UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

		ior in	
	Eastern Dis	strict of	Pennsylvania
Richard Bishop	o, et. al.))	
Plaintiff(s,)	- j	
v.)	Civil Action No.
National Footbal	l League)))	
Defendant((s))	
	SUMMONS	S IN A C	CIVIL ACTION
To: (Defendant's name and address)	280 Park Avenue New York, NY 10017 c/o Douglas Burns, Es	quire ND, WHA	ARTON & GARRISON, LLP
A lawsuit has been file	d against you.		
are the United States or a Unite P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must	ed States agency, or an or serve on the plaintiff ar	officer of answer notion mre	not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you remployee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of nust be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney,
If you fail to respond, j You also must file your answer			ered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint.
			CLERK OF COURT
Data			
Date:			Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No.

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (1))

_	☐ I left the summons at	the individual's residence or use	(place) on (date)	
_	☐ I left the summons at			
	I left the summons at			
		the individual's residence or us		; or
		the marvidual's residence of use	al place of abode with (name)	
		, a person	of suitable age and discretion who res	sides there,
0	on (date)	, and mailed a copy to the	e individual's last known address; or	
	I served the summon	s on (name of individual)		, who is
·	designated by law to ac	cept service of process on behalf		
_	on (date)			
	I returned the summo	ons unexecuted because		; or
C	☐ Other (specify):			
N	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$	0.00
· I	declare under penalty of	of perjury that this information is	true.	
Date:			Server's signature	
			Printed name and title	
			Server's address	

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

JS 44 (Rev. 12/12)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as 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 NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Richard Bishop, et. al.				DEFENDANTS National Football League				
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Florida (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			-	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant New York (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.				
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Larry E. Coben, Sol H. W ANAPOL SCHWARTZ 1710 Spruce Street, Phila	/eiss		-1130		FKIND, WI		ARRISON, LLP, 1285 019, Phone: 212-373-3403	
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	ICTION (Place an "X" in C	ne Box Only)			RINCIPA	L PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff	
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government)	Not a Party)		(For Diversity Cases Only) PTF DEF Citizen of This State 1 1 1 Incorporated or Principal Place 4 4 4 of Business In This State				
☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant	■ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citize	en of Another State	(2	Incorporated and I of Business In A		
				en or Subject of a ☐ reign Country	3 🗆 3	Foreign Nation	□ 6 □ 6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT				,				
CONTRACT 110 Insurance		ORTS DEDCOMAL INTURA		DRFEITURE/PENALTY		KRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	□ 310 Airplane □ 315 Airplane Product Liability □ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander □ 330 Federal Employers'	olane Product Product Liability bility 367 Health Care/ ault, Libel & Pharmaceutical ader Personal Injury		25 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 10 Other	☐ 423 Without 28 U PROPEI ☐ 820 Copy ☐ 830 Paten	SC 157 RTY RIGHTS rights t	☐ 375 False Claims Act ☐ 400 State Reapportionment ☐ 410 Antitrust ☐ 430 Banks and Banking ☐ 450 Commerce ☐ 460 Deportation ☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and	
☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) ☐ 153 Recovery of Overrownest	Liability 340 Marine 345 Marine Product	☐ 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability	TV (3.71	LABOR 0 Fair Labor Standards		SECURITY	Corrupt Organizations 480 Consumer Credit 490 Cable/Sat TV 850 Securities/Commodities/	
☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits ☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 196 Franchise	Liability □ 350 Motor Vehicle □ 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability 360 Other Personal Injury □ 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	PERSONAL PROPER 370 Other Fraud 371 Truth in Lending 380 Other Personal Property Damage 385 Property Damage Product Liability	☐ 72 ☐ 74 ☐ 75	O Pair Labor Standards Act O Labor/Management Relations O Railway Labor Act If Family and Medical Leave Act O Other Labor Litigation	☐ 861 HIA ☐ 862 Black ☐ 863 DIW ☐ 864 SSID ☐ 865 RSI (Lung (923) C/DIWW (405(g)) Title XVI	So Securities/Commodities/ Exchange 890 Other Statutory Actions 891 Agricultural Acts 893 Environmental Matters 895 Freedom of Information Act 896 Arbitration	
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITION		1 Employee Retirement	FEDERA	LTAX SUITS	☐ 899 Administrative Procedure	
☐ 210 Land Condemnation ☐ 220 Foreclosure ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment ☐ 240 Torts to Land ☐ 245 Tort Product Liability	☐ 440 Other Civil Rights ☐ 441 Voting ☐ 442 Employment ☐ 443 Housing/ Accommodations	Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General		Income Security Act	or De □ 871 IRS—	s (U.S. Plaintiff efendant) -Third Party SC 7609	Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
□ 290 All Other Real Property	☐ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment ☐ 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other ☐ 448 Education	☐ 535 Death Penalty Other: ☐ 540 Mandamus & Othe ☐ 550 Civil Rights ☐ 555 Prison Condition ☐ 560 Civil Detaince - Conditions of Confinement		IMMIGRATION 2 Naturalization Application 5 Other Immigration Actions	1			
	moved from	Remanded from Appellate Court	J 4 Rein Reop		er District	☐ 6 Multidistr Litigation		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	ON 28 USC § 1711 a Brief description of ca	nd 28 USC § 1332 ause:		Do not cite jurisdictional star			piracy.	
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:		IS A CLASS ACTION		EMAND \$	С		if demanded in complaint:	
VIII. RELATED CASI	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE The Honora	able An	ita Brody	DOCKE	T NUMBER 2:1	11cv05209AB & MDL 2323	
DATE 05/28/2014	,	SIGNATURE OF ATT	ORNEY C	OF RECORD Lack	Weis			
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	4OLINIT	ADDI VINIC IED		(IIIDOE		MAG TO	DGE	
RECEIPT # AN	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE		MAG. JUI	NAE	

JS 44 Reverse (Rev. 12/12)

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as 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. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants. Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
 - (b) County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
 - (c) Attorneys. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction. The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below. United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here. United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box. Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.

 Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties. This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit. Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the six boxes.
 - Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
 - Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
 - Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
 - Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date. Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 - Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.
- VI. Cause of Action. Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint. Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P. Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction. Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases. This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar.

Address of Plaintiff: Richard Bishop, et al-Miami, Florida	
Address of Defendant; National Football League-New Y	ork
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction:	
(Use Reverse Side For	Additional Space)
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation	
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a	a)) Yes□ No🍇
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yes⊠ No□
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:	,
Case Number: 2:11-cv-05209AB and MDL-2323 Judge The Honorable Anita Br	ody Date Terminated: n/a
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:	
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one	
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior	Yes No No
action in this court?	
	Yes□ No\(\bar{\Delta}\)
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier	r numbered case pending or within one year previously $Yes \square$ No \square
terminated action in this court?	100-
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rig	thts case filed by the same individual?
	Yes□ No₩
CIVIL: (Place ✓ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY)	
A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:
1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	1. □ Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
2. □ FELA	2. □ Airplane Personal Injury
3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. □ Assault, Defamation
4. □ Antitrust	4. □ Marine Personal Injury
5. □ Patent	5. □ Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
6. Labor-Management Relations	6. A Other Personal Injury (Please specify)
7. □ Civil Rights	7. Products Liability
8. Habeas Corpus	8. □ Products Liability — Asbestos
9. Securities Act(s) Cases	9. □ All other Diversity Cases
10. □ Social Security Review Cases	(Please specify) Civil Conspiracy, Medical Monitoring,
11. All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify)	Fraudulent Concealment, negligence
	TYPICA TION
ARBITRATION CER' (Check Appropriate of the counsel of record do hereby cer	Category) tify:
M Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge an \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs; Relief other than monetary damages is sought.	d belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of
DATE: 05/28/2014	ID # 15925
Attorney-at-Law	Attorney I.D.#
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if the	here has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending o	or within one year previously terminated action in this court
except as noted above.	
DATE: 05/28/2014	ID # 15925
Attorney-at-Law	Attorney I.D.#

CIV. 609 (5/2012)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA — DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar.

Addition - C. Dishard Dishar at al Mismi Elevida	
Address of Plaintiff: Richard Bishop, et al-Miami, Florida	arle
Address of Defendant: National Football League-New Yo	DIK
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: (Use Reverse Side For A	Additional Space)
· ·	• /
Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation a	7.7
(Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a)) 162 MOE
Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities?	Yes X No□
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:	den m ' , l n/a
Case Number: 2:11-cv-05209AB and MDL-2323 Judge The Honorable Anita Bro	OdyDate Terminated: 117 a
Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions:	
1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one y	ear previously terminated action in this court?
1. Is this case related to property included in an earner numbered suit pending of white one y	Yes□ No.
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior	suit pending or within one year previously terminated
action in this court?	77
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier	
terminated action in this court?	Yes No X
terminated action in this court.	
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil righ	ts case filed by the same individual?
	Yes□ No🖫
CIVIL: (Place V in one category only)	D. Discoulty Indiabation Course
A. Federal Question Cases:	 B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases: 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
1. □ Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts	
2. □ FELA	2. □ Airplane Personal Injury
3. □ Jones Act-Personal Injury	3. □ Assault, Defamation
4. □ Antitrust	4. □ Marine Personal Injury
5. □ Patent	5. D Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
6. Labor-Management Relations	6. X Other Personal Injury (Please specify)
7. □ Civil Rights	7. Products Liability
8. Habeas Corpus	8. Products Liability — Asbestos
9. □ Securities Act(s) Cases	9. □ All other Diversity Cases
10. Social Security Review Cases	(Please specify) Civil Conspiracy, Medical Monitoring,
11. All other Federal Question Cases	Fraudulent Concealment, negligence
(Please specify)	
A D D Y TO A CY D TO	NEW CATION
ARBITRATION CERT (Check Appropriate C	
I Sol H. Weiss , counsel of record do hereby certification , couns	fy:
M Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and	belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of
\$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs; Relief other than monetary damages is sought.	
Rener other than monetary damages is sought.	
DATE: 05/28/2014	ID # 15925
Attorney-at-Law	Attorney I.D.#
NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if th	cio nas occir computance with 1 ACCA 1. 50.
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or	within one year previously terminated action in this court
except as noted above.	
DATE: 05/28/2014	ID # 15925
Attorney-at-Law	Attorney I.D.#

CIV. 609 (5/2012)

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

CIVIL ACTION

sweiss@anapolschwartz.com

E-Mail Address

Richard Bishop, et al.

v	•		:			
NATIONAL	FOOTBALL	LEAGUE	:	NO.		
plaintiff shall complete filing the complaint and side of this form.) In designation, that defend	a Case Mana serve a copy the event tha dant shall, with er parties, a C	gement Tra on all defer at a defenda th its first a ase Manag	ack Designation dants. (See § ant does not a ppearance, sultement Track I	duction Plan of this court, couns on Form in all civil cases at the tin 1:03 of the plan set forth on the regree with the plaintiff regarding brait to the clerk of court and ser Designation Form specifying the	ne o vers sai ve o	of se id on
SELECT ONE OF TH	IE FOLLOW	ING CAS	E MANAGEN	MENT TRACKS:		
(a) Habeas Corpus – C	ases brought	under 28 U	J.S.C. § 2241 t	hrough § 2255.	()
(b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits.					()
(c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2.					()
(d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.					()
(e) Special Management commonly referred the court. (See reversal management cases.	to as comple erse side of th	x and that r	need special or	intense management by	(X	ζ)
(f) Standard Managem				ne of the other tracks.	()
	,	Doell	Veiss			
05/28/2014				Plaintiffs		
Date	At	torney-at-l	law	Attorney for		

215-875-7719

FAX Number

(Civ. 660) 10/02

Telephone

215-735-1130

Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan Section 1:03 - Assignment to a Management Track

- (a) The clerk of court will assign cases to tracks (a) through (d) based on the initial pleading.
- (b) In all cases not appropriate for assignment by the clerk of court to tracks (a) through (d), the plaintiff shall submit to the clerk of court and serve with the complaint on all defendants a case management track designation form specifying that the plaintiff believes the case requires Standard Management or Special Management. In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a case management track designation form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.
- (c) The court may, on its own initiative or upon the request of any party, change the track assignment of any case at any time.
- (d) Nothing in this Plan is intended to abrogate or limit a judicial officer's authority in any case pending before that judicial officer, to direct pretrial and trial proceedings that are more stringent than those of the Plan and that are designed to accomplish cost and delay reduction.
- (e) Nothing in this Plan is intended to supersede Local Civil Rules 40.1 and 72.1, or the procedure for random assignment of Habeas Corpus and Social Security cases referred to magistrate judges of the court.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT CASE ASSIGNMENTS (See §1.02 (e) Management Track Definitions of the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan)

Special Management cases will usually include that class of cases commonly referred to as "complex litigation" as that term has been used in the Manuals for Complex Litigation. The first manual was prepared in 1969 and the Manual for Complex Litigation Second, MCL 2d was prepared in 1985. This term is intended to include cases that present unusual problems and require extraordinary treatment. See §0.1 of the first manual. Cases may require special or intense management by the court due to one or more of the following factors: (1) large number of parties; (2) large number of claims or defenses; (3) complex factual issues; (4) large volume of evidence; (5) problems locating or preserving evidence; (6) extensive discovery; (7) exceptionally long time needed to prepare for disposition; (8) decision needed within an exceptionally short time; and (9) need to decide preliminary issues before final disposition. It may include two or more related cases. Complex litigation typically includes such cases as antitrust cases; cases involving a large number of parties or an unincorporated association of large membership; cases involving requests for injunctive relief affecting the operation of large business entities; patent cases; copyright and trademark cases; common disaster cases such as those arising from aircraft crashes or marine disasters; actions brought by individual stockholders; stockholder's derivative and stockholder's representative actions; class actions or potential class actions; and other civil (and criminal) cases involving unusual multiplicity or complexity of factual issues. See §0.22 of the first Manual for Complex Litigation and Manual for Complex Litigation Second, Chapter 33.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

RICHARD BISHOP, ETHAN JOHNSON, CHRIS DUGAN, ANTHONY GRANT, MARK GREEN, LACURTIS JONES. **JOHN** HUDDLESTON, **ERIK** AFFHOLTER, TODDRICK MCINTOSH, WHEELER, **DWIGHT JACKIE** WALLACE, DAN MARINO, MOSES MORENO, PETER MANNING and his wife SUSIE MANNING, and BRUCE CLARK,

PLAINTIFFS,

V.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE,

DEFENDANT.

COMPLAINT CIVIL ACTION NO.

Related to MDL 12-2323

In RE: NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE PLAYERS' CONCUSSION INJURY LITIGATION

Related to 11-cv-05209-AB

Easterling, et al. v. National Football League

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs, Richard Bishop, et al., sue Defendant, National Football League (referred to herein as "NFL"), and state as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This action seeks separate relief for medical monitoring, and seeks compensation and financial recovery for the long-term/chronic injuries, financial losses, expenses and intangible losses suffered by Plaintiffs as a result of Defendant's carelessness, negligence, intentional misconduct and concealment of information directly related to each Plaintiff's injuries, risk of injury and losses. This action further seeks to recover fair compensation for the spouses of certain Plaintiffs listed in this Complaint, based upon their right to seek loss of consortium.

- 2. For over 40 years, and up until the August 4, 2011 Collective Bargaining Agreement with the NFL Players' Association was executed, Defendant and its designated representatives, have continuously and fervently denied that it knew, should have known or believed there to be any relationship between NFL players suffering concussions while playing, the NFL policies concerning tackling methodology or the NFL policies about return-to-play, and long-term physical, neurological, mental and cognitive problems, such as headaches, dizziness, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS a/k/a Lou Gehrig's Disease), dementia and/or Alzheimer's disease, impulse control, anger issues, confusion, depression and/or other neurogenic disorders that many players have experienced.
- 3. These aforementioned denials have been stated in NFL publications, so-called medical studies sponsored by the NFL, testimony of NFL representatives before Congress and statements made to the media in response to reports suggesting a causal connection between concussions and bodily injury.
- 4. For more than 100 years, literature available to the public has posited that traumatic head injuries have a causal connection with many symptoms associated with, and leading to a diagnosis of, ALS. ALS is a disease characterized by a degeneration of the neurons in the brain. Published literature has reported that repeated head trauma is a significant risk factor for neurodegenerative processes, including ALS. The incidence and mortality of ALS is statistically higher in athletes who suffer repeated head trauma.
- 5. In the early 1970s, the NFL became aware of published materials accounting for the rate and seriousness of concussions in the sport of football. Also in the early 1970's, the NFL became aware of the publication of a helmet standard, known as the NOCSAE (National

Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment) for football helmets, and which was intended to improve the safety of helmets while minimizing the risk of head injury. At the same time, the NFL learned that the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) and the (NHSFF) National High School Football Federation had both adopted a policy of requiring (beginning in 1978) that all helmets used in their organizations must be approved for sale and comply with the NOCSAE standard. The NFL did not adopt a similar policy at that time.

- 6. Rule makers in the NCAA and NHSFF in the early 1970s recognized that the helmet-facemask combination was contributing to the use of the "protected" head being employed as an offensive weapon. That, in turn, was increasing the incidence of concussions. In 1976, both organizations initiated changes which prohibited initial contact of the head in both blocking and tackling. Also aware of these changes in the rules, and the risks of harm, the NFL failed to take similar action.
- 7. In 1979, the NFL instituted a rule, with an accompanying (albeit inadequate) penalty, for players who were found to have used their helmets to butt, spear or ram an opponent with the crown or top of the helmet. Although done, presumably because of the duty of care owed to the players, the action fell short of the necessary preventative measures that should have been in place years prior to protect the NFL's players. The NFL rule came many years after similar rules were adopted by the NCAA and NHSFF, both of whom recognized the risk of spinal cord injury while engaging in football.
- 8. The NFL's 1979 rule ignored the more prevalent practices in the NFL that directly caused a significantly higher rate of concussions amongst its players. During the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, NFL players were coached, encouraged, trained and motivated to use all portions of their

helmets for blocking, tackling, butting, spearing, ramming and/or injuring their opponents by hitting them with their helmeted-heads. These practices were condoned by the NFL and/or not specifically and significantly condemned by the NFL, despite Defendant's awareness that these practices were increasing the risk of causing concussions among its players.

- 9. Another NFL rule change in 1989 gave referees the authority to eject a player who was observed using his helmet in the manner described in paragraph 8. However, this rule was not strictly enforced by the league. The NFL wanted to keep its fan base excited by the visual exhilaration witnessing such hazardous techniques created for the spectators.
- 10. Despite the NFL's knowledge of such dangerous practices and the increased risk of head injury to the players, the NFL turned a blind eye for decades, and allowed the players to be coached, trained and/or motivated to use any and all portions of their helmets to block, tackle, butt, spear, ram and/or injure opposing players with their helmeted heads. In fact, in 1996, the NFL promulgated a rule making it a personal foul with potential fines attached, to hit with the helmet. However, the purpose behind the rule was to protect the league's quarterbacks, not to protect all players from head injury caused by dangerous use of the players' helmets. This evidenced a complete lack of regard for the players' safety and the risk of injury. It demonstrated Defendant's selfish desire to keep the fan base entertained and interested in the violence of the sport of football.
- 11. The high incidence of concussions among NFL players has been known to the NFL since the early 1970s. Defendant had knowledge through its supervisory capacity and management role, and through studies it paid for (as set forth more particularly in paragraph 15) that a

history of multiple concussions has been associated with players' increased risk of future brain deficits.

- 12. Since the early 1970s, Defendant has known or had reason to know, by way of its supervisory and management roles, that NFL players suffering repeated concussions were more likely to experience evolving symptoms of post-traumatic brain injury including headaches, dizziness, memory loss, impulse control problems, Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE), dementia, ALS, Alzheimer's disease, etc. Even armed with this knowledge, until August 4, 2011, Defendant continued to deny any connection or correlation between players suffering concussions and long-term chronic brain injury or illness.
- 13. The NFL has actively concealed and/or aggressively disputed any causal connection between concussions in NFL football and brain injury or illness.
- 14. Defendant failed to act reasonably, given the critical knowledge it had, to institute appropriate means to identify the at-risk players, to set forth guidelines or to institute rules concerning return-to-play criteria in order to combat the devastating effects of helmeted-head techniques. Because of the glaring breach of duty, Defendant increased the risk of long-term injury and illness to its players.
- 15. As part of the NFL's ongoing cover up and denial of any causal link between concussions and long-term health consequences, Defendant disputed the findings of a scientific study that Defendant actually funded. On September 30, 2009, newspaper accounts were published detailing a study (unreleased) commissioned by the NFL to assess the health and wellbeing of its retired players. The study found that retired players reported being diagnosed with dementia and other memory-related diseases at a rate much higher than that of the general population.

Specifically, the study found that 6.1 percent of retired NFL players age 50 or older reported being diagnosed with dementia, Alzheimer's disease and other memory related illnesses, compared with 1.2 percent for all comparably aged men in the United States. Despite the findings of this study, Defendant was quick to dispute the findings and continue with its mantra that there is no evidence connecting concussions, concussion-like symptoms, NFL football and long-term brain injury or illness.

- 16. For many decades before June of 2010, Defendant voluntarily and repeatedly made material misrepresentations to its players, former players, the United States Congress, and the public at large that there was no link (or an insufficient scientific link) between repetitive traumatic head impacts and/or concussions and later in life cognitive/brain injury, including CTE and its related symptoms.
- 17. As a result of Defendant's material misrepresentations and continuing concealment, the Plaintiffs did not have a reasonable basis to know of a relationship between the misconduct of Defendant and the players' respective neuro-cognitive symptoms, or the potential for problems in the future, before July/August 2011.
- 18. Between the early 1970s and sometime after September 30, 2009, the NFL ignored repeated warnings, and patterns of injury, that only it was privy to in its management capacity. That information was concealed by Defendant information concerning the devastating effects that on-the-field concussions, and the NFL's own return-to-play policies, were having on the players in terms of causing lasting, chronic mental defects and brain injuries.
- 19. Over the past 4 decades, Defendant has actively concealed and aggressively disputed any correlation between on the field concussions, its own return-to-play policies and the chronic

mental illnesses and physical maladies suffered by its players. During those same decades, the NFL disputed and actively sought to suppress the findings of others that there is a connection between on-field head injury and post-career mental/physical illnesses.

- 20. Despite its knowledge of the grave risks that players have been exposed to because of Defendant's gross inaction and/or concealment of safety information, Defendant carelessly failed to take reasonable measures to develop appropriate and necessary steps to alert players to their risks of debilitating long-term illnesses.
- 21. Despite its knowledge of the grave risks that players have been exposed to because of Defendant's gross inaction and/or concealment of safety information, Defendant carelessly failed to take reasonable steps to develop appropriate and necessary guidelines for return-to-play following a concussion. These omissions either caused or increased the likelihood that Plaintiffs would suffer repeated concussions and long-term injury, illness and/or disability.
- 22. Defendant's relationship with Plaintiffs included a scheme to conceal information and facts it knew regarding the risks of long-term injuries/illnesses associated with players suffering concussions, the inappropriate time to return-to-play and other gross errors set forth herein.
- 23. Defendant failed to establish proper and adequate methodology to monitor and detect when players suffer concussive or sub-concussive injuries in practice or game play. This failure increased the risk of injuries that have materialized (see referenced above) or will materialize in the future.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 24. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 and other pertinent federal statutes. The amount in controversy is greater than the minimum dollar value required by law.
- 25. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 (a)(2) and 1391 (b)(2) as a substantial part of the events and/or omissions giving rise to the claims emanated from activities within this jurisdiction and Defendant conducts substantial business in this jurisdiction.

PARTIES

- 26. Plaintiff, Richard Bishop, is an individual residing in Miami, FL. Mr. Bishop played in the NFL from 1976-1983.
- 27. Plaintiff, Ethan Johnson, is an individual residing in Chicago, IL. Mr. Johnson played in the NFL from 2012-2013,
- 28. Plaintiff, Chris Dugan, is an individual residing in Indianapolis, IN. Mr. Dugan played in the NFL from 1991-1993.
- 29. Plaintiff, Anthony Grant, is an individual residing in Madison, AL. Mr. Grant played in the NFL in 1987.
- 30. Plaintiff, Mark Green, is an individual residing in Mundelein, IL. Mr. Green played in the NFL from 1989-1992.
- 31. Plaintiff, LaCurtis Jones, is an individual residing in Waco, TX. Mr. Jones played in the NFL in 1996.

- 32. Plaintiff, John Huddleston, is an individual residing in Celina, TX. Mr. Huddleston played in the NFL from 1978-1979.
- 33. Plaintiff, Erik Affholter, is an individual residing in Anthem, AZ. Mr. Affholter played in the NFL in 1991.
- 34. Plaintiff, Toddrick McIntosh, is an individual residing in Pembroke Pines, FL. Mr. McIntosh played in the NFL from 1994-1995.
- 35. Plaintiff, Dwight Wheeler, is an individual residing in Goodlettsville, TN. Mr. Wheeler played in the NFL from 1978-1984 and from 1987-1988.
- 36. Plaintiff, Jackie Wallace, is an individual residing in Harvey, LA. Mr. Wallace played in the NFL from 1974-1979.
- 37. Plaintiff, Dan Marino, is an individual residing in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Mr. Marino played in the NFL from 1983-1999.
- 38. Plaintiff, Moses Moreno, is an individual residing in Chula Vista, CA. Mr. Moreno played in the NFL from 1998-2000.
- 39. Plaintiff, Peter Manning and his wife, Susie Manning, are individuals residing in Worcester, MA. Mr. Manning played in the NFL from 1960-1961.
- 40. Plaintiff, Bruce Clark, is an individual residing in State College, PA. Mr. Clark played in the NFL from 1982-1989.

COUNT I FRAUDULENT CONCEALMENT

- 41. Plaintiffs adopt and incorporate by reference all prior paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 42. Defendant concealed facts and information which caused all Plaintiffs to become exposed to the harm referenced previously in this Complaint.
- 43. As a proximate cause of the concealment by Defendant, each Plaintiff was caused to suffer harm described previously herein, each has suffered damages that are continuing in nature, or may suffer damages, and all damages have yet to be fully realized.
- 44. WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs hereby demand from Defendant an amount to be determined at trial, plus interest and costs.

<u>COUNT II</u> CIVIL CONSPIRACY

- 44. Plaintiffs adopt and incorporate by reference all prior paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 45. Defendant actively, aggressively and deliberately conspired with its team members and/or independent contractors who were directed to continuously discount and reject the causal connection between multiple concussions suffered while playing in the NFL, a non-scientific return-to-play policy for players suffering concussions and the chronic long-term effects of those head injuries.

- 46. This conduct between Defendant and the other team members was a proximate cause of the chronic injuries, illnesses and damages suffered by Plaintiffs.
- 47. WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs hereby demand damages from Defendant in an amount to be determined at trail, plus interest and costs.

COUNT III NEGLIGENCE

- 48. Plaintiffs adopt and incorporate by reference all prior paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 49. Defendant assumed a duty toward its players, including Plaintiffs, to supervise, regulate, monitor and provide reasonable and appropriate rules and guidelines aimed to minimize injury to the players.
- 50. Defendant acted carelessly and negligently in its position as the regulatory body for all the team members. Defendant knew or should have known that its actions, or inactions, in light of the rate and extent of concussions reported in the NFL, would cause harm in both the short and long-term to its players.
- 51. Defendant was generally careless, reckless and negligent by breaching the duty of due care it had assumed for the players, including Plaintiffs. Further, Defendant was careless, reckless and negligent in the following particular ways:
 - a. Failing to warn of the risk of unreasonable harm resulting from repeated concussions;

- Failing to disclose the special risks of long-term complications from repeated concussions and return-to-play;
- c. Failing to disclose the role that repeated concussions have in causing chronic long-term cognitive decline and deficiency;
- Failing to institute rules and regulations to adequately address the dangers of repeated concussions and a return-to-play policy to minimize long-term chronic cognitive problems;
- e. Misrepresenting pertinent facts that players needed to be aware of to make decisions concerning their own safety with respect to return-to-play;
- f. Concealing pertinent facts and information;
- Failing to adopt rules and effectively and reasonably enforce those rules to minimize the risk of players suffering debilitating concussions; and
- h. Other acts of negligence, recklessness and/or carelessness that may materialize during the pendency of this action.

COUNT IV DAMAGES – FOR THE INJURED PLAYERS AND THEIR SPOUSES

52. Plaintiffs adopt and incorporate by reference all prior paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

- 53. Certain named Plaintiffs have suffered past medical problems, and will in all likelihood incur future medically related costs associated with the harm suffered and injuries/illnesses referenced herein.
- 54. Certain named Plaintiffs have suffered a loss of earnings, and may in the future suffer a loss of earnings capacity associated with the harm suffered and injuries/illnesses referenced herein.
- 55. Certain named Plaintiffs have suffered in the past from an assortment of problems associated with the harm and injuries described herein, including, but not limited to, headaches, dizziness, loss of memory, dementia, depression, impulse control, impulsivity to anger, cognitive dysfunction, employment impairment, physical activity limitations, embarrassment, loss of the pleasures of life, etc.
- 56. As a result of the foregoing, certain named Plaintiffs have suffered actual damages and will continue to suffer in the future, because of Defendant's misconduct. Plaintiffs are entitled to damages in an amount to be determined at trial.
- 57. Pursuant to common law, Plaintiff-Spouses seek to recover, and are entitled to recover, for loss of consortium, loss of services, both past and future, for the harm to their relationship with their husband-players.

COUNT V DAMAGES

58. Plaintiffs adopt and incorporate by reference all prior paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

- 59. Certain named Plaintiffs have suffered past medical problems, and will in all likelihood incur future medically related costs associated with the harm suffered and injuries/illnesses referenced herein.
- 60. Certain named Plaintiffs have suffered a loss of earnings, and may in the future suffer a loss of earnings capacity associated with the harm suffered and injuries/illnesses referenced herein.
- 61. Certain named Plaintiffs have suffered in the past from an assortment of problems associated with the harm and injuries described herein, including, but not limited to, headaches, dizziness, loss of memory, dementia, depression, impulse control, impulsivity to anger, cognitive dysfunction, employment impairment, physical activity limitations, embarrassment, loss of the pleasures of life, etc.
- 62. As a result of the foregoing, certain named Plaintiffs have suffered actual damages and will continue to suffer in the future, because of Defendant's misconduct. Plaintiffs are entitled to damages in an amount to be determined at trial.

COUNT VI MEDICAL MONITORING

- 63. Plaintiffs adopt and incorporate by reference all prior paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 64. Plaintiffs have been exposed to a greater risk of concussions and sub-concussions, which then have increased their risk of suffering long-term injuries and illnesses as set forth above.

- 65. Plaintiffs, some of whom have yet to begin to evidence the long-term physical and mental effects of Defendant's misconduct, require specialized testing that is not generally given to the public at large, for the early detection of the long-term effects of concussions and subconcussions.
- 66. The available monitoring regime is specific for individuals exposed to concussions and sub-concussions, and different from that normally recommended in the absence of exposure to this risk of harm.
- 67. The available monitoring regime is reasonably necessary according to modern scientific principles and those within the medical community who specialize in close head injuries, and their connection to memory loss, early onset dementia, ALS, CTE and Alzheimer's-like diseases.
- 68. By monitoring and testing Plaintiffs who are suspected to have suffered concussions or sub-concussions, or who will suffer from same in the future, it can be determined whether each player is sufficiently healthy to return-to-play and/or it will significantly reduce each player's risk of developing long-term injuries, diseases and losses described herein.
- 69. Until now Defendant has failed to properly, reasonably and safely monitor, test or otherwise study whether, and when, a player has suffered a concussion or sub-concussion, to minimize the risk of long-term injury and illness, medical monitoring is the most appropriate method by which to determine whether a Plaintiff is now at risk.
- 70. Accordingly, Defendant should be required to establish a medical monitoring program that includes, *inter alia*:

- a. Establishing a trust fund, in an amount to be determined, to pay for the medical monitoring of Plaintiffs;
- Notifying the Plaintiffs in writing regarding the specific regime recommended,
 and the need for, and importance of, frequent medical monitoring; and
- c. Providing information to treating team physicians, other physicians and team members to aid them in detecting concussions and sub-concussions, and to assist them in determining when the player is subjected to an increased risk of harm.
- 71. Medical monitoring is appropriate because: (1) the exposure to concussions and subconcussions, and their related ramifications, are greater than normal background levels; (2) the
 harm was the result of the creation of subpar techniques and/or the failure to create proper and/or
 adequate techniques; (3) which were promoted or the direct result of Defendant's failure to
 institute and follow safety policies it knew or should have known about; (4) as a proximate result
 of the exposure to the aforementioned harm, Plaintiffs have an increased risk of developing
 serious and potentially life-threatening latent neurogenic disease processes caused by head
 trauma; (5) a monitoring procedure exists to detect evolving neurogenic deficits including, but
 not limited to, dementia, permanent memory loss and other life altering diseases and illnesses;
 (6) the prescribed monitoring regime is different from that normally recommended in the
 absence of exposure; and (7) the prescribed monitoring regime is reasonably necessary according
 to scientific principles and according to those within the medical community who specialize in
 close head trauma.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

- 72. WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs (and their spouses, where applicable) pray(s) for judgment as follows:
 - A. An award of compensatory damages, the amount of which will be determined at trial;
 - B. For punitive and exemplary damages, as applicable;
 - C. For all applicable statutory damages of the state whose laws will govern this action;
 - D. For medical monitoring, whether denominated as damages or in the form of equitable relief;
 - E. For an award of attorneys' fees and costs;
 - F. An award of prejudgment interest and costs of suit; and
 - G. An award of such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMANDED

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38, Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury.

Signed this 28th day of May, 2014.

Larry E. Coben, Esquire (ID #17523)

Lac & Weiss

Sol H. Weiss, Esquire (ID #15925)

Attorneys for the Plaintiffs ANAPOL SCHWARTZ 1710 Spruce Street Philadelphia, PA 19103 Telephone: 215.735.1130 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Sol H. Weiss, Esquire, hereby certify that on this 28th day of May, 2014, the foregoing

was filed with the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of

Pennsylvania. I hereby certify that all counsel of record were provided notice of this filing

pursuant to the Court's electronic filing system.

Dated: May 28, 2014

Sol H. Weiss, Esquire (ID #15925)

Lac & Weiss

ANAPOL SCHWARTZ

1710 Spruce Street

Philadelphia, PA 19103 Telephone: 215.735.1130

Attorneys for Plaintiffs