UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

MICHAEL OKOSI,

Plaintiff,

v.

SCOTT ROBY

Civil Action No.

Defendant.

COMPLAINT AND JURY DEMAND

INTRODUCTION

1. In November 2018, defendant Scott Roby, acting as a police officer in the Boston Police Department ("BPD"), violently arrested plaintiff Michael Okosi in the entryway of his own home. The police report alleged that Officer Roby did this because Mr. Okosi "clenched his fists and attempted to push Officer Roby to the side with his right hand and then hit Officer Roby in the chest with a closed fist." Mr. Okosi was charged with assault and battery on a police officer and disorderly conduct. But Mr. Okosi did not in fact do what Officer Roby alleged, and both the arrest and the ensuing charges were improper.

2. The events immediately preceding Mr. Okosi's arrest were recorded by a security camera installed in his entryway. The Suffolk County District Attorney's Office dismissed the charges against Mr. Okosi after reviewing this exculpatory video.

3. In reality, as depicted on the video, Mr. Okosi did not hit anybody, and he committed no crimes. Nevertheless, Officer Roby and other BPD officers threw Mr. Okosi against the door, handcuffed him tightly, and forcibly propelled him out to a police cruiser. The

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key allegations in the police report were false, and there was no basis to arrest Mr. Okosi or use force against him.

4. As a result of the defendant's unlawful actions, Mr. Okosi was jailed, faced false charges and a potential mandatory minimum sentence, suffered physical injuries to his feet and wrists, and was emotionally traumatized. In this lawsuit, Mr. Okosi seeks damages to compensate him for these and other harms.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

5. Subject matter jurisdiction is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1343, and 1367.

6. Venue is proper in the District of Massachusetts pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because the facts giving rise to the claims occurred within this district.

PARTIES

7. Plaintiff Michael Okosi is an individual residing in Dorchester, Massachusetts.

8. Defendant Scott Roby is a police officer with the BPD. Officer Roby acted at all relevant times as an on duty BPD officer. Officer Roby is sued in his individual and personal capacity.

FACTS ALLEGED

BPD Officers Unlawfully Arrested Mr. Okosi In His Home

9. Mr. Michael Okosi is from the Boston area. He is a graduate of Morehouse College. In November 2018, he was 30 years old. He is right handed.

Mr. Okosi owns a three-family home in a residential neighborhood in Dorchester,
 Massachusetts. He resides in the home, principally, but not exclusively, on an upper floor.
 There is a living area on the first floor. The door to this first floor living area is adjacent to the

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front door to the building, as well as to an entryway area and staircase. At the relevant time, the first floor living area was not occupied by a tenant.

11. On Friday, November 23, 2018, Mr. Okosi was at home. It was a cold day, and the building heat was on. Mr. Okosi pays to heat the building.

12. Mr. Okosi's fiancé encountered a woman she did not recognize in the first floor living area. Mr. Okosi's fiancé called the police and reported the other woman had a knife. The other woman departed the home.

13. Police responding to the call encountered the other woman on the street, frisked her, and did not locate a knife.

14. By this time, a large number of police officers—on information and belief, eight or more—had entered Mr. Okosi's entryway and the first floor living area.

15. Mr. Okosi had also come downstairs. Mr. Okosi was scared and upset that there were a large number of police officers in his house. He asked them to leave. They did not.

16. Shortly before Mr. Okosi's arrest, Officers Roby, Stephan Lockwood, and Michael Mastroardi were present in the first floor living area or the entryway. Officer Roby was standing in the doorway to the first floor living area, adjacent to the entryway and the front door of the building. Officer Mastroardi was standing in the entryway. On information and belief, Officer Lockwood was standing inside the first floor living area, in proximity to Mr. Okosi.

17. Shortly before Mr. Okosi's arrest, Mr. Okosi said, among other things, "Yo, can you close my front door, bro? I... I pay for the heat." and "Can you close my front door, please? I'll close it myself."

 Officer Roby then made a gesture instructing Officer Mastroardi to close the front door. Officer Roby said, among other things, "Calm down. It's already closing."

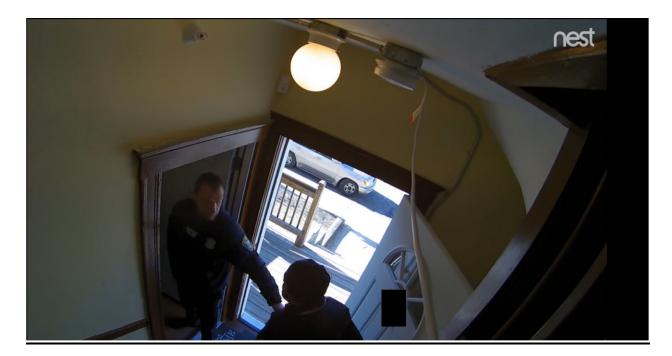


Figure 1: Defendant Roby instructs Officer Mastroardi to shut Mr. Okosi's front door (redacted)

- 19. Officer Mastroardi closed the front door most of the way.
- 20. Using his right hand, Mr. Okosi reached past Officer Roby and shut the door the

rest of the way. Mr. Okosi did not touch or attempt to touch Officer Roby.



Figure 2: Mr. Okosi reaches past defendant Roby to finish shutting his front door

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21. Officer Lockwood was in proximity to Mr. Okosi and witnessed Mr. Okosi use his right hand to shut the front door. Officer Lockwood did not observe Mr. Okosi attempt to push or strike Officer Roby.

22. When the front door came into contact with the door frame, it made a noise. Officer Roby suddenly grabbed Mr. Okosi and forcefully pushed him against the inside of the front door.

23. Officer Mastroardi and other officers assisted Officer Roby in restraining Mr. Okosi. Officer Roby and the other officers forcefully held Mr. Okosi against the inside of his front door and twisted Mr. Okosi's arms and hands behind his back.

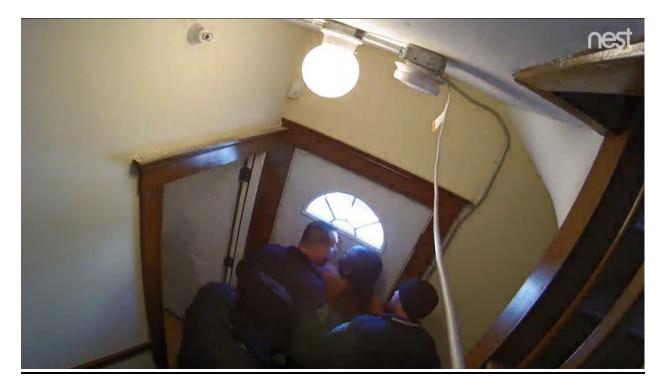


Figure 3: Officer Roby pushing Mr. Okosi against his front door and yelling in his face

24. Mr. Okosi was surprised to be arrested and repeatedly said "I didn't do shit to you!" and "What did I do?"

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25. Mr. Okosi also repeatedly informed Officer Roby and the other officers that they were being recorded by an installed security camera. Among other things, Mr. Okosi said, "Yo, I got a camera right there. That has everything. I didn't do shit to you."

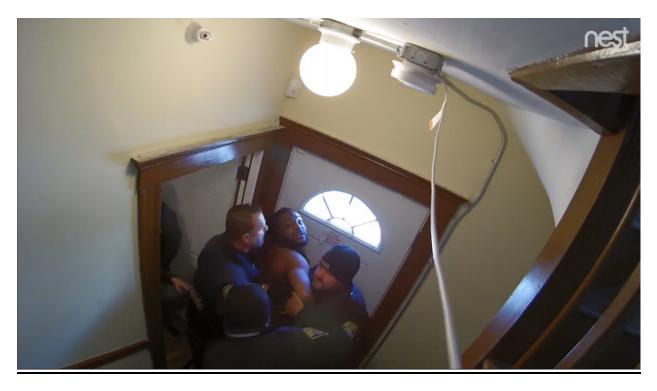


Figure 4: Mr. Okosi observes his camera recording the BPD Officers

26. Officer Roby and other officers cuffed Mr. Okosi very tightly and forced him out of his home. Mr. Okosi was not wearing shoes and sustained abrasions to his feet from the outdoor terrain. Additionally, the handcuffs were clasped so tightly that they bruised Mr. Okosi's wrists and caused his hands to swell.

27. Officer Roby had no probable cause to arrest Mr. Okosi.

28. Officer Roby's use of force against Mr. Okosi was unnecessary, unjustified, and unreasonable.

29. BPD officers booked Mr. Okosi at B3 Morton Street Station.

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30. Mr. Okosi was held in a cell overnight. Mr. Okosi remained in the lockup from Friday until bail was posted later that weekend. While in the lockup, Mr. Okosi experienced extreme anxiety and emotional distress.

BPD Officers Included False Allegations In The Police Report

31. After Mr. Okosi was arrested, Officer Lockwood was responsible for drafting the police report.

32. Officer Roby told Officer Lockwood that Mr. Okosi "clenched his fists and attempted to push Officer Roby to the side with his right hand and then hit Officer Roby in the chest with a closed fist," and thereby caused these allegations to be included in the report. These allegations were false, and Officer Roby knew they were false.

33. As the result of these false allegations, Mr. Okosi was charged with assault and battery on a police officer and disorderly conduct.

34. In general, assault and battery on a police officer is punishable by a mandatory minimum sentence of 90 days' incarceration and a fine of \$500, and a maximum sentence of up to two and half years' incarceration and a fine of up to \$5,000.

35. Mr. Okosi was aware that he faced serious, life-altering penalties and collateral consequences as a result of these false charges, and this knowledge caused him to suffer extreme emotional distress.

BPD Officers Admitted The Inaccuracy Of The Police Report

36. On or around November 27, 2018—just days after the incident in his home—Mr. Okosi made an administrative complaint to the BPD concerning the circumstances of his arrest and the misconduct of the arresting officers.

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37. Even though Mr. Okosi faced pending charges arising from his arrest, he voluntarily provided at least one recorded interview about the incident to BPD Internal Affairs investigators in November or December 2018.

38. Mr. Okosi also voluntarily provided BPD Internal Affairs investigators with the video recording of his arrest and the events immediately preceding it, and with photographs of the injuries to his feet and wrists.

39. During the subsequent investigation, BPD Internal Affairs investigators interviewed Officer Roby, Officer Lockwood, Officer Mastroardi, and at least one other officer who observed the circumstances immediately preceding Mr. Okosi's arrest.

40. When interviewed by BPD Internal Affairs investigators, Officer Lockwood, Officer Mastroardi, and the other officer all stated, in summary, that they did not recall seeing Mr. Okosi attempt to push Officer Roby or strike Officer Roby in the chest with a closed fist, as alleged in the police report.

41. When interviewed by BPD Internal Affairs investigators, Officer Roby stated, among other things, that the police report was not completely accurate, and that Mr. Okosi had used his right hand to close the door. Officer Roby nevertheless made a new false assertion that Mr. Okosi's left hand pushed him in the chest and sternum in the manner of "a stiff arm". The BPD did not discipline any officers for their actions in connection with Mr. Okosi arrest.

<u>Prosecutors Dismissed The Charges Against Mr. Okosi Following Disclosure Of The</u> <u>Exculpatory Video Recording</u>

42. The charges against Mr. Okosi arising from November 23, 2018, terminated in Mr. Okosi's favor. Specifically, as described below, the charges against Mr. Okosi were dismissed.

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The Suffolk County District Attorney's Office ("SCDAO") prosecuted Mr.
 Okosi's case.

44. Following Mr. Okosi's arraignment, Mr. Okosi's defense attorney sent the exculpatory video of the events immediately preceding Mr. Okosi's arrest to the SCDAO prosecutors responsible for Mr. Okosi's prosecution.

45. According to notes in the prosecutor's file, by January 31, 2019, the Commonwealth was planning to "go over the video with the [Officer Roby] and discuss dismissal with him."

46. On information and belief, an SCDAO prosecutor subsequently spoke with Officer Roby and discussed the video with him.

47. According to notes in the prosecutor's file, SCDAO officials instructed the responsible prosecutor to "Move to dismiss outright after review of video."

48. On March 7, 2019, the charges against Mr. Okosi arising from November 23,
2018, were voluntarily dismissed at the request of the SCDAO on behalf of the Commonwealth.
The docket records that "[a]fter viewing video, Comm. moves to dismiss."

<u>COUNT I</u> 42 U.S.C § 1983 Unlawful Arrest in Violation of the Fourth Amendment

49. Mr. Okosi restates and realleges the foregoing paragraphs.

50. Officer Roby, acting under color of law, intentionally and unlawfully arrested Plaintiff without probable cause, and without any warrant or other legal process, thereby depriving Mr. Okosi of the right to be free from unreasonable search and seizure as guaranteed by the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

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51. As a direct result, Mr. Okosi was deprived of his liberty and suffered harm, including physical and emotional harm.

<u>COUNT II</u> 42 U.S.C § 1983 Excessive Force in Violation of the Fourth Amendment

52. Mr. Okosi restates and realleges the foregoing paragraphs.

53. At all relevant times, Officer Roby acted under color of law.

54. Officer Roby grabbed, shoved, and handcuffed Mr. Okosi, and forced him

barefoot over outdoor terrain, all of which was unreasonable in the circumstances given that he

knew no probable cause existed to arrest him.

55. This excessive force violated Mr. Okosi's rights under the Fourth Amendment.

COUNT III Battery

56. Mr. Okosi restates and realleges the foregoing paragraphs.

57. Officer Roby intentionally touched Mr. Okosi without consent when he grabbed, shoved, handcuffed, and forcibly moved Mr. Okosi while arresting him without probable cause.

58. This unconsented-to touching caused injury to Mr. Okosi, including injuries to his feet and wrists.

<u>COUNT IV</u> False Arrest (Common Law)

59. Mr. Okosi restates and realleges the foregoing paragraphs.

60. Officer Roby intentionally and unlawfully arrested and confined Mr. Okosi without probable cause, and without a warrant or any other legal process.

61. As a direct result, Mr. Okosi was deprived of his liberty and suffered harm, including physical and emotional harm.

<u>COUNT V</u> Malicious Prosecution (Common Law)

62. Mr. Okosi restates and realleges the foregoing paragraphs.

63. Officer Roby intentionally, maliciously and without probable cause caused a criminal case to be initiated against Mr. Okosi. Officer Roby made false allegations that Mr. Okosi assaulted him to justify the charges against Mr. Okosi.

64. Mr. Okosi's criminal case was finally and favorably terminated when the

Commonwealth voluntarily dismissed the charges against him based on its determination that he was innocent or, at a minimum, that it lacked reasonable grounds to prosecute the case.

65. Officer Roby's actions in maliciously prosecuting the baseless criminal case against Mr. Okosi have caused him harm.

<u>COUNT VI</u> Abuse of Process (Common Law)

66. Mr. Okosi restates and realleges the foregoing paragraphs.

67. Officer Roby intentionally and unlawfully used process against Mr. Okosi for an ulterior or illegitimate purpose, resulting in harm to Mr. Okosi.

<u>COUNT VII</u> False Imprisonment (Common Law)

68. Mr. Okosi restates and realleges the foregoing paragraphs.

69. Officer Roby, acting under color of law, intentionally and unlawfully arrested Mr. Okosi without probable cause, and without a warrant or any other legal process, and thereby directly confined Mr. Okosi against his will.

70. Mr. Okosi was conscious of this unconsented-to confinement, deprived of his liberty, and suffered harm as a result.

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WHEREFORE, Mr. Okosi respectfully requests that the Court grant the following relief:

- A. Enter judgment in favor of Mr. Okosi and against Officer Roby on all counts of the Complaint;
- B. Award compensatory damages and punitive damages in an amount to be determined by the jury;
- C. Award Mr. Okosi his attorneys' fees, costs, and interest as permitted by law; and
- D. Grant such further and other relief as may be just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all claims and issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL OKOSI,

By his attorneys,

<u>/s/Alycia M. Kennedy</u> Alycia M. Kennedy (BBO# 688801) Max D. Stern (BBO# 479560) TODD & WELD LLP 1 Federal Street, 27th Floor Boston, MA 02110 (617) 724-2626 mdstern@toddweld.com akennedy@toddweld.com

Matthew R. Segal (BBO# 654489) Jessie J. Rossman (BBO# 670685) Daniel L. McFadden (BBO# 676612) Areeba Jibril (*Pro Hac Vice* motion forthcoming) AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION FOUNDATION OF MASSACHUSETTS, INC. 211 Congress Street Boston, MA 02110 Tel.: (617) 482-3170 msegal@aclum.org jrossman@aclum.org dmcfadden@aclum.org ajibril@aclum.org

JS 44 (Rev. 10/20)

Case 1:21-cv-118 Care to Care 1:21-cv-118 Care to Care 1:21-cv-118 Care to Car

		herein neither replace nor	supplement the filing and service the United States in September 1			
purpose of initiating the civil d				974, is required for the use of	the Clerk of Court for the	
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS			
Michael Okosi			Scott Roby			
(b) County of Residence of	of First Listed Plaintiff	Suffolk	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant			
(E.	XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA	ISES)	(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)			
				ONDEMNATION CASES, USE TH OF LAND INVOLVED.	HE LOCATION OF	
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name,	Address, and Telephone Numbe	er)	Attorneys (If Known)			
Todd & Weld Ll	P, 1 Federal Street	, Boston MA (617)				
724-2626						
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in	One Box Only)	II. CITIZENSHIP OF PI	RINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff	
□ 1 U.S. Government ■ 3 Federal Question			(For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant) PTF DEF PTF DEF			
Plaintiff (U.S. Government Not a Party)		Not a Party)	Citizen of This State X 1 X 1 Incorporated <i>or</i> Principal Place 4 4			
2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh	ip of Parties in Item III)	Citizen of Another State	2 2 Incorporated and P of Business In A		
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IV. NATURE OF SUIT		nly) DRTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	Click here for: Nature of S BANKRUPTCY	uit Code Descriptions. OTHER STATUTES	
110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJURY	625 Drug Related Seizure	422 Appeal 28 USC 158	375 False Claims Act	
120 Marine 130 Miller Act	310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product	365 Personal Injury - Product Liability	of Property 21 USC 881 690 Other	423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a))	
140 Negotiable Instrument	Liability	367 Health Care/			400 State Reapportionment	
L 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment	320 Assault, Libel & t Slander	Pharmaceutical Personal Injury		PROPERTY RIGHTS 820 Copyrights	410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking	
151 Medicare Act	330 Federal Employers'	Product Liability		830 Patent	450 Commerce	
152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans	Liability 340 Marine	368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product		835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application	460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and	
(Excludes Veterans)	345 Marine Product	Liability	L L DOD	840 Trademark	Corrupt Organizations	
153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	Liability 350 Motor Vehicle	PERSONAL PROPERTY 370 Other Fraud	7 LABOR 710 Fair Labor Standards	880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016	480 Consumer Credit (15 USC 1681 or 1692)	
160 Stockholders' Suits	355 Motor Vehicle	371 Truth in Lending	Act		485 Telephone Consumer	
190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability	Product Liability 360 Other Personal	380 Other Personal Property Damage	720 Labor/Management Relations	SOCIAL SECURITY 861 HIA (1395ff)	Protection Act 490 Cable/Sat TV	
196 Franchise	Injury	385 Property Damage	740 Railway Labor Act	862 Black Lung (923)	850 Securities/Commodities/	
	362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	Product Liability	751 Family and Medical Leave Act	863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 864 SSID Title XVI	Exchange 890 Other Statutory Actions	
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITIONS	790 Other Labor Litigation	865 RSI (405(g))	891 Agricultural Acts	
210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure	★ 440 Other Civil Rights 441 Voting	Habeas Corpus: 463 Alien Detainee	791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act	FEDERAL TAX SUITS	893 Environmental Matters 895 Freedom of Information	
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	442 Employment	510 Motions to Vacate		870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff	Act	
240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability	443 Housing/ Accommodations	Sentence 530 General		or Defendant) 871 IRS—Third Party	896 Arbitration 899 Administrative Procedure	
290 All Other Real Property	445 Amer. w/Disabilities -	535 Death Penalty	IMMIGRATION	26 USC 7609	Act/Review or Appeal of	
	Employment 446 Amer. w/Disabilities -	Other: 540 Mandamus & Other	462 Naturalization Application 465 Other Immigration		Agency Decision 950 Constitutionality of	
	Other	550 Civil Rights	Actions		State Statutes	
	448 Education	555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee -				
		Conditions of Confinement				
V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" i						
•		Appellate Court	4 Reinstated or Reopened 5 Transfe Another (specify)	r District Litigation		
		tute under which you are t	filing (Do not cite jurisdictional stat	tutes unless diversity):		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIO	Brief description of ca		ble cause and charged with assau	ult and battery on a police office	r based on the Defendant's fabric	
VII. REQUESTED IN CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACT.						
COMPLAINT:	UNDER RULE 2			JURY DEMAND:		
VIII. RELATED CASI IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE		DOCKET NI MRED		
DATE		JUDGEDOCKET NUMBER SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD				
11/19/2021		/s/Alycia M. Kennedy				
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		,,				
RECEIPT # AI	MOUNT	APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JUI	DGE	

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

1. Title of case (name of first party on each side only) Okosi v. Roby

II.

- 2. Category in which the case belongs based upon the numbered nature of suit code listed on the civil cover sheet. (See local rule 40.1(a)(1)).
 - I. 160, 400, 410, 441, 535, 830*, 835*, 850, 880, 891, 893, R.23, REGARDLESS OF NATURE OF SUIT.
 - 110, 130, 190, 196, 370, 375, 376, 440, 442, 443, 445, 446, 448, 470, 751, 820*, 840*, 895, 896, 899.
 - III.
 120, 140, 150, 151, 152, 153, 195, 210, 220, 230, 240, 245, 290, 310, 315, 320, 330, 340, 345, 350, 355, 360, 362, 365, 367, 368, 371, 380, 385, 422, 423, 430, 450, 460, 462, 463, 465, 480, 485, 490, 510, 530, 540, 550, 555, 560, 625, 690, 710, 720, 740, 790, 791, 861-865, 870, 871, 890, 950.

 *Also complete AO 120 or AO 121. for patent, trademark or copyright cases.
- 3. Title and number, if any, of related cases. (See local rule 40.1(g)). If more than one prior related case has been filed in this district please indicate the title and number of the first filed case in this court.

4.	4. Has a prior action between the same parties and based on the same claim ever been filed in this court?							
			Y	/ES	NO			
5.	Does the complair §2403)	Does the complaint in this case question the constitutionality of an act of congress affecting the public interest? (See 28 USC						
	- ,			res	NO			
	If so, is the U.S.A. or an officer, agent or employee of the U.S. a party?				NO 🖌			
6. Is this case required to be heard and determined by a district court of three judges pursuant to title 28 USC §2284?								
			Y	/ES	NO 🖌			
7.	 7. Do <u>all</u> of the parties in this action, excluding governmental agencies of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ("governmental agencies"), residing in Massachusetts reside in the same division? - (See Local Rule 40.1(d)). YES NO 							
	Α.	If yes, in which divisi <u>on d</u> o all of the no	n-governmental par	rties reside?				
			Central Division		Western Division			
	В.	If no, in which division do the majority residing in Massachusetts reside?	of the plaintiffs or t	he only parties, e	xcluding governmental agencies,			
		Eastern Division	Central Division		Western Division			
8. If filing a Notice of Removal - are there any motions pending in the state court requiring the attention of this Court? (If yes, submit a separate sheet identifying the motions)								
			Y	/ES	NO			
(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT)								
ATTORNEY'S NAME Alycia M. Kennedy								
ADDRESS 1 Federal Street, Boston, MA 02110								
TELEPHONE NO. 617 724 2626								

(CategoryForm11-2020.wpd)