

1 Robert Tauler (SBN 241964)
robert@taulersmith.com
2 Narain Kumar, Esq. (SBN 301533)
nkumar@taulersmith.com
3 TAULER SMITH LLP
626 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 550
4 Los Angeles, California 90017
Tel: (213) 927-9270
5

6 *Attorneys for Plaintiff*
Travis Rounds
7

8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

10 TRAVIS ROUNDS, individually and
11 on behalf of all others similarly
situated,

12
13 Plaintiff,

14 vs.

15 PUMA NORTH AMERICA, INC., a
16 Massachusetts corporation; and
DOES 1 through 25, inclusive,

17 Defendants.
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

Case No.

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
FOR:**

- 1. **VIOLATIONS OF THE
CALIFORNIA TRAP AND
TRACE LAW (CAL. PENAL
CODE § 638.51)**

JURISDICTION

1
2 1. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to
3 the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2), because the total
4 matter in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000 and there are over 100 members of the
5 proposed class. Further, at least one member of the proposed class is a citizen of a
6 State within the United States and at least one defendant is the citizen or subject of
7 a foreign state.

8 2. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because, on
9 information and belief, Defendant has purposefully directed its activities to the
10 Central District of California by regularly engaging with individuals in California
11 through its website. Defendant’s illegal conduct is directed at and harms California
12 residents, including Plaintiff, and if not for Defendant’s contact with the forum,
13 Plaintiff would not have suffered harm.

14 3. Venue is proper in the Central District of California pursuant to 28
15 U.S.C. § 1391 because Defendant (1) is authorized to conduct business in this
16 District and has intentionally availed itself of the laws and markets within this
17 District; (2) does substantial business within this District; (3) is subject to personal
18 jurisdiction in this District because it has availed itself of the laws and markets
19 within this District; and the injury to Plaintiff occurred within this District.

PARTIES

20
21 4. Plaintiff Travis Rounds (“Plaintiff”) is a citizen of California residing
22 within the Central District of California.

23 5. Defendant PUMA North America, Inc. (“Defendant” or “PUMA”) is
24 Massachusetts corporation that owns, operates, and/or controls www.puma.com, an
25 online platform that sells shoes and clothing.

26 6. The above-named Defendant, along with its affiliates and agents, are
27 collectively referred to as “Defendants.” The true names and capacities of the
28

1 Defendants sued herein as DOE DEFENDANTS 1 through 25, inclusive, are
2 currently unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sues such Defendants by fictitious
3 names. Each of the Defendants designated herein as a DOE is legally responsible
4 for the unlawful acts alleged herein. Plaintiff will seek leave of Court to amend the
5 Complaint to reflect the true names and capacities of the DOE Defendants when
6 such identities become known.

7 7. Plaintiff is informed and believes that at all relevant times, every
8 Defendant was acting as an agent and/or employee of each of the other Defendants
9 and was acting within the course and scope of said agency and/or employment with
10 the full knowledge and consent of each of the other Defendants, and that each of
11 the acts and/or omissions complained of herein was ratified by each of the other
12 Defendants.

13 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

14 8. PUMA North America, Inc. is the proprietor of www.puma.com, an
15 online platform that sells shoes and clothing.

16 9. Defendant has installed on its Website software created by TikTok in
17 order to identify website visitors (the “TikTok Software”).

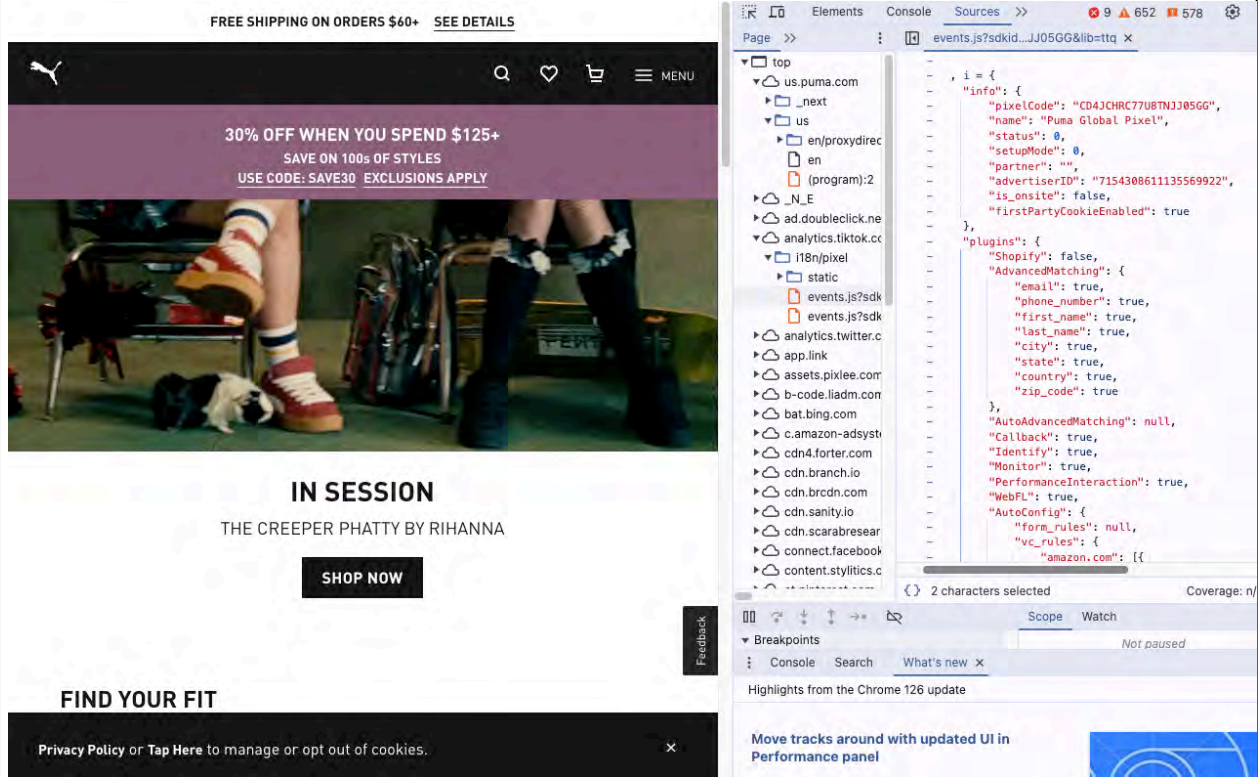
18 10. The TikTok Software acts via a process known as “fingerprinting.”
19 Put simply, the TikTok Software collects as much data as it can about an otherwise
20 anonymous visitor to the Website and matches it with existing data TikTok has
21 acquired and accumulated about hundreds of millions of Americans.

22 11. The TikTok Software gathers device and browser information,
23 geographic information, referral tracking, and url tracking by running code or
24 “scripts” on the Website to send user details to TikTok.

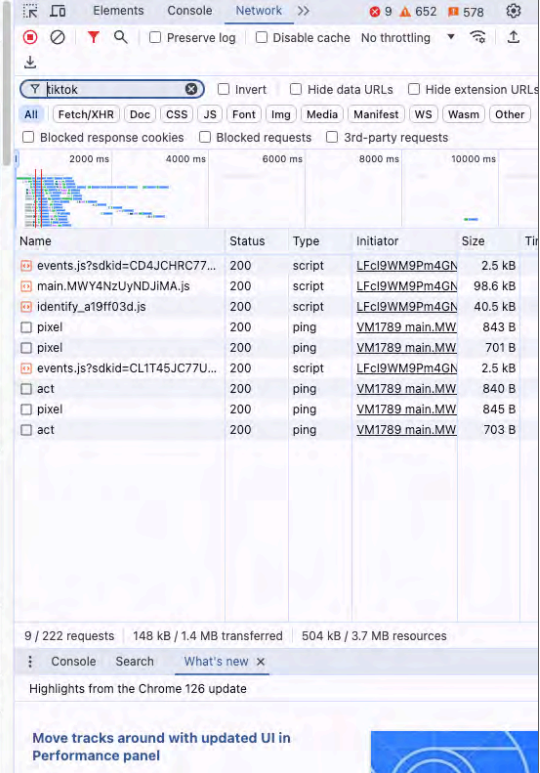
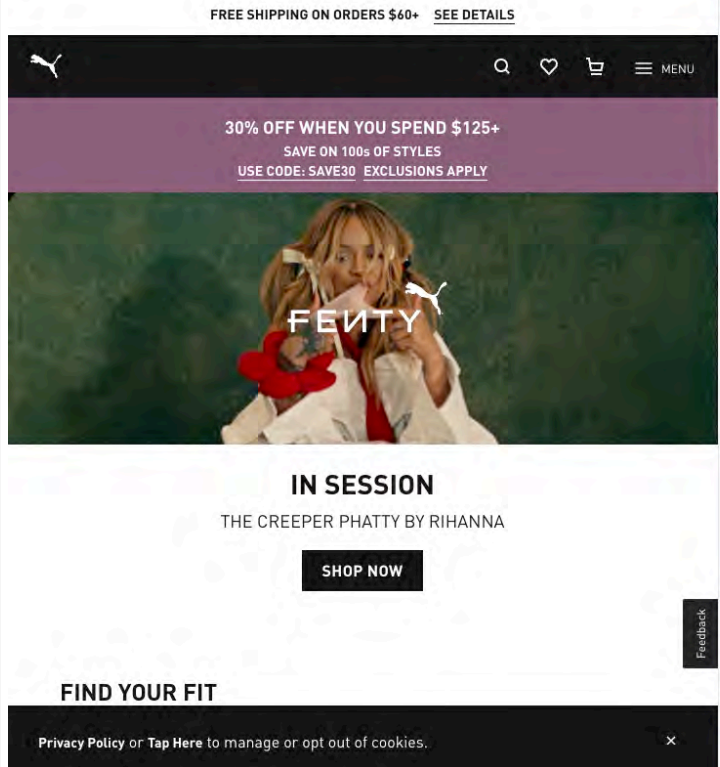
25 12. The TikTok Software begins to collect information the moment a user
26 lands on the Website. Thus, even though the Website has a “cookie banner” the
27 information has already been sent to TikTok regarding the user’s visit.

1 13. Additionally, since PUMA has decided to use TikTok’s
2 “AutoAdvanced Matching” technology, TikTok scans every website for
3 information, such as name, date of birth, and address, the information is sent
4 simultaneously to TikTok, so that TikTok can isolate with certainty the individual
5 to be targeted.

6 14. The TikTok Software runs on virtually every page of PUMA’s
7 website, sending to TikTok images of website user’s interest in Defendant’s
8 services. An image of the code, as it appears side by side (and simultaneously)
9 with the TikTok AutoAdvanced Matching tracking code PUMA has placed on the
10 page, can be seen here:



21 15. The PUMA website instantly sends communications to TikTok when
22 a user lands, and every time a user clicks on a page. In the examples below, the
23 right side of the image shows the various TikTok scripts being run by Defendant,
24 and the electronic impulses being sent to TikTok to add to their collection of user
25 behavior.
26
27
28



16. California Penal Code § 638.50(c). California law defines a “trap and trace device” as “a device or process that captures the incoming electronic or other impulses that identify the originating number or other dialing, routing, addressing, or signaling information reasonably likely to identify the source of a wire or electronic communication, but not the contents of a communication.” California Penal Code § 638.50(c).

17. The TikTok Software is a process to identify the source of electronic communication by capturing incoming electronic impulses and identifying dialing, routing, addressing, and signaling information generated by users, who are never informed that the website is collaborating with the Chinese government to obtain their phone number and other identifying information.

18. The TikTok Software is “reasonably likely” to identify the source of incoming electronic impulses. In fact, it is designed solely to meet this objective.

1 19. Defendant did not obtain Class Members’ express or implied consent
2 to be subjected to data sharing with TikTok for the purposes of fingerprinting and
3 de-anonymization.

4 20. CIPA imposes civil liability and statutory penalties for the installation
5 of trap and trace software without a court order. California Penal Code § 637.2; see
6 also, *Greenley v. Kochava*, 2023 WL 4833466, at *15-*16 (S.D. Cal. July 27,
7 2023).

8 21. Defendant did not obtain Class Members’ express or implied consent
9 to be subjected to data sharing with TikTok for the purposes of fingerprinting and
10 de-anonymization.

11 **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

12 22. Plaintiff brings this action individually and on behalf of all others
13 similarly situated (the “Class”) defined as follows:

14 **All persons within California who within the statute of**
15 **limitations period: (1) communicated with Defendant via**
16 **the chat feature on Defendant’s Website using cellular or**
17 **landline telephony, and (2) whose communications were**
18 **recorded and/or eavesdropped upon without prior consent.**

19 23. NUMEROSITY: Plaintiff does not know the number of Class
20 Members but believes the number to be in the thousands, if not more. The exact
21 identities of Class Members may be ascertained by the records maintained by
22 Defendant.

23 24. COMMONALITY: Common questions of fact and law exist as to all
24 Class Members, and predominate over any questions affecting only individual
25 members of the Class. Such common legal and factual questions, which do not
26 vary between Class members, and which may be determined without reference to
27
28

1 the individual circumstances of any Class Member, include but are not limited to
2 the following:

- 3 a. Whether Defendant caused electronic communications from
4 class members with the Website to be recorded, intercepted,
5 and/or monitored;
- 6 b. Whether Defendant aided and abetted a third party in
7 eavesdropping on such communications;
- 8 c. Whether Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to statutory
9 penalties; and
- 10 d. Whether Class Members are entitled to injunctive relief.

11 25. TYPICALITY: As a person who visited Defendant’s Website and
12 whose electronic communication was recorded, intercepted and eavesdropped
13 upon, Plaintiff is asserting claims that are typical of the Class.

14 26. ADEQUACY: Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests
15 of the members of The Class. Plaintiff has retained attorneys experienced in the
16 class action litigation. All individuals with interests that are actually or potentially
17 adverse to or in conflict with the class or whose inclusion would otherwise be
18 improper are excluded.

19 27. SUPERIORITY: A class action is superior to other available methods
20 of adjudication because individual litigation of the claims of all Class Members is
21 impracticable and inefficient. Even if every Class Member could afford individual
22 litigation, the court system could not. It would be unduly burdensome to the courts
23 in which individual litigation of numerous cases would proceed.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Violations of California Trap and Trace Law

Cal. Penal Code § 638.51

1
2
3
4 28. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations contained in every
5 preceding paragraph as if fully set forth herein.

6 29. California Penal Code §638.51 (the “California Trap and Trace Law”)
7 provides that “a person may not install or use...a trap and trace device without first
8 obtaining a court order...” § 638.51(a).

9 30. A “trap and trace device” as “a device or process that captures the
10 incoming electronic or other impulses that identify the originating number or other
11 dialing, routing, addressing, or signaling information reasonably likely to identify
12 the source of a wire or electronic communication, but not the contents of a
13 communication.” California Penal Code § 638.50(c).

14 31. Defendant uses a trap and trace process on its Website by deploying
15 the TikTok Software on its Website, because the software is designed to capture
16 the phone number, email, routing, addressing and other signaling information of
17 website visitors. As such, the TikTok Software is designed precisely to identify the
18 source of the incoming electronic and wire communications to the Website.
19 Defendant did not obtain consent from Plaintiff or any of the class members before
20 using trap and trace technology to identify users of its Website, and has violated
21 Section 638.51.

22 32. CIPA imposes civil liability and statutory penalties for violations of
23 §638.51. California Penal Code § 637.2; see also, *Greenley v. Kochava*, 2023 WL
24 4833466, at *15-*16 (S.D. Cal. July 27, 2023).

PRAYER

25
26 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for the following relief against Defendant:
27
28

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

1. An order certifying the Class, naming Plaintiff as the representative of the Class and Plaintiff’s attorneys as Class counsel;
2. An order declaring Defendant’s conduct violates CIPA;
3. An order of judgment in favor of Plaintiff and the Class against Defendant on the cause of action asserted herein;
4. An order enjoining Defendant’s conduct as alleged herein and any other injunctive relief that the Court finds proper;
5. Statutory damages pursuant to CIPA;
6. Punitive damages;
7. Prejudgment interest;
8. Reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs; and
9. All other relief that would be just and proper as a matter of law or equity, as determined by the Court.

DATED: November 1, 2024

TAULER SMITH LLP

By: /s/ Robert Tauler
 Robert Tauler, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff
Travis Rounds

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff Travis Rounds hereby demands a trial by jury.

DATED: November 1, 2024

TAULER SMITH LLP

By: /s/ Robert Tauler
Robert Tauler, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff
Travis Rounds

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