To the extent that those aspects were portrayed as the sole
6	reason for the Market Allocation Agreement, that portrayal was misleading and pretextual, allowing
7	Defendants' market allocation conspiracy to escape scrutiny and "hide in plain sight."
8	CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS
9	74. Plaintiffs bring this action on their own behalf and as a class action under Rules
10	23(a), 23(b)(2), and 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on behalf of all members of the
11	following Class:
12	Any person or entity in the United States that paid a subscription fee to Blockbuster to subscribe to Blockbuster Online on or after August 19, 2005 up to and including
13	the date of class certification.
14	Excluded from the Class are government entities, Defendants, their co-conspirators, Reed Hastings, John Fleming, Defendants' subsidiaries, corporate affiliates, and
.15	counsel in this action, as well as Blockbuster, and its subsidiaries, affiliates and counsel in this action. Also excluded are persons who subscribed to Walmart.com's online
16	DVD rental program as of May 19, 2005. Also excluded are the Judge presiding over this action, her law clerks, her spouse, and any person within the third degree of
17	relationship living in the Judge's household and the spouse of such a person.
18	75. The Class numbers in the millions, the exact number and identities of the members being
19	known by Blockbuster. At all times during the Class Period, Blockbuster Online had more than one
20	million subscribers.
21	76. The Class is so numerous and geographically dispersed that joinder of all members is
22	impracticable.
23	77. There are questions of law and fact common to the Class and the members
24	thereof. These common questions relate to the existence of the conspiracy alleged, and to the type
25	and common pattern of injuries sustained as a result thereof. The questions include, but are not
26	limited to:
27	a. Whether Defendants engaged in a contract, combination, or conspiracy to
HOWREY LLP	allocate markets;
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1	b.	Whether Defendants unreasonably restrained trade in the Online DVD Rental Market;	
2	с.	Whether Defendants had the specific intent for Netflix to monopolize the Online DVD Rental Market;	
4	d.	The nature and character of the acts performed by Defendants in the furtherance of the alleged contract, combination, and conspiracy;	
5 6	e.	Whether Blockbuster charged higher prices than it otherwise would have charged as a proximate consequence of Defendants' conduct alleged herein;	
7	f.	Whether the alleged contract, combination, and conspiracy violated Section 1 of the Sherman Act;	
8 9	g.	Whether the alleged contract, combination, and conspiracy and other conduct violated Section 2 of the Sherman Act;	
10	h.	The anticompetitive effects of Defendants' violations of law;	
11 12	i.	Whether Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief with respect to the Class as a whole; and	
12 13 14	ј.	Whether the conduct of Defendants, as alleged in this Complaint, caused injury to the business and property of Plaintiffs and other members of the Class.	
15	78. The quest	ions of law and fact common to the members of the Class predominate over any	
16	questions affecting only individual members, including the legal and factual issues relating to		
17	liability and damages.		
18	79. Each Plaintiff is a member of the Class. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the		
19	claims of other members of the Class, and they will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the		
20	members of the Class. Their interests are aligned with, and not antagonistic to, those of the other		
21	members of the Class.		
22	80. Plaintiffs are represented by counsel who are competent and experienced in class action		
23	antitrust litigation.		
24	81. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient		
25	adjudication of this c	ontroversy. Class treatment will permit the adjudication of relatively small	
26	claims by members	claims by members of the Class who otherwise could not afford to litigate antitrust claims such as	
27	are asserted in this C	Complaint. This class action presents no difficulties of management that would	
.28	preclude its mainten	ance as a class action.	
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ANTITRUST INJURY AND STANDING

82. During the Class Period, Plaintiffs and the members of the Class have directly paid

3	monthly DVD subscription fees to Blockbuster in the United States, and many continue to do so.
4	83. Plaintiffs and the members of the Class have suffered, and many continue to suffer, injury
5	of the type that the antitrust laws are designed to punish and prevent. Plaintiffs and the members of
6	the Class have directly paid, and many continue to directly pay, more to subscribe to
7	Blockbuster than they would have, absent the Market Allocation Agreement.
. 8	84. As a direct and proximate result of the unreasonable restraint of trade and market and
9	monopoly power created by the Market Allocation Agreement, which is continuing to this day,
10	Plaintiffs and the members of the Class were, and many continue to be, injured and financially
11	damaged in their businesses and property, in amounts that are not presently determined. Plaintiffs
12	are direct victims of Defendants' antitrust violations.
13	85. The Market Allocation Agreement was a material cause of Plaintiffs' injuries, which were
14	inextricably intertwined with the injuries suffered by Netflix subscribers resulting from the overall
15	harm to competition in the Online DVD Rental Market caused by Defendants' antitrust violations.
16	86. This Complaint seeks damages for subscription fees paid to Blockbuster Online.
17	Plaintiffs will efficiently enforce the antitrust laws to remedy their injuries and damages, which are
18	distinct from those suffered by Netflix subscribers. This Complaint does not seek damages for
19	subscription fees paid to Netflix, or passed on by Netflix subscribers.
20	COUNT ONE
21	SHERMAN ACT SECTION ONE (15 U.S.C. § 1) Market Allocation of Online DVD Rental Market
22	(Against All Defendants)
23	87. Plaintiffs reallege each allegation set forth above, as if fully set forth herein.
24	88. Defendants have entered into a <i>per se</i> illegal market division agreement, in violation of
25	Section 1 of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1.
26	89. In the alternative, if evaluated under the Rule of Reason, the Market Allocation Agreement
27	is an unreasonable restraint of trade in violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. §
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	BLOCKBO21EK 20R2CKIBEK2 CON2OLIDATED AMENDED CLA22 ACTION COMPLAINT

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1 90. Prior to and at the time of the agreement, Netflix and Walmart.com were actual competitors 2 in the Online DVD Rental Market. In addition, Netflix was a potential competitor of Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com in new DVD sales. Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com were actual participants and 3 Netflix was a potential participant, with the means and economic incentive to sell new DVDs-in the 4 absence of the Market Allocation Agreement. 5

91. Defendants shared a conscious commitment to a common scheme designed to achieve the 6 unlawful objective of allocating the markets for online DVD rentals and new DVD sales. The Market 7 8 Allocation Agreement allocated the Online DVD Rental Market to Netflix, with Wal-Mart Stores and 9 Walmart.com agreeing not to compete in that market. The agreement also allocated new DVD sales to 10 Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com, with Netflix agreeing to refrain from selling new DVDs in competition with them. 11

12 92. In addition to explicitly or *de facto* agreeing not to sell new DVDs, Netflix also obtained the Market Allocation Agreement by providing potentially valuable promotion to Wal-Mart Stores and 13 Walmart.com. In so doing, Netflix provided significant consideration to Wal-Mart Stores and 14 15 Walmart.com for their agreement that Walmart.com would withdraw from, and both Walmart.com and Wal-Mart Stores would not compete in, the Online DVD Rental Market. 16

17 93. The Market Allocation Agreement has created significant anticompetitive effects and no pro-competitive benefits. It eliminated competition in the Relevant Market, raising prices paid by 18 19 consumers. To the extent that there were any procompetitive benefits resulting from the agreement, 20 they would not outweigh the agreement's anticompetitive effects and could have been achieved by less restrictive means. 21

22 94. As a result of this violation of law, Blockbuster's online subscription prices charged to, and paid by, Plaintiffs and the Class are, and have been, higher than they otherwise would have been. 23

COUNT TWO

SHERMAN ACT SECTION TWO (15 U.S.C. § 2) Monopolization of Online DVD Rental Market (Against Netflix)

95. Plaintiffs reallege each allegation set forth above, as if fully set forth herein.

96. Netflix has monopoly power in the Online DVD Rental Market. 28

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97. Netflix willfully acquired and maintained its monopoly in the Online DVD Rental Market		
by its acts and practices described herein, including by executing, implementing, and otherwise		
complying with the Market Allocation Agreement, in violation of Section 2 of the Sherman Antitrust		
Act, 15 U.S.C. § 2. That monopolization was achieved or strengthened through restrictive or		
exclusionary conduct, rather than by means of superior business acumen. It was Netflix's conscious		
object to further its dominance in the relevant market by and through the Market Allocation		
Agreement.		
98. As a result of this violation of law, Blockbuster's online subscription prices charged to, and		
paid by, Plaintiffs and the Class are, and have been, higher than they otherwise would have been.		
COUNT THREE		
SHERMAN ACT SECTION TWO (15 U.S.C. § 2)		
Attempt to Monopolize Online DVD Rental Market (Against Netflix)		
99. Plaintiffs reallege each allegation set forth above, as if fully set forth herein.		
100. If Netflix does not already have monopoly power, then Netflix has a dangerous		
probability of success in achieving monopoly power in the Online DVD Rental Market.		
101. With the specific intent to achieve a monopoly, Netflix, by its acts and practices		
described herein, including by executing, implementing, and otherwise complying with the Market		
Allocation Agreement, has attempted to monopolize the Online DVD Rental Market, in violation of		
Section 2 of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. § 2. It was Netflix's conscious object to control		
prices and/or exclude competition in the relevant market.		
102. As a result of this violation of law, Blockbuster's online subscription prices charged to,		
and paid by, Plaintiffs and the Class are, and have been, higher than they otherwise would have been.		
COUNT FOUR		
SHERMAN ACT SECTION TWO (15 U.S.C. § 2) Conspiracy to Monopolize Online DVD Rental Market		
(Against All Defendants)		
103. Plaintiffs reallege each allegation set forth above, as if fully set forth herein.		
104. Defendants shared a conscious commitment to a common scheme designed to achieve		
the unlawful objective of the monopolization of the Online DVD Rental Market. Prior to and at the		
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· 1	time of the A	greeme	nt, Netflix and Walmart.com were actual competitors in that market.
2	105.	Defen	idants conspired with the specific intent, knowledge and purpose that their
3	anticompetitive agreement would result in Netflix willfully acquiring and maintaining a monopoly in		
4	the Relevant	Market.	. Wal-Mart Stores and Walmart.com knew that the natural and probable
5	consequence	of the N	Market Allocation Agreement would be the monopolization of the Relevant
6	Market by No	etflix.	
. 7	106.	Defer	idants have committed overt acts in furtherance of their conspiracy, including
8	entering into	, comply	ying with, and implementing the Market Allocation Agreement, in violation of
9	Section 2 of	the Shei	rman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. § 2.
10	107.	As a 1	result of this violation of law, Blockbuster's online subscription prices charged to,
11	and paid by,	Plaintif	fs and the Class are, and have been, higher than they otherwise would have been.
12			PRAYER FOR RELIEF
13	WHE	REFOF	RE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that:
14 15		А.	The Court determine that this action may be maintained as a class action under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and that Plaintiffs be appointed class representatives.
16		B.	Defendants be adjudged to violate Sections 1 and 2 of the Sherman Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1-2.
17 18		С.	The Court declare the Market Allocation Agreement between Defendants announced May 19, 2005, to be unlawful and null and void.
19		D.	Judgment be entered for Plaintiffs and the members of the Class against
20			Defendants, jointly and severally, for three times the amount of damages sustained by Plaintiffs and the Class, under Section 4 of the Clayton Antitrust
21			Act, 15 U.S.C. § 15, together with the costs of the action, including reasonable attorneys' fees, and such other relief as is appropriate.
22		E.	Defendants, their affiliates, successors, transferees, assignees, and the officers, directors, partners, agents and employees thereof, and all other persons acting or
23			claiming to act on their behalf, be permanently enjoined and restrained from, in any manner, continuing, maintaining or renewing the contract, combination or
24			conspiracy alleged herein, or from engaging in any other contract, combination or conspiracy having similar purpose or effect, and from adopting or following
25			any practice, plan, program or device having a similar purpose or effect, pursuant to Section 16 of the Clayton Antitrust Act, 15 U.S.C. § 26.
26		F.	Plaintiffs and the members of the Class have such other, further, and different
27		_ •	relief as the case may require and the Court may deem just and proper under the circumstances.
	Sec. 1		and the second
HOWREY LLP		BLC	-27- CKBUSTER SUBSCRIBERS' CONSOLIDATED AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

· 1	JURY DEMAND
2	Pursuant to Rule 38(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiffs demand a jury trial of
3	all issues triable by jury.
4	DATED: July 16, 2009
5	Respectfully Submitted,
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