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23 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
24 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

25 IN RE: ANGIODYNAMICS, INC.,
26 AND NAVILYST MEDICAL, INC.,
27 PORT CATHETER PRODUCTS
28 LIABILITY LITIGATION

Case No.: 3:24-md-03125-JO-VET
MDL No. 3125

JUDGE JINSOOK OHTA

BRITNEY SCHETTINI,
Plaintiff

v.

ANGIODYNAMICS, INC., &
NAVILYST MEDICAL, INC.,
Defendants

COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff files this Complaint pursuant to CMO No. 1, and is bound by the rights, protections, privileges, and obligations of that CMO. In accordance with CMO No. 1, Plaintiff hereby designates the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida as Plaintiff's venue as this case may have originally been filed there pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391.

COMES NOW Plaintiff, BRITNEY SCHETTINI, (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), by and through undersigned counsel, and brings this Complaint against AngioDynamics, Inc., and Navilyst Medical, Inc., (collectively, the "Defendants"), and alleges as follows:

1. This is an action for damages arising out of failures relating to Defendants' design, development, testing, assembling, manufacturing, packaging, promoting, marketing, distribution, supplying, and/or selling the defective implantable vascular access device sold under the trade name of SmartPort (hereinafter "SmartPort" or "Defective Device").

PARTIES

2. Plaintiff, BRITNEY SCHETTINI is an adult resident and citizen of Tift County, Georgia, and claims damages as set forth below.

3. Defendant AngioDynamics, Inc. ("AngioDynamics") is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business located in Latham, New York. AngioDynamics conducts business throughout the United States, including the State of

1 Florida. AngioDynamics is engaged in the business of researching, developing, designing,
2 licensing, manufacturing, distributing, supplying, selling, marketing, and introducing into
3 interstate commerce, either directly or indirectly through third parties or related entities, its
4 medical devices, including the SmartPort.

5 4. Defendant Navilyst Medical, Inc. (“Navilyst”) is a Delaware corporation with
6 its principal place of business located in Marlborough, Massachusetts. Navilyst conducts
7 business throughout the United States, including the State of Florida, and is a wholly owned
8 subsidiary of AngioDynamics. Navilyst is engaged in the business of researching,
9 developing, designing, licensing, manufacturing, distributing, supplying, selling,
10 marketing, and introducing into interstate commerce, either directly or indirectly through
11 third parties or related entities, its medical devices, including the SmartPort.

12 13 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

14 5. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the parties pursuant to 28
15 U.S.C. §1332(a) because the parties are citizens of different states and the amount in
16 controversy exceeds \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and cost.

17 6. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391 by virtue of the
18 facts that (a) a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred
19 in this District, and (b) Defendants’ products are produced, sold to, and consumed by
20 individuals in the State of Florida, thereby subjecting Defendants to personal jurisdiction
21 in this action and making them all “residents” of this judicial District.

22 7. Defendants have and continue to conduct substantial business in the State of
23 Florida and in this District, distribute vascular access products in this District, receive
24 substantial compensation and profits from sales of vascular access products in this District,
25 and made material omissions and misrepresentations and breaches of warranties in this
26 District, so as to subject them to *in personam* jurisdiction in this District.

27 8. Consistent with the Due Process Clause of the Fifth and Fourteenth
28 Amendments, the Middle District of Florida has *in personam* jurisdiction over Defendants

1 because Defendants are present in the State of Florida, such that requiring an appearance
2 does not offend traditional notions of fair and substantial justice.

4 **PRODUCT BACKGROUND**

5 9. In or about 2007, a company called Rita Medical Systems, Inc. received
6 clearance via the 510(k) Premarket Notification Program from the Food and Drug
7 Administration (FDA) to market and sell a product called Vortex® CT Port Access System.

8 10. Around the same time, AngioDynamics completed the acquisition of the
9 assets and liabilities of Rita Medical Systems, Inc. and rebranded the subject product as
10 SmartPort CT.

11 11. Defendants' Vascular Access Devices were designed, patented,
12 manufactured, labeled, marketed, sold, and distributed by the Defendants at all relevant
13 times herein.

14 12. The SmartPort is one of several varieties of port/catheter systems that has been
15 designed, manufactured, marketed, and sold by Defendants.

16 13. According to Defendants, the SmartPort is a totally implantable vascular
17 access device designed to provide repeated access to the vascular system for the delivery
18 of medication, intravenous fluids, parenteral nutrition solutions, and blood products.

19 14. The intended purpose of the SmartPort is to make it easier to deliver
20 medications directly into the patient's bloodstream. The device is surgically placed
21 completely under the skin and left implanted.

22 15. The SmartPort is a system consisting of two primary components: an injection
23 port and a catheter, made of polyurethane or silicone, which includes additives intended to
24 make it radiopaque.

25 16. The injection port has a raised center, or "septum," where the needle is
26 inserted for delivery of the medication. The medication is carried from the port into the
27 bloodstream through a small, flexible tube, called a catheter, that is inserted into a blood
28 vessel.

1 17. The SmartPort is indicated for patient therapies requiring repeated access to
2 the vascular system. The port system can be used for infusion of medications, I.V. fluids,
3 parenteral nutrition solutions, blood products, and for the withdrawal of blood samples.

4 18. The product's catheter is comprised of a polymeric mixture of polyurethane
5 or silicone and a barium sulfate radiopacity agent.

6 19. Barium sulfate is known to contribute to reduction of the mechanical integrity
7 of polyurethane or silicone *in vivo* as the particles of barium sulfate dissociate from the
8 surface of the catheter over time, leaving microfractures and other alterations of the
9 polymeric structure and degrading the mechanical properties of the polyurethane or
10 silicone.

11 20. Researchers have shown that catheter surface degradation in products
12 featuring a radiopaque barium sulfate stripe is concentrated at the locus of the stripe.¹

13 21. The mechanical integrity of a barium sulfate-impregnated polyurethane or
14 silicone is affected by the concentration of barium sulfate as well as the heterogeneity of
15 the modified polymer.

16 22. Upon information and belief, Defendants' manufacturing process in
17 designing and constructing the specific catheter implanted in Plaintiff involved too high a
18 concentration of barium sulfate particles for the polymer formulation, leading to
19 improperly high viscosity of the admixed polyurethane or silicone before polymerization
20 and causing improper mixing of barium sulfate particles within the polymer matrix.

21 23. This defect in the manufacturing process led to a heterogeneous modified
22 polymer which led to an irregular catheter surface replete with fissure, pits and cracks as
23 well as sections of the catheter lumen which contain more than 30% barium sulfate by
24 weight, reducing the catheter strength at those loci.

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27
28 ¹ See Hecker JF, Scandrett LA. Roughness and thrombogenicity of the outer surfaces of intravascular
catheters. *J Biomed Mater Res.* 1985;19(4):381-395. doi:10.1002/jbm.820190404

1 24. The roughened catheter surface also leads to the collection and proliferation
2 of fibrinous blood products, thereby drastically increasing the risk of biofilm, infection,
3 sepsis.

4 25. Although the surface degradation and resultant mechanical failure can be
5 reduced or avoided with design modifications (e.g., using a higher grade radiopacity
6 compound and/or encapsulating the admixed polymer within the polyurethane or silicone),
7 Defendants elected not to incorporate those design elements into the SmartPort.

8 26. At all times relevant, Defendants misrepresented the safety of the SmartPort
9 system, and negligently designed, manufactured, prepared, compounded, assembled,
10 processed, labeled, marketed, distributed, and sold the SmartPort system as safe and
11 effective device to be surgically implanted to provide repeated access to the vascular
12 system for the delivery of medications, intravenous fluids, parenteral nutrition solutions,
13 and blood products.

14 27. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants knew and had reason to know,
15 that the SmartPort was not safe for the patients for whom they were prescribed and
16 implanted, because once implanted the device was prone to fracturing, perforating internal
17 vasculature, and otherwise malfunctioning.

18 28. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants knew and had reason to know
19 that patients implanted with a SmartPort port had an increased risk of suffering life
20 threatening injuries, including but not limited to: death; infection; hemorrhage; thrombus;
21 cardiac/pericardial tamponade (pressure caused by a collection of blood in the area around
22 the heart); cardiac arrhythmia and other symptoms similar to myocardial infarction; severe
23 and persistent pain; and perforations of tissue, vessels and organs, or the need for additional
24 surgeries to remove the defective device.

25 29. Soon after the SmartPort was introduced to market, which was years before
26 Plaintiff was implanted with her device, Defendants began receiving large numbers of
27 adverse event reports (“AERs”) from health care providers reporting that the SmartPort
28 was fracturing post-implantation and that fractured pieces were migrating throughout the

1 human body, including to the heart and lungs. Defendants also received large numbers of
2 AERs reporting that SmartPort was found to have perforated internal vasculature. These
3 failures were often associated with reports of severe patient injuries such as:

- 4 a. hemorrhage.
- 5 b. infection/sepsis;
- 6 c. thrombus;
- 7 d. cardiac/pericardial tamponade;
- 8 e. cardiac arrhythmia and other symptoms similar to myocardial infarction;
- 9 f. severe and persistent pain;
- 10 g. perforations of tissue, vessels and organs; and
- 11 h. upon information and belief, even death.

12 30. In addition to the large number of AERs, which were known to Defendants
13 and reflected in publicly accessible databases, there are many recorded device failures
14 and/or injuries related to the Defendants' implantable port products which were concealed
15 from medical professionals and patients through submission to the FDA's controversial
16 Alternative Summary Reporting ("ASR") program.

17 31. The FDA halted the ASR program after its existence was exposed by a multi-
18 part investigative piece, prompting a widespread outcry from medical professionals and
19 patient advocacy groups.²

20 32. Prior to the discontinuation of the ASR program, Defendants reported
21 numerous episodes of failures of their implanted port/catheter products – including
22 episodes of infection – under the ASR exemption, thereby concealing them from physicians
23 and patients.

24 33. Defendants were aware or should have been aware that the SmartPort had a
25

26
27 ² Christina Jewett, *Hidden Harm: Hidden FDA Reports Detail Harm Caused by Scores of Medical*
28 *Devices*, Kaiser Health News (Mar. 2019)

1 substantially higher failure rate than other similar products on the market, yet Defendants
2 failed to warn consumers of this fact.

3 34. Defendants also intentionally concealed the severity of complications caused
4 by the SmartPort and the likelihood of these events occurring.

5 35. Rather than alter the design of the SmartPort to make it safer or adequately
6 warn physicians of the dangers associated with the SmartPort, Defendants continued to
7 actively and aggressively market the SmartPort as safe, despite their knowledge of
8 numerous reports of infection and associated injuries.

9 36. Moreover, Defendants concealed—and continue to conceal—their knowledge
10 of the SmartPort’s dangerous propensity to precipitate injuries, including, but not limited
11 to, infection, thrombus, and catheter fracture. Defendants further concealed their
12 knowledge that the catheter design caused these failures and that these failures cause
13 serious injuries.

14 37. The conduct of Defendants, as alleged in this Complaint, constitutes willful,
15 wanton, gross, and outrageous corporate conduct that demonstrates a conscious disregard
16 for the safety of Plaintiff. Defendants had actual knowledge of the dangers presented by
17 the SmartPort System, yet consciously failed to act reasonably to:

- 18 a. Adequately inform or warn Plaintiff, her prescribing physicians, or the
19 public at large of these dangers;
20 b. Establish and maintain an adequate quality and post-market surveillance
21 system; or
22 c. Recall the SmartPort System from the market.

23
24 **SPECIFIC FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS AS TO BRITNEY SCHETTINI**

25 38. On or about May 20, 2024, Plaintiff underwent placement of an
26 AngioDynamics SmartPort product, reference number H787CT80STPDVI1, and lot
27 number A4423038. The device was implanted by Dr. Grant Ronson Webber, MD at
28 Advent Health in Orlando, Florida for the purpose of providing vascular access.

1 39. On or about June 24, 2024, Plaintiff was diagnosed with an infection. Port
2 removal was recommended.

3 40. On or about July 7, 2024, Plaintiff Plaintiff's infected port was removed at
4 Advent Health in Orlando, Florida

5 41. On or about July 15, 2024, Plaintiff underwent placement of another
6 AngioDynamics SmartPort product, reference number H787CT80STPDVI, and lot
7 number A1724060. The device was implanted by Dr. Oscar Rosales, MD at Advent Health
8 in Orlando, Florida for the purpose of providing vascular access

9 42. On or about December 25, 2024, Plaintiff was diagnosed with another
10 infection and was treated with antibiotics.

11 43. On or about March 20, 2025, Plaintiff was diagnosed with another infection,
12 and port removal was recommended.

13 44. On or about March 27, 2025, Plaintiffs infected port was removed at Advent
14 Health in Orlando, Florida.

15 45. Defendants, directly or through their agents, apparent agents, servants, or
16 employees designed, manufactured, marketed, advertised, distributed, and sold the
17 SmartPorts that were implanted in Plaintiff.

18 46. Defendants manufactured, sold, and/or distributed the SmartPorts to Plaintiff,
19 through her doctors, to be used for vascular access.

20 47. At all times, the SmartPorts were utilized and implanted in a manner
21 foreseeable to Defendants, as Defendants generated the instructions for use and created
22 procedures for implanting the product.

23 48. The SmartPorts implanted in Plaintiff were in the same or substantially similar
24 condition as when the SmartPorts left the possession of Defendants and in the condition
25 directed by and expected by Defendants.

26 49. Plaintiff and her physicians foreseeably used and implanted each SmartPort
27 and did not misuse or alter each SmartPort in an unforeseeable manner.
28

1 50. Defendants advertised, promoted, marketed, sold, and distributed each
2 SmartPort as a safe medical device when Defendants knew or should have known the
3 SmartPort was not safe for its intended purposes and that the product could cause serious
4 medical problems.

5 51. Defendants had sole access to material facts concerning the defective nature
6 of each SmartPort product and its propensity to cause serious and dangerous side effects.

7 52. In reliance on Defendants' representations, Plaintiff's doctors were induced
8 to, and did use each SmartPort.

9 53. As a result of having each SmartPort implanted, Plaintiff experienced
10 significant mental and physical pain and suffering, underwent additional surgeries, and
11 suffered financial or economic loss, including, but not limited to, obligations for medical
12 services and expenses.

13 54. Defendants' SmartPort was marketed to the medical community and to
14 patients as a safe, effective, reliable, medical devices implanted by safe and effective,
15 minimally invasive surgical techniques for the treatment of medical conditions, and as safer
16 and more effective as compared to the traditional products and procedures for treatment
17 and other competing Vascular Access Devices.

18 55. The Defendants have marketed and sold the Defendants' SmartPort to the
19 medical community at large and patients through carefully planned, multifaceted
20 marketing campaigns and strategies. These campaigns and strategies include, but are not
21 limited to, direct to consumer advertising, aggressive marketing to health care providers at
22 medical conferences, hospitals, private offices, and/or group purchasing organizations, and
23 include a provision of valuable consideration and benefits to the aforementioned.

24 56. The injuries, conditions, and complications suffered due to Defendants'
25 SmartPort include, but are not limited to, fracture and leakage; necrosis; infection; blood
26 clots/thrombus; cardiac/pericardial tamponade; cardiac arrhythmia and other symptoms
27 similar to myocardial infarction; severe and persistent pain; perforations of tissue, vessels
28 and organs; and even death.

57. Defendants were negligent toward Plaintiff in the following respects:

- a. Defendants failed to design and establish a safe, effective procedure for removal of the SmartPort; therefore, in the event of a failure, injury, or complications it is difficult to safely remove the SmartPort.
- b. Defendants provided incomplete, insufficient, and misleading information to physicians in order to increase the number of physicians using SmartPort for the purpose of increasing their sales. By so doing, Defendants caused the dissemination of inadequate and misleading information to patients, including the Plaintiff.

58. The SmartPort was utilized and implanted in a manner foreseeable to Defendants.

59. The SmartPorts implanted into Plaintiff were in the same or substantially similar condition as when each left the possession of the Defendants and in the condition directed by the Defendants.

60. At the time of her implant operations, Plaintiff was not informed of, and had no knowledge of the complaints, known complications and risks associated with SmartPort, including, but not limited to, the extent of seriousness of the danger of infection.

61. Plaintiff was never informed by Defendants of the defective and dangerous nature of SmartPort.

62. At the time of her implants, neither Plaintiff nor Plaintiff's physicians were aware of the defective and dangerous condition of the SmartPort.

63. As a result of the Defendants' actions and inactions, Plaintiff was injured due to the use of the SmartPort, which has caused and will continue to cause Plaintiff's various physical, mental, and emotional injuries and damages, and to incur substantial medical bills due to the defective product that was implanted in her body. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks compensatory damages.

COUNT I: NEGLIGENCE

(Against Defendants AngioDynamics and Navilyst)

64. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs one (1) through sixty-three (63) of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

65. The Defendants owed Plaintiff a duty to exercise reasonable care when designing, manufacturing, marketing, advertising, distributing, selling and conducting post-market surveillance of the SmartPort.

66. The Defendants failed to exercise due care under the circumstances and therefore breached this duty by:

- a. Failing to properly and thoroughly test the SmartPort before releasing the device to market, and/or failing to implement feasible safety improvements;
- b. Failing to properly and thoroughly analyze the data resulting from any pre-market testing of the SmartPort;
- c. Failing to conduct sufficient post-market testing and surveillance of the SmartPort;
- d. Failing to comply with state and federal regulations concerning the study, testing, design, development, manufacture, inspection, production, advertisement, marketing, promotion, distribution, and/or sale of the SmartPort;
- e. Designing, manufacturing, marketing, advertising, distributing, and selling the SmartPort to consumers, including Plaintiff, without an adequate warning of the significant and dangerous risks of the SmartPort and without proper instructions to avoid the harm which could foreseeably occur as a result of using the device;
- f. Failing to exercise due care when advertising and promoting the SmartPort; and
- g. Negligently continuing to manufacture, market, advertise, and distribute the SmartPort after Defendants knew or should have known of its adverse

effects.

67. As a direct, actual, and proximate cause of the Defendants' actions, omissions, and misrepresentations, Plaintiff suffered severe injuries and complications which were permanent and lasting in nature, emotional distress, loss of the capacity for the enjoyment of life, medical expenses, and economic loss as alleged herein.

68. In performing the foregoing acts, omissions, and misrepresentations, Defendants acted grossly negligent, fraudulently, and with malice so as to justify an award of punitive and/or exemplary damages.

COUNT II: STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY – DESIGN DEFECT

(Against Defendants AngioDynamics and Navilyst)

69. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs one (1) through sixty-three (63) this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

70. Defendant supplied, manufactured, sold, distributed and/or otherwise placed into the stream of commerce each SmartPort implanted into Plaintiff.

71. Each SmartPort implanted in Plaintiff was not reasonably safe for its intended use and was defective with respect to its design.

72. Defendants' design decision of how it chose to utilize barium sulfate and its specific process for mixing it with polyurethane/silicone leads to a structurally compromised catheter, thereby creating a defective condition and heightened risk to the user or consumer.

73. The SmartPort was in a defective condition and was defective in its design such that when it left the possession of Defendants, it was not safe for its anticipated use and safer, more reasonable alternative designs existed that could have been utilized by Defendant.

74. The SmartPort was unreasonably dangerous to the user or consumer, taking into consideration the utility of said product and the risks involved in its use. The foreseeable risks associated with the design of the product were more dangerous than a

1 reasonably prudent consumer such as Plaintiff and/or her physicians would expect when
2 the product was used for its normal and intended purpose.

3 75. Each SmartPort was expected to and did reach the consumer, including
4 Plaintiff, without substantial change in the condition in which it was supplied, distributed,
5 sold and/or otherwise placed into the stream of commerce.

6 76. A reasonably prudent medical device manufacturer would not have placed the
7 SmartPort with its defective design into the stream of commerce due to the likelihood that
8 the SmartPort's design would cause injuries similar to those sustained by Plaintiff and that
9 the gravity of the injuries outweighed the Defendants' burden of adopting a safer and more
10 reasonable alternative design.

11 77. The design defects in the SmartPort were not known, knowable and/or
12 reasonably apparent to Plaintiff and/or her physician or discoverable upon any reasonable
13 examination.

14 78. The SmartPort was used and implanted in the manner in which it was intended
15 to be used and implanted by Defendants pursuant to the instructions for use and the product
16 specifications provided by Defendants.

17 79. Defendants are strictly liable to the Plaintiff for designing, manufacturing,
18 marketing, labeling, packaging and selling a defective product.

19 80. As a direct and proximate result of the SmartPort's aforementioned defects,
20 the Plaintiff was caused to suffer severe personal injuries, pain and suffering, severe
21 emotional distress, financial or economic loss, including, but not limited to, obligations for
22 medical services and expenses, and other damages.

23
24 **COUNT III: STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY – MANUFACTURING DEFECT**

25 (Against Defendants AngioDynamics and Navilyst)

26 81. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs one (1) through sixty-three (63)
27 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

28 82. Each SmartPort implanted in the Plaintiff was not reasonably safe for its

1 intended use as it was manufactured defectively.

2 83. Defendants operated under design and manufacturing specifications for the
3 SmartPort, which included appropriate material content, strength, size, durability
4 appearance, resistance levels, and that the devices did not deviate from its intended design.
5 The manufacturing process was intended to identify any end-product products that did not
6 meet Defendants' specifications.

7 84. Defendants owed Plaintiff a duty to exercise reasonable care when
8 manufacturing, setting design and manufacturing specifications, exercising quality control
9 over, distributing, and selling the SmartPort.

10 85. Defendants breached this duty and failed to exercise reasonable care when
11 manufacturing, setting design and manufacturing specifications, exercising quality control
12 over, distributing, and selling an unreasonably dangerous SmartPort that were ultimately
13 implanted into Plaintiff. This caused each SmartPort that was implanted into Plaintiff to
14 deviate from its intended design and/or vary from its intended specifications in that the
15 device did not have the specified material content, size, durability, and strength, resulting
16 in a SmartPort that contained too high a concentration of barium sulfate particles for the
17 polymer formulation, leading to improperly high viscosity of the admixed polyurethane or
18 silicone before polymerization and causing improper mixing of barium sulfate particles
19 within the polymer matrix.

20 86. The defective and dangerous condition of each SmartPort implanted into
21 Plaintiff existed at the time it left Defendants' possession and at the time it was sold. The
22 device differed from Defendants' intended result and/or from other ostensibly identical
23 units of the same product line.

24 87. SmartPort ports were expected to and did reach consumers, including the
25 Plaintiff, without substantial change in the condition in which it was supplied, distributed,
26 sold and/or otherwise placed into the stream of commerce.

27 88. A reasonably prudent medical device manufacturer would have recognized
28 the manufacturing and design defects of the SmartPort and would not have placed the

SmartPort into the stream of commerce.

89. The manufacturing and design defects in the SmartPort were not known, knowable and/or reasonably apparent to Plaintiff and/or her physicians or discoverable upon any reasonable examination.

90. Plaintiff's SmartPorts were used and implanted in the manner in which each was intended to be used and implanted by Defendants pursuant to the instructions for use and the product specifications provided by Defendants.

91. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligent manufacturing, Plaintiff suffered severe and permanent pain, suffering, disability, impairment, loss of enjoyment of life, loss of care, comfort, and consortium, economic loss and damages including, but not limited to medical expenses, lost income, and other damages.

92. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants for compensatory, special, and punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit, attorneys' fees, and all such other relief as the Court deems proper.

COUNT IV: STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY – FAILURE TO WARN

(Against Defendants AngioDynamics and Navilyst)

93. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs one (1) through sixty-three (63) of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

94. At the time Defendants designed, manufactured, prepared, compounded, assembled, processed, marketed, labeled, distributed, and sold the device into the stream of commerce, the device was defective and presented a substantial danger to users of the product when put to its intended and reasonably anticipated use, namely as an implanted port/catheter system to administer intravenous fluids and/or medications. Defendants failed to adequately warn of the device's known or reasonably scientifically knowable dangerous propensities, and further failed to adequately provide instructions on the safe and proper use of the device.

95. Defendants failed to timely and reasonably warn of material facts regarding

1 the safety and efficacy of the SmartPort; no reasonable health care provider, including
2 Plaintiff's, or patient would have used the device in the manner directed, had those facts
3 been made known to the prescribing healthcare providers or the consumers of the device.

4 96. Defendants knew or should have known at the time they manufactured,
5 labeled, distributed, and sold the SmartPort that was implanted into Plaintiff that the
6 SmartPort posed a significant and higher risk than other similar devices of device failure
7 and resulting serious injuries.

8 97. The warnings, labels, and instructions provided by the Defendants at all times
9 relevant to this action, are and were inaccurate, intentionally misleading, and misinformed
10 and misrepresented the risks and benefits and lack of safety and efficacy associated with
11 the device.

12 98. The health risks associated with the device as described herein are of such a
13 nature that ordinary consumers would not have readily recognized the potential harm.

14 99. The SmartPort, which was designed, manufactured, prepared, compounded,
15 assembled, processed, marketed, labeled, distributed, and sold into the stream of commerce
16 by Defendants, was defective at the time of release into the stream of commerce due to
17 inadequate warnings, labeling and/or instructions accompanying the product.

18 100. When Plaintiff was implanted with her devices, Defendants failed to provide
19 adequate warnings, instructions, or labels regarding the severity and extent of health risks
20 posed by the device, as discussed herein.

21 101. Defendants intentionally underreported the number and nature of adverse
22 events associated with infection due to SmartPorts to Plaintiff's health care providers, as
23 well as the FDA.

24 102. Neither Plaintiff nor her health care providers knew of the substantial danger
25 associated with the intended and foreseeable use of the device as described herein.

26 103. Plaintiff and her health care providers used each SmartPort in a normal,
27 customary, intended, and foreseeable manner, namely as a surgically placed device used to
28 make it easier to deliver medications directly into the patient's bloodstream.

104. Upon information and belief, the defective and dangerous condition of SmartPorts existed at the time they were manufactured, prepared, compounded, assembled, processed, marketed, labeled, distributed, and sold by Defendants to distributors and/or healthcare professionals or organizations.

105. Upon information and belief, each SmartPort implanted in Plaintiff was in the same condition as when it was manufactured, inspected, marketed, labeled, promoted, distributed and sold by Defendants.

106. Defendants' lack of sufficient warning and/or instructions was the direct and proximate cause of Plaintiff's serious physical injuries, and economic damages in an amount to be determined at trial. In other words, had Defendants provided adequate warnings, Plaintiff and her physicians would not have used the SmartPort.

COUNT V: BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY

(Against Defendants AngioDynamics and Navilyst)

107. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs one (1) through sixty-three (63) of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

108. Defendants impliedly warranted that the SmartPort was merchantable and fit for the ordinary purposes for which it was intended.

109. When each SmartPort was implanted in the Plaintiff, it was being used for the ordinary purposes for which it was intended.

110. The Plaintiff, individually and/or by and through her physicians, relied upon Defendants' implied warranties of merchantability in consenting to have each SmartPort implanted in her.

111. Privity exists between Plaintiff because Plaintiff's physicians acted as Plaintiff's purchasing agents in the subject transaction and/or because Plaintiff was a third-party beneficiary of the subject contract.

112. Plaintiff was the intended consumer of the device when Defendants made the warranties set forth herein, and such warranties were made to benefit Plaintiff as a patient

1 and consumer.

2 113. Defendants breached these implied warranties of merchantability because
3 each SmartPort implanted in Plaintiff was neither merchantable nor suited for its intended
4 uses as warranted in that the device varied from its intended specifications, which included,
5 but are not limited to, variances in the following respects:

- 6 a. Defendants' manufacturing process in constructing the catheter of each
7 SmartPort implanted in Plaintiff involved too high of a concentration of
8 barium sulfate particles for the polymer formulation, which led to
9 improperly high viscosity of the admixed polyurethane or silicone before
10 polymerization and causing improper mixing of barium sulfate particles
11 within the polymer matrix;
- 12 b. Defendants' knew or should have known barium sulfate is known to
13 contribute to a reduction in the mechanical integrity of the polyurethane or
14 silicone in its product, the SmartPort, as the barium sulfate particles
15 dissociate from the surface of the catheter over time; and
- 16 c. These defects led to a heterogenous modified polymer that included
17 microfractures and weakened areas at the location of the higher barium
18 sulfate concentration that ultimately led to the collection and proliferation
19 of blood products, thereby drastically increasing the risk of biofilm,
20 infection, sepsis.

21 114. Defendants' breaches of their implied warranties resulted in the implantation
22 of an unreasonably dangerous and defective product, the SmartPort, into Plaintiff's body,
23 placing Plaintiff's health and safety in jeopardy.

24 115. The SmartPort was sold to Plaintiff's health care providers for implantation
25 in patients, such as Plaintiff.

26 116. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' breaches of the
27 aforementioned implied warranties, the Plaintiff was caused to suffer severe personal
28 injuries, pain and suffering, severe emotional distress, financial or economic loss,

1 including, but not limited to, obligations for medical services and expenses, and other
2 damages.

3 117. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff's healthcare providers sent notice to
4 Defendants of the adverse event that occurred to Plaintiff and thus, the nonconformity of
5 the SmartPort, within a reasonable period of time following discovery of the breach of
6 warranty and before suit was filed.

7
8 **COUNT VI: BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY**

9 (Against Defendants AngioDynamics and Navilyst)

10 118. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs one (1) through sixty-three (63)
11 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

12 119. Defendants through their officers, directors, agents, representatives, and
13 written literature and packaging, and written and media advertisement, expressly warranted
14 that the SmartPort was safe and fit for use by consumers, was of merchantable quality, did
15 not produce dangerous side effects, and was adequately tested and fit for its intended use.

16 120. The SmartPort does not conform to the Defendants' express representations
17 because it is not reasonably safe, has numerous serious side effects, and causes severe and
18 permanent injury.

19 121. Defendants further breached express representations and warranties made to
20 Plaintiff, her physicians and healthcare providers with respect to each SmartPort implanted
21 in Plaintiff in the following respects:

- 22 a. Defendants represented to Plaintiff and her physicians and healthcare
23 providers through product labeling, advertising, marketing materials,
24 detail persons, seminar presentations, publications, notice letters, and
25 regulatory submissions among other ways that the Defendants' SmartPort
26 was safe, meanwhile Defendants fraudulently withheld and concealed
27 information about the substantial risks of serious injury associated with
28 using SmartPort;

1 b. Defendants represented to Plaintiff and her physicians and healthcare
2 providers that the Defendants' SmartPort was as safe and/or safer than
3 other alternative procedures and devices then on the market, meanwhile
4 Defendants fraudulently concealed information that demonstrated that
5 SmartPort was not safer than alternative therapies and products available
6 on the market; and

7 c. Defendants represented to Plaintiff and her physicians and healthcare
8 providers that the Defendants' SmartPort was more efficacious than other
9 alternative procedures, therapies and/or devices. Meanwhile Defendants
10 fraudulently concealed information, regarding the true efficacy of
11 SmartPort.

12 122. At all relevant times, the SmartPort did not perform as safely as an ordinary
13 consumer would expect, when used as intended or in a reasonably foreseeable manner.

14 123. Plaintiff, her physicians, and the medical community reasonably relied upon
15 the Defendants' express warranties for the SmartPort.

16 124. Plaintiff was the intended consumer of the SmartPort when Defendants made
17 the warranties set forth herein, and such warranties were made to benefit Plaintiff as a
18 patient and consumer.

19 125. At all relevant times, each SmartPort was used on Plaintiff by Plaintiff's
20 physicians for the purpose and in the manner intended by Defendants.

21 126. Plaintiff and Plaintiff's physicians, by the use of reasonable care, could not
22 have discovered the breached warranty and realized its danger.

23 127. As a direct and proximate result of the breach of Defendants' express
24 warranties, Plaintiff suffered severe physical pain and injuries which were permanent and
25 lasting in nature, emotional distress, loss of the capacity for the enjoyment of life, medical
26 and nursing expenses, surgical expenses, and economic loss as alleged herein.

27 128. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff's healthcare providers sent notice to
28 Defendants of the adverse event that occurred to Plaintiff and thus, the nonconformity of

1 the SmartPort, within a reasonable period of time following discovery of the breach of
2 warranty and before suit was filed.

3
4 **COUNT VII: FRAUDULENT CONCEALMENT**

5 (Against Defendants AngioDynamics and Navilyst)

6 129. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs one (1) through sixty-three (63)
7 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

8 130. Defendants made false statements and representations to Plaintiff and her
9 healthcare providers concerning each SmartPort product implanted in Plaintiff.

10 131. Defendants engaged in and fraudulently concealed information with respect
11 to the SmartPort in the following respects:

- 12 a. Defendants represented through the product labeling, advertising,
13 marketing materials, seminar presentations, publications, notice letters,
14 and regulatory submissions that the SmartPort was safe and fraudulently
15 withheld and concealed information about the substantial risks of using the
16 SmartPort, including, but not limited to, its heightened propensity to
17 increase the risk of infection, and cause complications;
- 18 b. Defendants represented that the SmartPort was safer than other alternative
19 systems and fraudulently concealed information which demonstrated that
20 the SmartPort was not safer than alternatives available on the market;
- 21 c. Defendants concealed that it knew of the SmartPort's dangerous
22 propensity to increase the risk of infection and was causing complications
23 from causes other than the manner in which the implanting physician
24 implanted the device; and
- 25 d. That frequency of these failures and the severity of injuries were
26 substantially worse than had been reported.

27 132. Defendants had knowledge that the representations they made concerning the
28 SmartPort, as stated above, were false.

1 133. Defendants had sole access to material facts concerning the dangers and
2 unreasonable risks of the SmartPort.

3 134. The concealment of information by the Defendants about the risks of the
4 SmartPort was intentional.

5 135. The concealment of information and the misrepresentations about the
6 SmartPort was made by the Defendants with the intent that Plaintiff's health care providers
7 and Plaintiff rely upon them.

8 136. Plaintiff and her physicians relied upon the representations and were unaware
9 of the substantial risks of the SmartPort which the Defendants concealed from the public,
10 including Plaintiff and her physicians.

11 137. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' actions, omissions and
12 misrepresentations, Plaintiff suffered severe physical pain and injuries which were
13 permanent and lasting in nature, emotional distress, loss of the capacity for the enjoyment
14 of life, medical and nursing expenses, surgical expenses, and economic loss as alleged
15 herein.

16 138. The Defendants acted with oppression, fraud, and malice towards Plaintiff,
17 who accordingly requests that the trier of fact, in the exercise of its sound discretion, award
18 additional damages for the sake of example and for the purpose of punishing Defendants
19 for their conduct, in an amount sufficiently large to be an example to others, and to deter
20 this Defendants and others from engaging in similar conduct in the future.

21 139. Had Defendants not concealed this information, neither Plaintiff nor her
22 health care providers would have consented to using each SmartPort placed in Plaintiff.

23
24 **COUNT VIII: FLORIDA'S DECEPTIVE AND UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES**

25 **ACT – FLA. STAT. § 501.201, et seq.**

26 (Against Defendants AngioDynamics and Navilyst)

27 140. Plaintiff incorporates by reference paragraphs one (1) through sixty-three (63)
28 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

1 141. Plaintiff purchased each SmartPort, and each product was intended for
2 personal use.

3 142. The acts and practices engaged in by Defendants as outlined above constitute
4 unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent business practices in violation of Florida's Deceptive
5 and Unfair Trade Practices Act, ("FDUTPA"), FLA. STAT. § 501.201, *et seq.*

6 143. Defendants engaged in unlawful practices including deception, false
7 promises, misrepresentation, and/or the concealment, suppression, or omission of material
8 facts in connection with the sale, distribution, and/or advertisement of the SmartPort in
9 violation of the FDUTPA.

10 144. Plaintiff purchased the SmartPort, a product that was falsely represented, as
11 set out above, as having certain characteristics and benefits it did not have, *inter alia*, that
12 it was reasonably safe for use, in violation of the FDUTPA.

13 145. Defendants further knowingly or recklessly engaged in unfair,
14 unconscionable, deceptive, deliberately misleading, false, and/or fraudulent and deceptive
15 acts and practices, all in violation of the FDUTPA, and as further described herein, which
16 created a likelihood of confusion or misunderstanding on Plaintiff's part with respect to
17 the SmartPort she purchased, including, but not limited to, misrepresenting that the
18 SmartPort was reasonably safe for use and failing to adequately disclose the substantial
19 risk of infection, and harm the product entailed given the large number of adverse events
20 Defendants knew or should have been aware of but did not adequately disclose to Plaintiff.

21 146. Defendants' practices were likely to mislead consumers who acted reasonably
22 to their detriment in purchasing the product based on Defendants' representations that it
23 was reasonably safe for use when it in fact was not and had a greater propensity to increase
24 the risk of infection due to its defective design and manufacturing.

25 147. Defendants intended for Plaintiff, Plaintiff's physicians, and other consumers
26 to rely on their deceptive practices and representations in order to continue selling and
27 manufacturing the SmartPort.

28 148. As a result, Plaintiff suffered economic damages in that the product purchased

1 was misrepresented to be reasonably safe for use and was worth less than the product
2 Plaintiff thought she had purchased had Defendants' representations been true.

3
4 **PRAYER**

5 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff prays for judgment against each of the Defendants as
6 follows:

- 7 a. Judgment be entered against all Defendants on all causes of action of this
8 Complaint;
9 b. Plaintiff be awarded her full, fair, and complete recovery for all claims
10 and causes of action relevant to this action;
11 c. Plaintiff be awarded general and punitive damages according to proof at
12 the time of trial;
13 d. Plaintiff be awarded damages, including past, present, and future, medical
14 expenses according to proof at the time of trial;
15 e. Plaintiff be awarded costs and attorney's fees in connection with
16 Plaintiff's claim under Florida's Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices
17 Act, ("FDUTPA"), FLA. STAT. § 501.201, *et seq.*
18 f. Awarding pre-judgment and post-judgment interest to the Plaintiff;
19 g. Awarding the costs and the expenses of this litigation to the Plaintiff;
20 h. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

21
22 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

23 Plaintiff hereby demands trial by jury on all issues.

24
25 Respectfully submitted,

26
27
28 /s/ R. Andrew Jones

1 R. Andrew Jones (Admitted *Pro Hac Vice*)
2 Cory Watson, P.C.
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22 *ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF*
23
24
25
26
27
28

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

Britney Schettini

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Tift County, GA
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Cory Watson, P.C., 2131 Magnolia Avenue South, Ste
200, Birmingham, AL 35205

DEFENDANTS

AngioDynamics, Inc. and Navilyst Medical, Inc.

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant _____
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF
THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

'26CV3555 JO VET**II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff ☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant ☒ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Citizen of This State | ☐ 1 | ☐ 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | ☐ 4 | ☐ 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | ☒ 2 | ☐ 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | ☐ 5 | ☒ 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | ☐ 3 | ☐ 3 | Foreign Nation | ☐ 6 | ☐ 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.](#)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
☐ 110 Insurance ☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act ☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument ☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment ☐ 151 Medicare Act ☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) ☐ 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits ☐ 160 Stockholders' Suits ☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability ☐ 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY ☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 315 Airplane Product Liability ☐ 320 Assault, Libel & Slander ☐ 330 Federal Employers' Liability ☐ 340 Marine ☐ 345 Marine Product Liability ☐ 350 Motor Vehicle ☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability ☐ 360 Other Personal Injury ☐ 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	PERSONAL INJURY ☐ 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability ☒ 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability ☐ 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY ☐ 370 Other Fraud ☐ 371 Truth in Lending ☐ 380 Other Personal Property Damage ☐ 385 Property Damage Product Liability	☐ 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 ☐ 690 Other LABOR ☐ 710 Fair Labor Standards Act ☐ 720 Labor/Management Relations ☐ 740 Railway Labor Act ☐ 751 Family and Medical Leave Act ☐ 790 Other Labor Litigation ☐ 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION ☐ 462 Naturalization Application ☐ 465 Other Immigration Actions	☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 ☐ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS ☐ 820 Copyrights ☐ 830 Patent ☐ 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application ☐ 840 Trademark ☐ 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 SOCIAL SECURITY ☐ 861 HIA (1395ff) ☐ 862 Black Lung (923) ☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) ☐ 864 SSID Title XVI ☐ 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS ☐ 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) ☐ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	☐ 375 False Claims Act ☐ 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) ☐ 400 State Reapportionment ☐ 410 Antitrust ☐ 430 Banks and Banking ☐ 450 Commerce ☐ 460 Deportation ☐ 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations ☐ 480 Consumer Credit (15 USC 1681 or 1692) ☐ 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act ☐ 490 Cable/Sat TV ☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange ☐ 890 Other Statutory Actions ☐ 891 Agricultural Acts ☐ 893 Environmental Matters ☐ 895 Freedom of Information Act ☐ 896 Arbitration ☐ 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision ☐ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY ☐ 210 Land Condemnation ☐ 220 Foreclosure ☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment ☐ 240 Torts to Land ☐ 245 Tort Product Liability ☐ 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS ☐ 440 Other Civil Rights ☐ 441 Voting ☐ 442 Employment ☐ 443 Housing/Accommodations ☐ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment ☐ 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other ☐ 448 Education	PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: ☐ 463 Alien Detainee ☐ 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence ☐ 530 General ☐ 535 Death Penalty Other: ☐ 540 Mandamus & Other ☐ 550 Civil Rights ☐ 555 Prison Condition ☐ 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 Original Proceeding ☐ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer ☒ 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
28 USC§1332

Brief description of cause:

Action for damages arising from claims re sale of defective/dangerous products

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

DEMAND \$
>\$75,000.00

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE Hon. Jinsook Ohta

DOCKET NUMBER 3:24-md-03125-JO-VET

DATE

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

06/15/2026

/s/ R. Andrew Jones

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # _____ AMOUNT _____ APPLYING IFP _____ JUDGE _____ MAG. JUDGE _____

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 there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions](#).
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven 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.
- 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 – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.
- Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.
- PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- 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.