

## Client Brief

July 11, 2026

**Topic:** Alleged violation of California's Invasion of Privacy Act

**Background:** A serial pro se litigant in California named **Vivek Shah** has been filing numerous claims against companies around the country, including a handful of Sterling Seacrest Pritchard clients over the past several weeks, claiming primarily that the company's website includes tracking features which are forbidden under California law. By way of example, below is the first page of a draft complaint which one of our clients received this past week:

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| <p>Vivek Shah<br/>1301 N Broadway Ste 32167<br/>Los Angeles, CA 90012<br/>newvivekshah@gmail.com<br/>(310)598-1232</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA<br/>FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES</p> <p>VIVEK SHAH,<br/>Plaintiff,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">v.</p> <p><span style="background-color: black; color: black;">[REDACTED]</span><br/>Defendant.</p> | <p>Case No. _____</p> <p>COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION OF<br/>THE CALIFORNIA INVASION OF<br/>PRIVACY ACT ("CIPA") (Cal. Penal<br/>Code §§ 638.50(b), 638.51(a), 637.2)</p> <p>DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL</p> |
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**INTRODUCTION**

1. This action is about unlawful internet surveillance. Defendant operates and profits from a public-facing website at [REDACTED] (the "Website"). When California visitors open the Website, Defendant causes third-party tracking code to execute in the visitor's browser and transmit addressing/signaling information—including the visitor's internet protocol ("IP") address and related device/browser identifiers—to third parties for marketing, analytics, attribution, and profiling.

2. Under California law, a "pen register" includes any "device or process" that records or decodes "dialing, routing, addressing, or signaling information" transmitted with an electronic communication, but not the contents of that communication. (Cal. Penal Code § 638.50(b).) Defendant's third-party trackers qualify as pen registers because they operate as

**What to do:** If you receive a claim, draft complaint, or any other notification from Mr. Shah or anyone else, please notify us immediately so that we can place the appropriate insurance carriers on notice; some cyber liability insurance policies may include defense coverage for these allegations. You should also check with your website vendor to see if your website complies with state privacy laws, including the use of third-party tracking devices like a pen register.

**Threat level:** You should take any claim seriously and, again, make sure that all applicable carriers are placed on notice of same. From our experience thus far, however, Mr. Shah rarely follows up after sending the initial demand letter and/or draft complaint, and therefore, claim adjusters and defense attorneys generally are taking a wait-and-see approach.

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*If you have questions about this Client Brief, please feel free to contact:*

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