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RICHARD W. WIEKING  
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

**KRONENBERGER BURGOYNE, LLP**

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Art of Living Foundation

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

**LB**

**CV10 5022**

**ART OF LIVING FOUNDATION, a  
California corporation,**

Case No.

Plaintiff,

- COMPLAINT FOR**
- 1. COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT UNDER 17 U.S.C. §501 ET SEQ.;**
  - 2. MISAPPROPRIATION OF TRADE SECRETS UNDER CAL. CIV. C. §3426 ET SEQ.;**
  - 3. DEFAMATION; AND**
  - 4. TRADE LIBEL**

vs.

**DOES 1-10, inclusive,**

Defendants.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

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Case No.

**COMPLAINT**

1 Plaintiff Art of Living Foundation (“Plaintiff”), through its attorneys, alleges as  
2 follows:

3 **INTRODUCTION**

4 1. The Art of Living Foundation (“AoL”) is an international educational and  
5 humanitarian organization based in Bangalore, India. AoL has regional centers in 140  
6 countries and has been accredited as a United Nations non-governmental organization  
7 (“NGO”) since 1996. AoL currently serves as one of the United Nation's largest  
8 volunteer-based NGOs.

9 2. Plaintiff is the United States chapter of AoL.

10 3. Plaintiff offers courses that employ breathing techniques, meditation, and  
11 low-impact yoga to achieve stress relief and general wellness. Plaintiff’s educational  
12 programs focus on “Sudarshan Kriya” and its accompanying practices. These practices  
13 are time-honored stress management and health promotion techniques, the health  
14 benefits of which have been established by modern medical science. Plaintiff and its  
15 teaching programs have been praised in the national and international press, including  
16 on CNN, MSNBC, and other news outlets<sup>1</sup>.

17 4. On information and belief, Defendants are disgruntled former student-  
18 teachers and students of Plaintiff. While the true identities of Defendants are unknown at  
19 this time, it is known that Defendants have perpetrated an attack-campaign against  
20 Plaintiff by publishing false, defamatory, and completely fabricated statements. These  
21 statements include the most scurrilous allegations imaginable, all of which are false.

22 5. Defendants created two blogs for the purpose of publishing these false and  
23 defamatory statements.

24 6. Also on these two blogs, Defendants published Plaintiff’s trade secret  
25 information, despite Plaintiff’s significant efforts to keep this information confidential.

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>1</sup> See, for e.g., <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=1174104283064096256#> (CNN  
28 Documentary); and  
<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=1174104283064096256#docid=6344668166674641527> (Art of Living on MSNBC).

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1 7. Additionally, on these blogs, Defendants published—without Plaintiff’s  
2 consent—Plaintiff’s copyrighted publication, the Breath Water Sound Manual.

3 8. Defendants’ blogs remain active and viewed by thousands of visitors each  
4 month, and Defendants continue to defame and injure Plaintiff with these blogs.

5 9. As a result of Defendants’ misconduct, Plaintiff has been—and continues to  
6 be—substantially harmed.

7 10. Unless the Court orders Defendants to cease their unlawful operation of the  
8 two blogs, Plaintiff will continue to suffer irreparable harm.

9 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

10 11. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C.  
11 §§1331 and 1338 for Plaintiff’s copyright infringement claim. This Court has  
12 supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff’s remaining claims arising under the law of the  
13 State of California under 28 U.S.C. §1367.

14 12. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391 because a substantial part of  
15 the events, omissions, and harm, giving rise to Plaintiff’s claims occurred within the  
16 District.

17 **PARTIES**

18 13. Plaintiff the Art of Living Foundation is a California non-profit corporation  
19 based in Goleta, California.

20 14. Plaintiff does not know the true names and capacities, whether individual,  
21 associate, corporate or otherwise, of Defendants sued herein as DOES 1-10 inclusive,  
22 and Plaintiff therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names.

23 15. Plaintiff will amend this Complaint to state the true names and capacities of  
24 the Defendants once they have been discovered. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and,  
25 on that basis, alleges that each Defendant sued herein by a fictitious name is in some  
26 way liable and responsible to Plaintiff based on the facts herein alleged.

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**FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

1  
2 16. In 1981, His Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar (“Ravi Shankar”) started the Art  
3 of Living Foundation (“AoL”), an international nonprofit educational and humanitarian  
4 organization based in Bangalore, India.

5 17. AoL offers instruction on breathing techniques, meditation, and low-impact  
6 yoga to achieve stress relief and general wellness. The focus of AoL’s educational  
7 programs is “Sudarshan Kriya” and its accompanying practices, which are time-honored  
8 stress management and health promotion techniques.

9 18. AoL is also committed to humanitarian aid and community service. AoL  
10 volunteers have brought both physical and emotional relief throughout the world in  
11 response to natural and manmade disasters.

12 19. AoL was accredited as a United Nations non-governmental organization in  
13 1996, and continues to serve as one of the United Nation's largest volunteer-based  
14 NGOs.

15 20. AoL works in a special consultative status with the United Nation’s  
16 Economic and Social Council, participating in a variety of committees and activities  
17 relating to health, education, sustainable development, conflict resolution, and disaster  
18 relief.

19 21. AoL is based in Bangalore, India and has regional centers in more than 140  
20 countries.

21 22. In 1989 Plaintiff incorporated as a U.S. regional center of AoL. Plaintiff is a  
22 California nonprofit corporation and has remained in good standing since its formation in  
23 1989.

24 23. Plaintiff is a nondenominational, nonprofit educational and humanitarian  
25 organization dedicated to the principles and teachings of AoL.

26 24. As part of its humanitarian efforts, Plaintiff provides instruction in its core  
27 disciplines including breathing, meditation, and yoga. Plaintiff also offers courses and  
28 seminars on issues ranging from world peace to emotional self-control. Plaintiff’s self-

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1 development programs instruct students on methods to eliminate stress and to foster a  
2 sense of well-being.

3 25. At the core of Plaintiff's teachings is Sudarshan Kriya, which is a rhythmic  
4 breathing exercise. Sudarshan Kriya incorporates specific natural rhythms of breath to  
5 release stress and to bring the mind to the present moment.

6 26. The rhythmic breathing pattern of Sudarshan Kriya harmonizes the rhythms  
7 of the body and emotions, and brings them in tune with the rhythms of nature. Breathing  
8 under the principles of Sudarshan Kriya helps bring about a connection of the body and  
9 the mind. Practitioners of Sudarshan Kriya are able to use their breathing to bring about  
10 changes in their mental and behavioral patterns. Sudarshan Kriya teaches students to  
11 use breathing to release negative emotions such as anger, sadness, fear, anxiety, and  
12 worry, while leaving the students' minds relaxed and energized.

13 27. Plaintiff instructs students in Sudarshan Kriya, and offers different courses  
14 to practitioners of varying ages and backgrounds.

15 28. The basics of Sudarshan Kriya are taught to students in Plaintiff's Art of  
16 Living course.

17 29. In the Art of Living Course, Plaintiff also teaches other breathing  
18 techniques, meditation, low-impact yoga, and skills for dealing effectively with  
19 challenging emotions and situations.

20 30. The teachings and the mind, body, and emotional achievements of Ravi  
21 Shankar are a foundational component of Plaintiff's Art of Living course.

22 31. Plaintiff also offers specialized courses that are designed for specific  
23 segments of students. For example, Plaintiff offers an Art Excel course for students  
24 between 8 years and 13 years, which teaches six basic principles of successful living  
25 through innovative games and interactive processes. Plaintiff also offers its YES! For  
26 Teens program, which provides teenagers with a comprehensive toolbox to manage their  
27 own emotions and stress as well as to assist teenagers in dynamically navigating  
28

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1 adolescence with practical skills and knowledge. Plaintiff also offers a course that  
2 targets those affected by HIV/AIDS.

3 32. While the registration process varies, individuals who wish to take a course  
4 offered by Plaintiff must register and pay the course fee. The fee is typically \$250 for the  
5 Art of Living Course, which teaches the basics of Sudarshan Kriya. The price for a  
6 repeater course is typically \$50.

7 33. Plaintiff uses the money it raises through its course offerings to maintain its  
8 facilities, to train new teachers for its courses, and to provide humanitarian aid and  
9 community service.

10 **PLAINTIFF’S TRAINING OF ITS TEACHERS AND PLAINTIFF’S TRADE SECRETS**

11 34. An essential component of the success of Plaintiff’s courses—including the  
12 Art of Living course—is Plaintiff’s training of its teachers.

13 35. Plaintiff’s training of its teachers is an essential component for two reasons.  
14 First, Plaintiff’s breathing techniques take into account various physical and  
15 psychological health considerations of the students, such as high blood pressure,  
16 depression, and anxiety. Plaintiff trains its teachers to tailor the instruction of its courses  
17 based on the students’ conditions to ensure that the students’ well-being is protected. In  
18 Plaintiff’s teachers are not able to teach Plaintiff’s techniques—and in particular  
19 Sudarshan Kriya—to students in an incremental and easily understandable manner,  
20 Plaintiff’s students will not only fail to achieve the goals of the course, but they could also  
21 potentially face difficulties.

22 36. Second, Plaintiff enjoys a financial benefit from offering its courses. In  
23 particular, Plaintiff enjoys a financial benefit from being the exclusive organization in the  
24 United States that can teach its coursework—including Sudarshan Kriya—in a manner  
25 that is accessible to and safe for its students. This financial benefit enables Plaintiff to  
26 maintain its facilities, to train new teachers for its courses, and to provide humanitarian  
27 aid and community service.

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1 37. As a result of the importance of instructing Plaintiff’s teachers, Plaintiff—in  
2 consultation with Ravi Shankar—has developed detailed processes by which Plaintiff’s  
3 courses are to be taught.

4 38. In particular, Plaintiff has developed a detailed, incremental, and safe  
5 process by which Sudarshan Kriya should be taught to students of varying aptitudes and  
6 achievements.

7 39. These processes are contained in several written manuals developed by  
8 Plaintiff in consultation with Ravi Shankar. These manuals include a) the Training Guide  
9 Phase One, b) the Continuation Manual, and c) the Yes! Teacher Notes (collectively, the  
10 “Manuals”).

11 40. The teaching processes for Sudarshan Kriya have intentionally not been  
12 memorialized in writing. Plaintiff has avoided creating a written manual specifically to  
13 prevent the unlawful distribution of its Sudarshan Kriya teaching principles. Instead, the  
14 teaching processes for Sudarshan Kriya are taught to Plaintiff’s teachers through oral  
15 presentations, in which the student-teachers may take written notes.

16 41. Plaintiff keeps the Manuals and the teaching processes for Sudarshan  
17 Kriya strictly confidential.

18 42. Before student-teachers begin their training programs with Plaintiff, they are  
19 told that the information they will receive must be kept in strict confidence to ensure: a)  
20 the well-being of their students, b) the preservation of the integrity of Plaintiff’s teachings,  
21 and c) the financial benefit to Plaintiff from Plaintiff’s coursework.

22 43. Student-teachers must agree not to disclose any of these materials or  
23 information before they are permitted to take part in Plaintiff’s teacher training programs.

24 44. Student-teachers must also agree not to disclose any notes they take  
25 during their training program before they can take part in Plaintiff’s teacher training  
26 programs.

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1 45. This agreement by Plaintiff’s student-teachers is a necessary prerequisite  
2 to preserve the confidentiality of Plaintiff’s Manuals and its teaching processes for  
3 Sudarshan Kriya.

4 46. Without this agreement, Plaintiff’s Manuals and its teaching processes for  
5 Sudarshan Kriya could be made available to the public. Such a disclosure would not  
6 only result in a financial loss for Plaintiff, but would also result in the dilution and/or the  
7 tarnishing of Plaintiff’s teachings. Moreover, the improper instruction of techniques like  
8 Sudarshan Kriya could result in students having difficulties if improper and/or untailed  
9 instructions are provided. Thus, Plaintiff has a significant interest in closely monitoring  
10 the instruction of its courses.

11 **Plaintiff’s Publication: The Breath Water Sound Manual**

12 47. Plaintiff has authored and published an informational booklet entitled the  
13 Breath Water Sound Manual.

14 48. The Breath Water Sound Manual is used by Plaintiff in connection with its  
15 Breath Water Sound course. The Breath Water Sound Manual explains some basic  
16 teachings of Plaintiff, including some basic breath exercises, sound relaxation methods,  
17 mediation techniques, tools for healthy living, and effective processes to work together as  
18 a community.

19 49. Plaintiff published the Breath Water Sound Manual on June 1, 2003.

20 50. On October 19, 2010, Plaintiff applied to the United States Copyright Office  
21 for a copyright registration for the Breath Water Sound Manual. As of the date of the  
22 complaint, Plaintiff’s application remains pending.

23 **Defendants’ Misconduct**

24 51. The true identities of Defendants are unknown at this time.

25 52. On information and belief, Defendants are disgruntled student-teachers  
26 and/or students of Plaintiff, AoL, and/or Ravi Shankar.

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1 53. On information and belief, in or around November 2009, Defendants started  
2 the blog entitled “Leaving the Art of Living” and located at <artoflivingfree.blogspot.com>  
3 (the “Blogspot Blog”).

4 54. On information and belief, in or before November 2010, Defendants started  
5 the blog entitled Beyond the Art of Living and located at <aolfree.wordpress.com> (the  
6 “Wordpress Blog”; the Blogspot Blog and the Wordpress Blog are referred to collectively  
7 as the “Blogs”).

8 55. With few exceptions the Blogs have remained active and accessible  
9 through the Internet since their creation.

10 56. The ostensible purposes of the Blogs are to provide former students of  
11 Plaintiff and those doubting Plaintiff’s teachings a space to heal, find answers, and  
12 understand the processes they went through as “members” and “drop-outs.”

13 57. In fact, the Blogs are used by Defendants to defame Plaintiff,  
14 misappropriate Plaintiff’s trade secrets, and infringe on Plaintiff’s copyrighted materials.

15 58. The Blogs are viewed by thousands of people each month, and on  
16 information and belief have a significant influence on viewers’ perception of Plaintiff and  
17 Plaintiff’s teachings.

18 59. Defendants operate and contribute to the Blogs under the following  
19 fictitious names: Skywalker, Aolwhistleblower, Whistleblower, AoL-Free, Peaceful  
20 Warrior, Klim, Klim & Co., and Prosecutor.

21 60. Each of Defendants has been a regular publisher on the Blogs, contributing  
22 numerous posts and comments about Plaintiff.

23 61. Many of Defendants’ statements are false, defamatory, and completely  
24 fabricated. They have been published for the overt purpose of destroying the reputations  
25 of Plaintiff and Ravi Shankar.

26 62. As examples, Defendants made the following statements about Plaintiff,  
27 AoL, and Ravi Shankar:

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- 1 • The truth is more disgruntled people should come out to do something
- 2 about all the illegal activities that occur thru and in his organization, ranging
- 3 from exploitation, to swindling, to cheating, to physical abuse, to sexual
- 4 harassment and fondling, etc.
- 5 • Here is the man who waved off female devotees raped or beaten up by his
- 6 devotees by telling them it was their fault or that they deserved it since
- 7 “Violence attracts violence. Your karma.”
- 8 • And let us not forget that AOL course participants are told their fees go to
- 9 charity, that AOL teachers work as volunteers, that SriSri [Ravi Shankar]
- 10 and BhanuDidi are not the beneficiaries of the course fees!! In other words
- 11 they obtained money from participants on false, deceitful declarations.
- 12 • Unfortunately, there are even stories of male teachers raping female
- 13 students or teachers, and other forms of perversion. The inner circle knew
- 14 about this.
- 15 • Many teachers, especially senior teachers take advantage of their status.
- 16 Women fall for them like bees for honey, not knowing they are just being
- 17 used for sex.
- 18 • The ‘dollar a day’ program was started in the US. The money never went to
- 19 that cause.
- 20 • If you are yourself a rich business man and want to launder your black
- 21 money or show your competitors that oh I have a Guru then AOL is for you.
- 22 • He [Ravi Shankar] will use you until he no longer sees you as useful. If you
- 23 try to leave and he is afraid you known too much about him, he will threaten
- 24 you, directly, from his own mouth, and through others. You would not be
- 25 the first, and will not be the last to leave and come under threat, ridicule,
- 26 and be subject to lies and sick rumors.

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- 1 • Many, still scarred by the AoL brain-wash are ashamed of seeking therapy.  
2 The physical damages require all sorts of medical supervision that not even  
3 doctors understand.
- 4 • There are many cases that companies, individuals give money to AOL  
5 organisation for specific projects, but the money never reaches those  
6 projects. It is then left to poor AOL teacher or volunteer to explain to the  
7 company/donors WHY THE PROJECT IS NOT COMPLETED & SAY  
8 WHERE THE MONEY WENT TO! These people are just shameless & have  
9 huge appetite for \$\$\$! AOL volunteers & members, for God's sake wake up  
10 & stop giving money to SriSri & his lackeys. None of this money goes  
11 toward helping any poor or disadvantaged people. ALL ends up in SriSri &  
12 family & Lackey's coffers.
- 13 • This leaves us with no doubt that SriSri has reached an acute stage of his  
14 degenerative illness and is in urgent need of hospitalization before total  
15 collapse!
- 16 • And so, some remain anonymous because of verbal and physical threats  
17 made, and others because of psychic threats made, yes, even by the  
18 precious master himself!
- 19 • And of course as one gets to know RS [Ravi Shankar] more & more one  
20 becomes more & more aware what a violent man RS is. Doing violent acts  
21 with total calm & smile on his face doesn't make those acts any less violent  
22 nor it reduces the impact on the victims. It just shows his lack of  
23 compassion & empathy & how calculated he is like a mafia boss. Behind  
24 all smiley front of AOL, the organisation is actually rife with violence  
25 (mental, emotional, spiritual). Many senior teachers are actually known as  
26 bullies & are extremely violent & foul- mouthed. Many members & teachers  
27 actually leave the organisation due to existing culture of abuse & violence  
28 in the organisation.

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- 1 • Again answer is obvious, the master is a charlatan (is a person practising
- 2 quackery or some similar confidence trick in order to obtain money) in
- 3 disguise.
- 4 • And so, some remain anonymous because of verbal and physical threats
- 5 made, and others because of psychic threats made, yet, even by the
- 6 precious master himself.
- 7 • The money raised for "service projects" get diverted to his personal kitty -
- 8 all we see is token work.
- 9 • From then on, I started observing closely and after many years I am fully
- 10 convinced that AOL is front-end name for a group of fraudulent NGOs. My
- 11 lawyer tells me that what they are doing amounts to large-scale organized
- 12 fraud according to the laws of several countries. The most important
- 13 'knowledge point' that AOL practices is Fake It Till You Make It. This cancer
- 14 has been introduced into many activities by SSRS [Ravi Shankar] himself.
- 15 • He [Ravi Shankar] has so many enemies it could have been bc of a family
- 16 or an individual he ruined, land he took, money he swindled, someone he
- 17 abused.
- 18 • Money from courses does not go into "service projects" it goes into RS's
- 19 [Ravi Shankar's] bank account. He uses it to start up other businesses—
- 20 ostensibly making more money for himself. The mafia also operates this
- 21 way—they fund legitimate businesses from their ill-gotten wealth.

22 63. The above-referenced statements are all false and defamatory.

23 64. The above-referenced statements are a small sample of the complete false  
24 and defamatory statements, many of which are completely fabricated, published on the  
25 Blogs.

26 65. The Blogs have had their intended effect: on information and belief,  
27 thousands of viewers of the Blogs have been misled about Plaintiff and its services and  
28 teachings.

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1 66. Plaintiff has received numerous inquiries from its students about the  
2 truthfulness of the statements on the Blogs. Many of these students have expressed  
3 anger, frustration, or outrage to Plaintiff based on the Blogs' false statements.

4 67. In addition to publishing false and defamatory statements on the Blogs,  
5 Defendants have posted Plaintiff's confidential, trade-secret information.

6 68. Specifically, Defendants posted on the Blogs the full text of the Manuals.

7 69. Additionally, Defendants posted on the Blogs a link to a written description  
8 of Plaintiff's processes for teaching Sudarshan Kriya, which as discussed above, Plaintiff  
9 holds in the strictest confidence.

10 70. On information and belief, the highly confidential Manuals were viewed by  
11 thousands of people on the Blogs, as was the highly confidential written description of  
12 Plaintiff's processes for teaching Sudarshan Kriya.

13 71. Additionally, Defendants published on the Blogs the full text of the Breath  
14 Water Sound Manual. On information and belief, the Breath Water Sound Manual was  
15 viewed by thousands of people on the Blogs before Plaintiff was able to get it removed  
16 through a Digital Millennium Copyright Act takedown notice.

17 72. On information and belief, each of the Defendants has conspired and  
18 worked with the others to engage in the above-described misconduct, with the shared  
19 objective of harming Plaintiff, AoL, and Ravi Shankar.

20 73. As a result of Defendants' misconduct, Plaintiff has been substantially  
21 harmed.

22 74. Due to continuing presence of the Blogs, and their false and defamatory  
23 statements, Plaintiff continues to suffer irreparable injury.

24 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

25 **(COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT, VICARIOUS COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT, AND**  
26 **CONTRIBUTORY COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT 17 U.S.C. §501 et seq.)**

27 75. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference the allegations in  
28 Paragraphs 1-74 above.

1 76. Defendants have reproduced and displayed on the Blogs the Breath Water  
2 Sound Manual.

3 77. Defendants' reproduction and display of the Breath Water Sound Manual  
4 constitutes copyright infringement and/or vicarious copyright infringement and/or  
5 contributory copyright infringement.

6 78. The Breath Water Sound Manual is an original, creative work in which  
7 Plaintiff owns protectable copyright interests.

8 79. Plaintiff first published the Breath Water Sound Manual on June 1, 2003.

9 80. Plaintiff has used the Breath Water Sound Manual to explain the teachings  
10 of Plaintiff, including some basic breath exercises, sound relaxation methods, mediation  
11 techniques, tools for healthy living, and effective processes to work together as a  
12 community.

13 81. Plaintiff owns the copyright for the Breath Water Sound Manual and has  
14 filed an application to register this copyright with the United States Register of  
15 Copyrights.

16 82. Plaintiff is serving notice of this action on the Register of Copyright at the  
17 same time Plaintiff is filing this complaint with the Court, and thus Plaintiff is entitled to  
18 institute this action for copyright infringement.

19 83. Plaintiff has not licensed Defendants to use the Breath Water Sound  
20 Manual in any manner, nor has Plaintiff assigned any of its exclusive rights in the  
21 copyright to Defendants.

22 84. Without permission or authorization from Plaintiff, and in willful violation of  
23 Plaintiff's rights under 17 U.S.C. §106, Defendants reproduced and displayed Plaintiff's  
24 Breath Water Sound Manual on the Blogs.

25 85. On information and belief, Defendants had knowledge of the copyright  
26 infringement alleged herein and had the ability to stop the reproduction and display of  
27 Plaintiffs copyrighted materials.

28 //

1 86. On information and belief, thousands of users of the Blogs viewed the  
2 unlawful copies of the Breath Water Sound Manual.

3 87. Defendants' copyright infringement has damaged Plaintiff in an amount to  
4 be proved at trial.

5 88. Also as a result of Defendants' infringement, Plaintiff has suffered injury of  
6 an irreparable nature.

7 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

8 **(MISAPPROPRIATION OF TRADE SECRETS, Civ. C. §3426 *et seq.*)**

9 89. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference the allegations in  
10 Paragraphs 1-88 above.

11 90. Plaintiff possesses information that derives independent economic value,  
12 actual or potential, from not being generally known to the public or to other persons who  
13 can obtain economic value from its disclosure and is the subject of efforts that are  
14 reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.

15 91. Plaintiff's information constitutes a trade secret under California Civil Code  
16 section 3426 *et seq.*

17 92. Plaintiff's trade secret information is contained in Plaintiff's Manuals,  
18 namely a) the Training Guide Phase One, b) the Continuation Manual, and c) the Yes!  
19 Teacher Notes.

20 93. Additionally, Plaintiff's trade secret information is contained in Plaintiff's  
21 teaching processes for Sudarshan Kriya. Plaintiff has avoided creating a written  
22 document describing these processes specifically to prevent the unlawful distribution of  
23 Plaintiff's Sudarshan Kriya teaching principles.

24 94. Plaintiff's trade secret information provides Plaintiff with an independent  
25 economic value because Plaintiff is the sole U.S. organization that is able to teach its  
26 breathing, thought, mediation, and yoga principles including Sudarshan Kriya, in a safe  
27 and understandable manner. The trade secret information is instrumental in allowing  
28 Plaintiff to effect these teachings.

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1 95. But for Plaintiff's efforts to keep this trade secret information confidential,  
2 others could employ Plaintiff's teaching techniques, which would not only reduce  
3 Plaintiff's registration revenues, but would also tarnish Plaintiff's teachings. Misuse of  
4 Plaintiff's trade secret materials could cause students not to comprehend Plaintiff's  
5 teachings or for the teachings to result in difficulties for the students.

6 96. Plaintiff has engaged in diligent efforts to keep its trade secrets confidential,  
7 including by requiring all student-teachers to agree to maintain the confidentiality of these  
8 materials.

9 97. On information and belief, Defendants are former student-teachers of  
10 Plaintiff.

11 98. On information and belief, Defendants agreed to keep Plaintiff's trade  
12 secret information confidential, and only to use Plaintiff's trade secret information to  
13 instruct Plaintiff's students.

14 99. On information and belief, Defendants conspired with each other to publish  
15 Plaintiff's trade secret information on the Blogs, including the publishing of a) the Training  
16 Guide Phase One, b) the Continuation Manual, and c) the Yes! Teacher Notes.

17 100. Additionally, on information and belief, Defendants conspired to publish on  
18 the Blogs a link to a written summary of Plaintiff's teaching processes for Sudarshan  
19 Kriya.

20 101. Defendants have acquired Plaintiff's trade secrets knowing or having  
21 reason to know that the trade secrets were acquired by improper means.

22 102. Defendants have disclosed and used Plaintiff's trade secrets without the  
23 express or implied consent of Plaintiff, having used improper means to acquire  
24 knowledge of the trade secrets and at the time of the disclosure and use.

25 103. Defendants have disclosed and used Plaintiff's trade secrets without the  
26 express or implied consent of Plaintiff, and having at the time of the disclosure and use,  
27 knowledge or a reason to know that their knowledge of Plaintiff's trade secrets had been  
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1 derived from or through a person who had utilized improper means to acquire the trade  
2 secrets.

3 104. Defendants have disclosed and used Plaintiff's trade secrets without the  
4 express or implied consent of Plaintiff, and having at the time of the disclosure and use,  
5 had knowledge or reasons to know that their knowledge of the trade secret was acquired  
6 under circumstances giving rise to a duty to maintain their secrecy or limit their use.

7 105. Defendants have disclosed and used Plaintiff's trade secrets without the  
8 express or implied consent of Plaintiff, and having at the time of the disclosure and use,  
9 had knowledge or reasons to know that their knowledge of the trade secrets derived from  
10 or through a person who owed a duty to Plaintiff to maintain their secrecy or limit their  
11 use.

12 106. As a result of Defendants' misappropriation of Plaintiff's trade secrets,  
13 Plaintiff was substantially harmed in an amount to be proved at trial.

14 107. Also as a result of Defendants' misappropriation of Plaintiff's trade secrets,  
15 Plaintiff has suffered injury of an irreparable nature.

16 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
17 **(DEFAMATION)**

18 108. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference the allegations in  
19 Paragraphs 1-107 above.

20 109. Through their operation of and postings on the Blogs, Defendants have  
21 intentionally disparaged the quality of Plaintiff, Plaintiff's teachings, and Plaintiff's  
22 services.

23 110. Defendants made numerous publications on the Blogs that specifically  
24 attack the teachings and services of Plaintiff and discouraged others from engaging  
25 Plaintiff's services, including discouraging others from registering for Plaintiff's courses.

26 111. Defendants' statements were false.

27 112. Defendants' statements tended to disparage, injure, and lower in the  
28 esteem of others Plaintiff, AoL, and Ravi Shankar.

1 113. Defendants' statements were not protected by any recognized privilege.

2 114. As a result of Defendants' publication of defamatory statements, Plaintiff  
3 was substantially harmed in an amount to be proved at trial.

4 115. Also as a result of Defendants' publication of defamatory statements,  
5 Plaintiff has suffered injury of an irreparable nature.

6 **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

7 **(TRADE LIBEL)**

8 116. Plaintiff repeats and incorporates by reference the allegations in  
9 Paragraphs 1-115 above.

10 117. Through their operation of and postings on the Blogs, Defendants have  
11 intentionally disparaged the quality of Plaintiff, Plaintiff's teachings, and Plaintiff's  
12 services.

13 118. Defendants made numerous publications on the Blogs that specifically  
14 attacked the teachings and services of Plaintiff and discouraged others from engaging  
15 Plaintiff's services, including discouraging others from registering for Plaintiff's courses.

16 119. On information and belief, as a direct result of Defendants' publications,  
17 others were discouraged from engaging Plaintiff's services, including being discouraged  
18 from registering for Plaintiff's courses.

19 120. As a result of Defendants' misconduct, Plaintiff was substantially harmed in  
20 an amount to be proved at trial.

21 121. Also as a result of Defendants' misconduct, Plaintiff has suffered injury of  
22 an irreparable nature.

23  
24 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

25 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff respectfully requests judgment as follows:

- 26 1. That the Court enter a judgment finding that:
  - 27 a. Defendants have infringed on Plaintiff's copyright in the Breath
  - 28 Sound Water Manual;

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- b. Defendants have misappropriated Plaintiff's trade secrets;
  - c. Defendants have defamed Plaintiff;
  - d. Defendants have committed trade libel against Plaintiff;
2. A preliminary and permanent injunction restraining Defendants from operating the Blogs and requiring that the Blogs be removed from the Internet;
3. That the Court award damages and monetary relief as follows:
- a. Damages in an amount to be determined at trial, including three times the amount found as actual damages by the trier of fact under 15 U.S.C. §1117(a) and (b);
  - b. Compensatory damages and unjust enrichment and/or a reasonable royalty under Civ. C. section 3426.3, including exemplary damages of two times the amount found as actual damages and unjust enrichment;
  - c. Compensatory damages for Defendants defamation and trade libel;
  - d. Plaintiff's attorneys' fees under Civ. C. section 3426.4 and 17 U.S.C. §505;
  - e. Plaintiff's costs;
4. Such other relief that the Court determines is just and proper.

Respectfully Submitted,

DATED: November 5, 2010

**KRONENBERGER BURGOYNE, LLP**

By: 

Karl S. Kronenberger

Attorneys for Plaintiff  
Art of Living Foundation

**REQUEST FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial of this action by jury.

DATED: November 5, 2010

**KRONENBERGER BURGOYNE, LLP**



By: \_\_\_\_\_

Karl S. Kronenberger

Attorneys for Plaintiff  
Art of Living Foundation

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