

PANISH | SHEA | RAVIPUDI LLP
 ROBERT S. GLASSMAN, State Bar No. 269816
rglassman@panish.law
 JONATHAN H. DAVIDI, State Bar No. 323761
jdavidi@panish.law
 TYLER R. PABOOJIAN, State Bar No. 358110
tpaboojian@panish.law
 11111 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 700
 Los Angeles, California 90025
 Telephone: 310.477.1700
 Facsimile: 310.477.1699

SETAREH LAW, APLC
 DANIEL SETAREH, State Bar No. 251448
daniel@setarehfir.com
 RANDALL BAKER, State Bar No. 231721
randall@setarehfir.com
 8484 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 870
 Beverly Hills, California 90211
 Telephone: 310.659.1826
 Facsimile: 310.507.7909

Attorneys for Plaintiff

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, SOUTHWEST DISTRICT**

ANNIE LEE STEWART,
 Plaintiff,
 v.
 UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., a
 Corporation, ERIC MILTON PITT-BEY, an
 Individual, and DOES 1 through 80, Inclusive,
 Defendants.

Case No. 24TRCV03100
 Assigned for All Purposes to:
 Hon. Tamara Hall, Dept. 5

**NOTICE OF RULING RE: PLAINTIFF'S
 MOTION FOR LEAVE TO AMEND
 COMPLAINT**

Action Filed: September 18, 2024
 Trial Date: August 25, 2027

TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on November 7, 2025 at 1:30 p.m., Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to Amend the Complaint was heard in Department 5 of the Inglewood Courthouse. Following oral argument, the Court adopted the tentative ruling as the order of the Court as follows:

1. Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to Amend is GRANTED; and

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2. Plaintiff shall file and serve her First Amended Complaint within 10 days of this order.

Attached hereto as Exhibit 1 is a true and correct copy of the minute order.

Counsel for Plaintiff ordered to give notice.

DATED: November 11, 2025 PANISH | SHEA | RAVIPUDI LLP

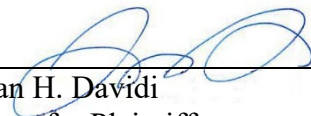
By:  _____
Jonathan H. Davidi
Attorneys for Plaintiff

EXHIBIT 1

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Civil Division

Southwest District, Inglewood Courthouse, Department 5

24TRCV03100

ANNIE LEE STEWART vs UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., et al.

November 7, 2025

1:30 PM

Judge: Honorable Tamara Hall
Judicial Assistant: Judicial Assistant: N. Rodriguez
R. Sanchez
Courtroom Assistant: None

CSR: None
ERM: None

Deputy Sheriff: None

APPEARANCES:

For Plaintiff(s): No Appearances

For Defendant(s): No Appearances

NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS: Hearing on Motion for Leave to Amend Complaint

Cause is called for hearing.

Court's written tentative ruling (see below) has been posted on the LA Superior Court website.

TENTATIVE RULING:

ANNIE LEE STEWART ;

Plaintiff,

vs.

UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC. , et al.;

Defendants.

Case No.: 24TRCV03100

Hearing Date: November 7, 2025

Time: 1:30 p.m.

[tentative] Order RE:

(1) plaintiff annie lee stewart's motion for leave to file a first amended complaint to allege punitive damages against defendant uber technologies

MOVING PARTY: Plaintiff, Annie Lee Stewart

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Civil Division

Southwest District, Inglewood Courthouse, Department 5

24TRCV03100

ANNIE LEE STEWART vs UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., et al.

November 7, 2025

1:30 PM

Judge: Honorable Tamara Hall

CSR: None

Judicial Assistant: Judicial Assistant: N.

ERM: None

Rodriguez

R. Sanchez

Courtroom Assistant: None

Deputy Sheriff: None

RESPONDING PARTY: Defendant, Uber Technologies, Inc.

(1) Plaintiff Annie Lee Stewart's Motion for Leave to File a First Amended Complaint to Allege Punitive Damages Against Defendant Uber Technologies is GRANTED pursuant to Civil Code Section 3294.

The Court considered the moving papers filed on July 24, 2025, the on September 18, 2025, and the reply on September 24, 2025.

LEGAL STANDARD

Before pleading punitive damages against a health care provider, a plaintiff must obtain a court order allowing the amended pleading. (Code Civ. Proc., § 425.13, subd. (a).) "The court may allow the filing of an amended pleading claiming punitive damages on a motion by the party seeking the amended pleading and on the basis of the supporting and opposing affidavits presented that the plaintiff has established that there is a substantial probability that the plaintiff will prevail on the claim pursuant to Section 3294 of the Civil Code. The court shall not grant a motion allowing the filing of an amended pleading that includes a claim for punitive damages if the motion for such an order is not filed within two years after the complaint or initial pleading is filed or not less than nine months before the date the matter is first set for trial, whichever is earlier." (Code Civ. Proc., § 425.13, subd. (a).)

In an action for the breach of a non-contract obligation, a plaintiff may recover punitive damages by proving by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant has been guilty of oppression, fraud, or malice. (Civ. Code, § 3294, subd. (a).) The necessary elements for fraud are: (1) a misrepresentation; (2) knowledge of its falsity; (3) intent to defraud; (4) justifiable reliance; and (5) resulting damage. (*Conroy v. Regents of University of California* (2009) 45 Cal.4th 1244, 1255 ("Conroy").) Punitive damages may also be imposed on conduct that is malicious, oppressive, or fraudulent. (Civ. Code, § 3294, subd. (a).) As interpreted by the Supreme Court of California, findings of malice and oppression require "despicable" conduct, and "despicable" conduct is "base," "vile," or "contemptable." (*College Hospital, Inc. v. Superior Court* (1994) 8 Cal.4th 704, 725 ("College Hospital").)

SEE NUNC PRO TUNC MINUTE ORDER OF 11/07/2025 3:06 PM

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Civil Division

Southwest District, Inglewood Courthouse, Department 5

24TRCV03100

ANNIE LEE STEWART vs UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., et al.

November 7, 2025

1:30 PM

Judge: Honorable Tamara Hall

CSR: None

Judicial Assistant: Judicial Assistant: N.

ERM: None

Rodriguez

R. Sanchez

Courtroom Assistant: None

Deputy Sheriff: None

DISCUSSION

Here, Plaintiff Requests Leave to file a First Amended Complaint to include allegations of punitive damages pursuant to *Civil Code Section 3294* and *Code of Civil Procedure Sections 473 and 576* is GRANTED. Based upon Uber's knowledge of numerous unsafe driving complaints against Pitt-Bey as set for in the moving papers, particularly the following incidents on April 14, 2022, July 4, 2022, July 15, 2022, August 24, 2022, and September 2, 2022, and in violation of Uber's Unsafe Driving Policies; yet, Pitt-Bey remained an agent for Uber and used the Uber platform, is "despicable" conduct giving rise to a finding of malicious conduct within the meaning of *College Hospital*. Moreover, there is a substantial probability that Plaintiff will prevail on a *Civ Code Section 3294* claim based upon the allegations in the case at bar coupled with these egregious incidents.

Notwithstanding the opposition, the California Legislature has articulated a policy of great liberality in permitting amendments to the pleadings at any stage of the proceedings. Based upon the recent discovery of these egregious incidents, the Court is exercising its discretion and permits amendment of the pleadings in furtherance of justice and California well established judicial policy of liberality pursuant to *Hirsa v. Superior Court* (1981) 118 Cal.App.3d 486. Accordingly, Plaintiff's Motion is GRANTED.

ORDERS

- 1) Plaintiff Annie Lee Stewart's Motion for Leave to File a First Amended Complaint to Allege Punitive Damages Against Defendant Uber Technologies is GRANTED.
- 2) Plaintiff is ordered to provide notice of this ruling.

IT IS SO ORDERED

DATED: November 7, 2025

SEE NUNC PRO TUNC MINUTE ORDER OF 11/07/2025 3:06 PM

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Civil Division

Southwest District, Inglewood Courthouse, Department 5

24TRCV03100

ANNIE LEE STEWART vs UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., et al.

November 7, 2025

1:30 PM

Judge: Honorable Tamara Hall

CSR: None

Judicial Assistant: Judicial Assistant: N.

ERM: None

Rodriguez

R. Sanchez

Courtroom Assistant: None

Deputy Sheriff: None

Tamara Hall

Judge of the Superior Court

END OF TENTATIVE.

Having reviewed the Court's tentative ruling, counsel Armstead requests to be heard.

Counsel Armstead states his objections to the Court's written tentative.

The matter is argued.

Upon consideration of the oral argument of counsel, the Court adopts it's tentative as the official ruling/order with no amendments.

The PLAINTIFF'S NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE A FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT TO ALLEGE PUNITIVE DAMAGES AGAINST DEFENDANT UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC.; MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES; DECLARAT filed by Annie Lee Stewart on 07/24/2025 is Granted.

Plaintiff's shall file and serve it's First Amended Complaint within 10 days of this order.

Counsel for moving party plaintiff is to give notice.

SEE NUNC PRO TUNC MINUTE ORDER OF 11/07/2025 3:06 PM

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Civil Division

Southwest District, Inglewood Courthouse, Department 5

24TRCV03100

ANNIE LEE STEWART vs UBER TECHNOLOGIES, INC., et al.

November 7, 2025

3:06 PM

Judge: Honorable Tamara Hall
Judicial Assistant: N. Rodriguez
Courtroom Assistant: None

CSR: None
ERM: None
Deputy Sheriff: None

APPEARANCES:

For Plaintiff(s): No Appearances

For Defendant(s): No Appearances

NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS: Nunc Pro Tunc Order

It appearing to the Court that through inadvertence and/or clerical error, the minute order of 11/07/2025 in the above-entitled action does not properly reflect the Court's order. At the direction of the Judicial Officer, said minute order is corrected nunc pro tunc as of 11/07/2025, as follows:

By striking: "APPEARANCES:
For Plaintiff(s): No Appearances
For Defendant(s): No Appearances"

By adding: APPEARANCES:
For Plaintiff(s): Jon Davidi and Tyler Pabojian, for Randall Austin Baker (via LACC)
For Defendant(s): Abby Sullivan, for Benjamin Long (via LACC); Ben Armstead, for DELMAR S THOMAS (via LACC)