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25 CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE WEST

26 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
27 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

28 EDWARD L. KEMPER and CONNIE J.  
29 ARNOLD, for themselves and all others  
30 similarly situated,

31 Plaintiffs,

32 v.

33 CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE WEST, a  
34 California corporation, et. al.

35 Defendants.

Case No. 2:06-CV-00295-LKK-EFB

**FACILITY CONSENT DECREE –  
NORTHRIDGE HOSPITAL MEDICAL  
CENTER**

Date: April 25, 2011  
Time: 10:00 a.m.  
Court Room: 4

**Before The Honorable Lawrence K. Karlton**

///

1 Edward L. Kemper and Connie J. Arnold (the “Named Plaintiffs”), acting on behalf of a  
2 nationwide class of disabled persons (the “Class”), as defined in the Court’s October 2, 2006,  
3 Order Granting Class Certification (the “Certification Order”), and Defendant, Catholic  
4 Healthcare West (“CHW”), hereby enter into the following Facility Consent Decree (the  
5 “Facility Consent Decree”) as to Northridge Hospital Medical Center.

6 **RECITALS**

7 On May 19, 2006, the Named Plaintiffs – both of whom have disabilities as defined by  
8 42 U.S.C. § 12102(2) – filed a proposed class action captioned *Edward L. Kemper and Connie*  
9 *J. Arnold, for themselves and all others similarly situated v. Catholic Healthcare West*, United  
10 States District Court for the Eastern District of California, Sacramento Division, Case No. 2:06-  
11 CV-00295-LKK-PAN (JFM), alleging inaccessible architectural barriers at CHW hospital  
12 campuses. CHW owns and/or operates more than forty (40) hospitals and other health care  
13 facilities in Arizona, California, and Nevada, including, e.g., acute care hospitals, outpatient  
14 care facilities, freestanding surgery and diagnostic centers, behavioral health hospitals, clinics,  
15 medical office buildings, and long term care and skilled nursing facilities.

16 On October 2, 2006, the Court entered the Certification Order, certifying the Class as  
17 follows:

18 All people in the United States with disabilities as that term has been defined by 42  
19 U.S.C. §12102(2) - including those persons that have a physical mobility impairment  
20 that substantially limits a major life function - who have and who were, prior to the filing  
21 of the Class Action Complaint through the pendency of this action, denied the full and  
equal enjoyment of the goods, services, programs, facilities, privileges, advantages, or  
accommodations of any of CHW’s Facilities, because of their respective disabilities.

22 The Certification Order also certified counsel for the Named Plaintiffs as counsel for the Class  
23 (“Class Counsel”). The Named Plaintiffs and the Class are collectively referred to herein as  
24 “Plaintiffs.” CHW and CHW Affiliates are collectively referred to herein as the “CHW Group.”  
25 The CHW Group and Plaintiffs are collectively referred to herein as the “Parties,” and  
26 individually herein as a “Party.”

27 On or about March 17, 2009, the Court approved the Class Settlement Agreement and  
28 Consent Decree (“Consent Decree”) entered into by the Parties.

1 On or about October 15, 2009, the Court approved the Stipulation Regarding Agreed  
2 Upon Tolerances and Procedures (“Tolerance Stipulation”) entered into by the Parties.

3 In accordance with Sections 13 and 14 of the Consent Decree, the Parties conducted a  
4 Facility Site Inspection of the Northridge Hospital Medical Center facility in order to evaluate  
5 physical, communication, and operational accommodations for persons with disabilities. This  
6 Facility Consent Decree incorporates the Facility Modification Plan created as a result of that  
7 Facility Site Inspection.

8 The Parties now, therefore, in accordance with paragraph 14.4 of the Consent Decree,  
9 and in consideration of the mutual covenants and undertakings contained herein, and other good  
10 and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged by the  
11 Parties, agree to the following terms and conditions as full and complete settlement of the action  
12 as to Northridge Hospital Medical Center.

13 **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

14 1. **Definitions.** In addition to the terms defined elsewhere in this Consent Decree, the  
15 following terms shall have the meanings set forth below. Any terms not defined herein shall  
16 have the meaning ascribed to them in the ADA and in its implementing regulations.

17 1.1. “ADA” means the Americans With Disabilities Act, as contained in 42 U.S.C.  
18 Section 12101, *et seq.*, and its implementing regulations.

19 1.2. “Class Members” means members of the Class.

20 1.3. “Consent Decree” means the Class Settlement Agreement and Consent Decree,  
21 approved by the Court on or about March 17, 2009, including any attached exhibits as of  
22 the date of its approval or attached in the future in accordance with paragraph 16.1.

23 1.4. “Disability Laws” means: (1) the ADA; (2) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation  
24 Act of 1973, as amended, 29 U.S.C. §§ 701, *et seq.*; (3) the California Disabled Persons  
25 Act, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 54 *et seq.*; (4) any other provision of California law to the extent  
26 it grants a right of action for alleged violations of the foregoing; (5) any state or local  
27 law, statute, administrative rule, regulatory or code provision that either directly  
28 incorporates Title III of the ADA or any of its implementing regulations, or sets forth

1 standards or requirements that are equivalent to Title III of the ADA or any of its  
2 implementing regulations; and (6) any other federal, state, local, or administrative  
3 statute, rule, or regulation relating to access for the disabled or prohibiting public  
4 accommodations from discriminating on the basis of disability.

5 1.5. "Facility" or "Facilities" means public accommodations owned and/or operated  
6 by the CHW Group which are identified in Exhibit A to the Consent Decree or in  
7 supplements to Exhibit A. A Facility includes all areas open to and available for use by  
8 the public, including, but not limited to, the parking spaces and sidewalks that serve  
9 these areas, so long as the CHW Group has a legal right of alteration or control over  
10 these areas. In the case of an acute care hospital, Facility includes all buildings related  
11 to the hospital's function, or otherwise located contiguous with or adjacent to the  
12 hospital, sharing parking lots or garages or other common areas; such groups of  
13 buildings and common areas may be referred to as a "Hospital Facility Campus."

14 1.6. "Facility Consent Decree" means a judgment approved by the Court regarding a  
15 Facility Modification Plan.

16 1.7. "Facility Modification Plan" means a plan developed by the Parties identifying  
17 the barriers to be removed and/or other modifications to be made pursuant to Disability  
18 Laws for a Facility.

19 1.8. "Facility Site Inspection" is an initial inspection to identify potential barriers, and  
20 the needed barrier removal or other modifications necessary to make a Facility  
21 compliant with Disability Laws.

22 1.9. "Medical Equipment" means equipment that assists in providing disabled  
23 patients access to diagnostic and treatment services (including examination tables,  
24 examination chairs, and lifts), scales, and patient beds.

25 1.10. "Noncompliance" means that more than five percent (5%) of all applicable line  
26 items identified in an approved Facility Consent Decree have not been completed  
27 adequately, after applying all acceptable dimensional tolerances, construction tolerances,  
28 acceptable variations, and equivalent facilitations cited in the Facility Consent Decree.

1 1.11. "Post Compliance Inspection" means a survey conducted by Plaintiffs, through  
2 their Expert(s), to determine whether Noncompliance exists at a Settlement Corrected  
3 Facility.

4 1.12. A "Settlement Corrected Facility" is a Facility that has completed barrier  
5 removal or other modifications pursuant to an approved Facility Consent Decree.

6 1.13. A "Settlement Corrected Facility Order" is a Court order determining that the  
7 CHW Group's obligations with respect to a Settlement Corrected Facility have been  
8 fulfilled, in accordance with the procedures described in paragraph 19 of the Consent  
9 Decree.

10 2. **Facilities Subject to Agreement.** CHW owns and/or operates the following property,  
11 which is a Facility in this litigation covered by the Consent Decree:

12 (1) Northridge Hospital Medical Center, 18300 Roscoe Blvd., Northridge, CA 91328.

13 (2) Pavilion Plaza, 18420 Roscoe Blvd., Northridge, CA 91328.

14 (3) Weight Loss Center, 18400 Roscoe Blvd., Suite A, Northridge, CA 91328.

15 (4) Gamma Knife Center, 18350 Roscoe Blvd., Suite 100, Northridge, CA 91328.

16 (5) IFL Building, 18300 Roscoe Blvd., Northridge, CA 91328.

17 (6) Carole Plump Women's Center, 18300 Roscoe Blvd., Northridge, CA 91328.

18 (7) Children's Center, 18460 Cantara St., Reseda, California, 91335.

19 (8) Renaissance Imaging Center, 18436 Roscoe Blvd., Northridge, CA 91328.

20 (9) Northridge Family Practice Center, 18406 Roscoe Blvd., Northridge, CA 91328.

21 3. **Conditions.**

22 3.1 This Facility Consent Decree is effective only upon approval by the Court in  
23 accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(e) and entry of judgment in accordance with the  
24 terms of the Consent Decree and this Facility Consent Decree.

25 3.2 This Facility Consent Decree incorporates a Facility Modification Plan  
26 respecting the Plaintiffs and Northridge Hospital Medical Center, attached hereto as  
27 Exhibit A. Subject to the terms and conditions of the Consent Decree and this Facility  
28 Consent Decree, CHW will cause the physical, communications and operational

1 alterations and modifications described in the Facility Modification Plan to be made,  
2 with respect to the Facility commonly known as Northridge Hospital Medical Center, in  
3 order to bring about the removal of physical and other barriers and thus allows disabled  
4 persons the full enjoyment of the goods and services provided by Northridge Hospital  
5 Medical Center.

6 **4. Nonadmission/Nondetermination.**

7 4.1. This document constitutes a settlement agreement pursuant to Federal Rule of  
8 Evidence 408. Entering into this Facility Consent Decree does not constitute an  
9 admission by the CHW Group, express or implied, that the CHW Group has in any way  
10 violated any Disability Laws. This Facility Consent Decree, does not contain, and will  
11 not be interpreted or construed as containing, any such admission.

12 4.2. The Court has made no findings concerning the alleged violations of any  
13 Disability Laws. Accordingly, this Facility Consent Decree does not constitute, and will  
14 not be used in this or any other case or action, as evidence of any such violation of any  
15 Disability Laws. If for any reason this Facility Consent Decree is not executed, no  
16 evidence of this proposed Facility Consent Decree will be admissible for any purpose in  
17 this or any other action.

18 **5. No Third Party Beneficiaries/Plaintiffs' Right to Enforce.** For purposes of interpreting  
19 or enforcing this Facility Consent Decree, individual Class Members shall not be deemed to  
20 be third-party beneficiaries. Individual unnamed Class Members may not bring any action  
21 for any alleged violation of this Facility Consent Decree. Only the Named Plaintiffs and  
22 Class Counsel have the authority to bring an action to enforce this Facility Consent Decree.

23 **6. Exclusivity of this Facility Consent Decree.**

24 6.1 Plaintiffs, either individually or collectively, may not now, or at any time in the  
25 future, maintain any legal action contending that the Facility addressed by this Facility  
26 Consent Decree is required, under the legal theories asserted in this action, to make  
27 additional or different modifications beyond those agreed to pursuant to this Facility  
28 Consent Decree.

1 6.2 If any conflicts exist or are perceived between the Consent Decree, this Facility  
2 Consent Decree, and the Facility Modification Plan incorporated herein, the Facility  
3 Modification Plan will govern only with regard to the physical, communications and  
4 operational modifications and alterations to be implemented by CHW respecting Northridge  
5 Hospital Medical Center. For all other such conflicts between the Consent Decree, this  
6 Facility Consent Decree, and the Facility Modification Plan incorporated herein, the Consent  
7 Decree will govern the Facility Consent Decree, and both in conjunction (as so construed)  
8 will govern the Facility Modification Plan.

9 7. **Term.** This Facility Consent Decree shall have a term (“Term”) that expires when the Court  
10 enters a Settlement Corrected Facility Order with regard to the Facility addressed herein.

11 8. **Entire Facility Consent Decree.** This Facility Consent Decree, including the Facility  
12 Modification Plan incorporated within it, constitutes the complete understanding between  
13 the Parties as to this Facility, may not be changed orally, and supersedes any and all prior  
14 agreements or understandings between the Parties as to this Facility. Each Party  
15 acknowledges that no other Party, nor any representative of a Party, has made any  
16 representations or promises other than as set forth herein. No other promises, agreements, or  
17 modifications to this Facility Consent Decree shall be binding unless in writing and signed  
18 by all Parties. The Parties further agree that if any term of this Facility Consent Decree is  
19 held to be void, voidable, unlawful or unenforceable, the remaining portion of the Facility  
20 Consent Decree shall remain in full force and effect.

21 **INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

22 9. **Medical Equipment Review.** In accordance with Paragraph 10.4 of the Consent Decree,  
23 Northridge Hospital Medical Center’s Medical Equipment Report will be finalized within  
24 twenty four (24) months of the finalization of the Medical Equipment Questionnaire, and  
25 filed with the Court.

26 10. **Auxiliary Aids and Services and Service Animal Policies.** CHW will ensure that  
27 appropriate policies regarding Auxiliary Aids and Services and regarding Service Animals  
28 are implemented at the Northridge Hospital Medical Center Facility. CHW’s current

1 Auxiliary Aids and Services policies have been in place since 2008 and are filed with the  
2 Office of Civil Rights. These policies have been provided to Class Counsel for review and  
3 approval. CHW is in the process of developing a system-wide Service Animals Policy,  
4 which will also be provided to Class Counsel for review and approval. CHW's Auxiliary  
5 Aids and Services and Service Animals policies will be filed with the Court within 180 days  
6 of the approval of this Facility Consent Decree.

7 **11. Barrier Removal and Other Modifications.**

8 11.1. CHW will make good faith efforts, including, but not limited to, meeting and  
9 conferring with Class Counsel as necessary, to have all remediation and changes  
10 completed at this Facility within three (3) years of the date the Court approves this  
11 Facility Consent Decree, subject to a stipulated or court-approved extension.

12 11.2. The Parties acknowledge that such good faith efforts will be sensitive to, and  
13 attempt to account for: the need to comply with applicable building codes and applicable  
14 local, state, and federal laws and regulations (including amendments or other changes  
15 thereto); changes in medical science or technology; developments in patient care or  
16 related services; the operational needs of this Facility; the timing of existing or projected  
17 construction and alteration schedules for this Facility unrelated to the Facility  
18 Modification Plan; or other changed circumstances materially affecting this Facility  
19 Consent Decree or its underlying assumptions.

20 11.3. A Party may, at any time, propose amendments to this Facility Consent Decree  
21 if, in the view of the Party proposing the amendment, an amendment is necessary or  
22 appropriate to accommodate changes or developments (as identified in paragraph 15.2 of  
23 the Consent Decree), or to further the objectives of this Facility Consent Decree.

24 Unresolved differences concerning such proposals for resolution may be submitted to  
25 ADR as set forth in paragraph 20 of the Consent Decree. Any recommended resolution  
26 of differences obtained pursuant to the process set forth in paragraph 20 of the Consent  
27 Decree may also be appealed by any Party to the Court pursuant to the process set forth  
28 in paragraph 20 of the Consent Decree. Amendments to this Facility Consent Decree



1 shall be submitted to the Court for hearing and, if appropriate, approval in keeping with  
2 the process employed for approval of Facility Consent Decrees.

3 **12. Post Compliance Inspection.** In accordance with the Consent Decree, CHW will notify  
4 Class Counsel in writing within ninety (90) days after this Facility becomes a Settlement  
5 Corrected Facility. Following this notification, the Parties will cooperate to arrange for a  
6 Post Compliance Inspection of this Settlement Corrected Facility on reasonable notice and at  
7 a mutually convenient time. The Post Compliance Inspection will be scheduled so that the  
8 inspection will occur within ninety (90) days of CHW's notice.

9 **13. Procedures for Addressing Alleged Noncompliance in Post Compliance Inspections.**

10 13.1. Within sixty (60) days of conducting the Post Compliance Inspection, Class  
11 Counsel will notify CHW in writing if Plaintiffs assert Noncompliance with this Facility  
12 Consent Decree. The written notice shall identify with particularity the basis for any  
13 alleged Noncompliance. If no written Notice of Noncompliance is received by CHW  
14 within 90 days after the Post Compliance Inspection is completed, CHW's modifications  
15 will be deemed accepted by Class Counsel so that CHW may seek court approval of this  
16 Facility in accordance with paragraph 19.1 of the Consent Decree.

17 13.2. Within sixty (60) days of receipt of the written notice described in paragraph  
18 13.1, CHW will respond in writing to Class Counsel. The Parties will then meet and  
19 confer over any alleged noncompliance within forty-five (45) days after Class Counsel  
20 receives CHW's response.

21 13.3. Within thirty (30) days after the meeting described in paragraph 13.2, any  
22 remaining unresolved differences as to this Facility will be referred to the Court or, if the  
23 Parties so agree, resolved by ADR as set forth in paragraph 20 of the Consent Decree.

24 13.4. The Court or a Special Master is entitled to provide appropriate relief upon a  
25 showing of Noncompliance as to this Facility Consent Decree. Relief may include, but  
26 is not limited to, enforcement of this Facility Consent Decree, and extension of the  
27 Consent Decree for such period as may be necessary to remedy Noncompliance.  
28

1 13.5. Any Party may petition the Court for relief from the provisions of this Facility  
2 Consent Decree upon a showing of supervening obligations or events that are  
3 unforeseeable or beyond the control of the Parties, including, but not limited to: changes  
4 in state or local building codes or ordinances; other legal or administrative requirements;  
5 problems in the financial credit or bond financing markets or the occurrence of natural  
6 disasters that may prevent timely compliance with the injunctive relief provisions set  
7 forth herein.

8 **14. Final Hearings Regarding Settlement Corrected Facilities.**

9 14.1. Once this Facility becomes a Settlement Corrected Facility, and: (1) after any  
10 disputes over alleged Noncompliance as to this Settlement Corrected Facility are  
11 resolved as described in section 13 above; or (2) sixty (60) days after Class Counsel has  
12 waived a Post-Compliance Inspection or (3) ninety (90) days after this Facility's Post  
13 Compliance Inspection is deemed accepted because Class Counsel has not provided the  
14 written notice described in paragraph 13.1 above, CHW may seek, via motion, a  
15 Settlement Corrected Facility Order finding that CHW's obligations with respect to this  
16 Settlement Corrected Facility have been fulfilled and that CHW has complied with this  
17 Facility Consent Decree.

18 14.2. Within fifteen (15) days of CHW filing the motion described in paragraph 14.1,  
19 Plaintiffs may request an evidentiary hearing on CHW's motion. It is in the Court's  
20 discretion to grant or deny the request.

21 14.3. If the Court finds, as to this Facility, that CHW's obligations have been fulfilled  
22 and that CHW has complied with this Facility Consent Decree, the Court will enter a  
23 Settlement Corrected Facility Order to that effect with regard to this Facility.

24 **BINDING EFFECT; NO NOTICE**

25 15. Once the Court approves this Facility Consent Decree it is a final decree binding the Parties,  
26 and a final judgment pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 54, subject to all rights of judicial review  
27 provided by law for judgments of this Court.  
28

1 16. In accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2), because the Complaint seeks injunctive relief  
2 only, and in keeping with the Court's order dated October 6, 2008, no individual notice to  
3 the Class will be required prior to approval of this Facility Consent Decree.

4  
5 DATED: January 12, 2011

By: /s/ Edward L. Kemper

EDWARD L. KEMPER  
Named Plaintiff

6  
7  
8 DATED: January 11, 2011

By: /s/ Connie J. Arnold

CONNIE J. ARNOLD  
Named Plaintiff

9  
10 DATED: September 22, 2010

By: /s/ Jeff Land

JEFF LAND  
Vice-President, Corporate Real Estate  
CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE WEST

11  
12  
13 DATED: January 12, 2011

DE LA O, MARKO, MAGOLNICK & LEYTON

14  
15 By: Charles D. Ferguson

DANIEL L. LEYTON  
CHARLES D. FERGUSON  
Attorneys for Named Plaintiffs and the Class

16  
17  
18 DATED: January 13, 2011


DOWNEY BRAND LLP

19  
20 By: /s/ Elizabeth B. Stallard

DANIEL J. MCVEIGH  
ELIZABETH B. STALLARD  
Attorneys for Defendant  
CATHOLIC HEALTHCARE WEST

21  
22  
23 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

24  
25  
26 DATED: **April 27, 2011.**

27   
LAWRENCE K. KARLTON  
28 SENIOR JUDGE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT