EXHIBIT A

Superior	or [State	Court	of	Fulton

County

For Clerk Use Only 12/11/2024 Date Filed MM-DD-YYYY				24CV015670 Case Number					
Plaintiff(s)					Defendar	nt(s)			
Thomason	Adam				UNDERDOG SPO	RTS, LLC			
Last	First	Middle I.	Suffix	Prefix	Last	First	Middle I.	Suffix	Prefix
Last	First	Middle I.	Suffix	Prefix	Last	First	Middle I.	Suffix	Prefix
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Last	First	Middle I.	Suffix	Prefix	Last	First	Middle I.	Suffix	Prefix
Plaintiff's A	ttorney Ben	jamin A. Gaste	el		State Bar	Number 432776	Sel	f-Repres	ented 🗆

Check one case type and one sub-type in the same box (if a sub-type applies):

General Civil Cases				
	Automobile Tort			
	Civil Appeal			
	Contempt/Modification/Other			
	Post-Judgment			
	Contract			
	Garnishment			
	General Tort			
	Habeas Corpus			
	Injunction/Mandamus/Other Writ			
	Landlord/Tenant			
	Medical Malpractice Tort			
	Product Liability Tort			
	Real Property			
	Restraining Petition			
\checkmark	Other General Civil			

 \checkmark

Domestic Relations Cases			
	Adoption		
	Contempt		
	Non-payment of child support,		
	medical support, or alimony		
	Dissolution/Divorce/Separate		
	Maintenance/Alimony		
	Family Violence Petition		
	Modification		
	Custody/Parenting Time/Visitation		
	Paternity/Legitimation		
	Support – IV-D		
	Support – Private (non-IV-D)		
	Other Domestic Relations		

Check if the action is related to another action pending or previously pending in this court involving some or all of the same: parties, subject matter, or factual issues. If so, provide a case number for each.

Case Number	Case Number
I hereby certify that the documents in this filing redaction of personal or confidential informatic	, including attachments and exhibits, satisfy the requirements for on in OCGA § 9-11-7.1.

Is a foreign language or sign-language interpreter needed in this case? If so, provide the language(s) required.

Language(s) Required

Do you or your client need any disability accommodations? If so, please describe the accommodation request.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF FULTON COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

ADAM THOMASON,)
Plaintiff,)
V.) 24CV015670) No
UNDERDOG SPORTS, LLC,)
Defendant.)

COMPLAINT

Comes the Plaintiff, Adam Thomason, and hereby complains against the Defendant, Underdog Sports, LLC, as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. Defendant operates a popular online gaming platform called Underdog Fantasy, accessible on the Internet at <u>https://underdogfantasy.com</u> and also on a mobile phone application.

2. At Underdog Fantasy, Defendant offer Georgians the opportunity to play socalled "Pick 'Em" games related to sports and other contests. Defendant projects that an athlete or other contest participant will have certain statistics in an event. An Underdog Fantasy user picks whether the athlete or other participant will meet the projection or not. If the user picks correctly, he wins real money, which he can withdraw or use in subsequent bets.

3. Defendant's Pick 'Em games are illegal gambling under Georgia law. They are no different than giving money to a bookie to bet on a sports team to win a game.

4. Plaintiff brings this action to recover Georgia users' losses at Underdog Fantasy, as permitted by O.C.G.A. § 13-8-3(b).

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

5. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Ga. Const. art. VI, § IV, ¶ I and O.C.G.A. § 15-6-8.

6. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant pursuant to Georgia's longarm statute, O.C.G.A. § 9-10-91(1), because Defendant purposefully transacted business in Georgia, Plaintiff's cause of action against Defendant arises from those acts, and the exercise of jurisdiction by this Court does offend traditional fairness and substantial justice.

7. Venue is proper pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 9-10-93 because Defendant transacted a substantial part of the business at issue in Fulton County. More specifically, a substantial number of people in Fulton County lost bets to Defendant at Underdog Fantasy, as described herein. Defendant was not residing, domiciled, organized, existing, or authorized to transact business in Georgia at any time relevant to this action.

PARTIES

8. Plaintiff Adam Thomason is a natural person and a citizen of Georgia. Plaintiff has not registered at Underdog Fantasy or used Underdog Fantasy. Plaintiff opposes Defendant's gambling business on moral and social grounds. He brings this lawsuit pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 13-8-3(b) to recover gambling losses for the joint use of himself and the educational fund of the county.

9. Defendant Underdog Sports, LLC is a limited liability company organized under the laws of Delaware. Defendant's principal place of business is at 150 Waterbury Street, Brooklyn, New York 11206. Defendant maintains a registered agent at Vcorp Agent Services, Inc., 108 W. 13th Street, Suite 100, Wilmington, Delaware 19801. Defendant conducts business throughout Fulton County and Georgia.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

10. To use Underdog Fantasy, someone first has to register an account by providing a user name, email address, password, and date of birth to Defendant. Defendant requires additional personal details and a form of legal identification to verify the user's identity.

11. Once a user completes the verification process, he can deposit funds with Defendant. Defendant accepts deposits by several means, including credit cards, debit cards, instant bank transfers, and PayPal.

12. After registering and depositing funds, a user can start making picks at Underdog Fantasy.

13. Defendant makes projections in a variety of sports, including professional football, professional basketball, professional baseball, professional soccer, college sports, and even video game competitions called "esports."

14. Defendant's projections involve a wide range of player metrics. In football alone, the metrics include passing yards, receiving yards, rushing yards, passing touchdowns, receptions, field goals made, sacks, and combinations of the foregoing.

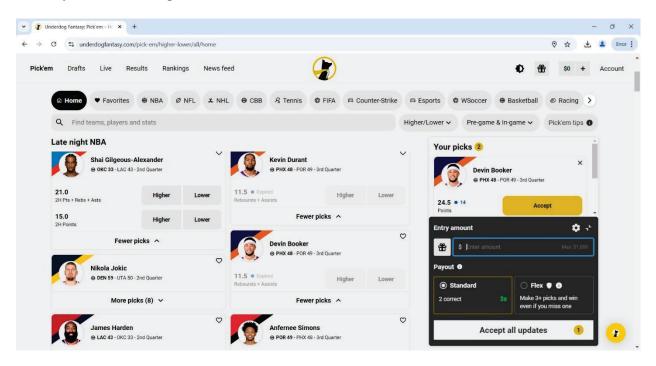
15. Within a chosen sport and/or metric, Defendant displays boxes that contain specific projections.

16. A user picks "higher" or "lower" within a given box, signaling the user's prediction that the player will either fall short of Defendant's projection or exceed it.

17. Some boxes feature "Rivals," putting two players head-to-head. A user picks which player will have a higher or lower statistic, such as points, goals, or yards. Defendant may adjust these choices so that one player must overcome a handicap to be considered the winner.

18. The screenshot below, taken from Underdog Fantasy, shows some projections

made by Defendant for professional basketball:



19. As an example, the upper-left hand box shows Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, a guard for the Oklahoma City Thunder. Defendant projected that Shai Gilgeous-Alexander would have 15.0 points in the second half of a game against the Los Angeles Clippers. An Underdog Fantasy user could pick whether Shai Gilgeous-Alexander would actually have more or less than 15.0 points in the second half of the game.

20. A user has to make picks on at least two different boxes to create an "entry." An entry can include players and projections from different teams, games, or even sports.

21. A user must choose whether his entry will be "Standard" or "Flex." With a Standard entry, the user only wins if all his picks in the entry are correct. If a user makes three or more picks, he can choose for them to be a Flex entry. With a Flex entry, the user can make one incorrect pick and still win. If a user wants to Flex six, seven, or eights picks, it must be a "Double Flex" entry, which allows the user to make two incorrect picks and still win. Winning with a Standard entry is more difficult but has a higher payout.

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22. A user decides how much money to stake on an entry. Defendant calls this an "entry fee" or "entry amount." The entry fee is taken out of the funds the user deposited with Defendant. Underdog Fantasy has a minimum entry fee of \$1. The website shows the potential payout for whatever entry fee the user chooses.

23. Once a user has made his picks, chosen between a Standard entry and a Flex entry, and selected an entry fee, the user submits his entry. At that point, the user has committed to his picks, and his money is at risk.

24. If a user wins with his entry, Defendant credits his account with money. The potential payout for a winning entry is more than the user's entry fee.

25. Defendant states on its website, "\$1 BILLION+ WON ON UNDERDOG," and "WIN UP TO 325x YOUR MONEY." Underdog Fantasy, <u>https://underdogfantasy.com</u> (last visited Dec. 10, 2024).

26. A user can withdraw his winnings to a bank account or PayPal account. A user must withdraw a minimum of \$10 at a time, except that if he has less than \$10 available, he can withdraw the entire balance.

27. A user's winnings at Underdog Fantasy are subject to federal income taxation. Defendant issues a Form 1099-MISC to any user who accumulates \$600 or more in net winnings during a calendar year. Defendant also submits a copy of the user's Form 1099-MISC to the Internal Revenue Service.

28. In the Pick 'Em games offered in Georgia, a user only interacts with Defendant. A user in Georgia does not participate in a group or league, nor does he compete against other users.

29. In certain other states, Defendant offers a different type of game called

"Champions." A Champions game is a peer-to-peer contest where users compete against each other to split a guaranteed prize pool. Defendant does not offer Champions games in Georgia.

30. Upon information and belief, Defendant uses IP addresses and software to detect where a user is accessing the website from and, based on the user's location, offers either Pick 'Em games or Champions games.

31. Several states have told Defendant to stop offering Pick 'Em games (the same games offered in Georgia) because they are illegal gambling.

32. For example, on or about July 5, 2023, the Wyoming Gaming Commission sent a letter to Defendant stating that its business "is considered sports betting and not in compliance with Wyoming's statutes governing fantasy sports contests." The letter told Defendant to cease all noncompliant business in Wyoming until Defendant obtained an online sports wagering operator license or until it complied with the fantasy sports contest requirements.

33. On or about September 19, 2023, the Florida Gaming Control Commission sent a letter to Defendant stating:

The Florida Gaming Control Commission has received information that your company may be offering or accepting illegal bets or wagers from Florida residents. We have also received information that your company may be promoting and conducting an illegal lottery. This alleged conduct is strictly prohibited in Florida and constitutes criminal activity.

. . . .

Accordingly, as Executive Director of the Florida Gaming Control Commission, I am hereby demanding you immediately cease and desist offering or accepting bets or wagers from residents of this state on the results of any contests of skill such as sports betting, including, but not limited to, bets or wagers made in connection with fantasy sports.

34. In February 2024, the Massachusetts Attorney General sent cease and desist

letters to several other entities that offered pick 'em-style games, stating that such games are sports wagering under Massachusetts law. The Massachusetts Attorney General communicated with Defendant on this same issue. Under pressure from the Massachusetts Attorney General, Defendant voluntarily discontinued Pick 'Em and switched to Champions in Massachusetts. A spokesperson for Defendant announced, "In consultation with the Massachusetts Attorney General's office, we've moved to our peer-to-peer pick'em product in Massachusetts."

35. On or about February 15, 2024, the Administrator of the Regulatory Division of the Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration sent a letter to Defendant that stated:

[I] am hereby demanding you immediately cease and desist offering or accepting bets or wagers or other similar instruments from residents of this state. This determination is not limited to your offerings in the category of "player props," a component of sports betting, but includes and is not limited to, bets or wagers or other similar instruments offered in connection with fantasy sports.

36. On or about May 21, 2024, Defendant entered into a Consent Agreement with the Director of the Gambling Control Unit within the Maine Department of Public Safety and the State of Maine Office of the Attorney General. In Maine, as in Georgia, Defendant offered Pick 'Em games, in which users predicted how individual athletes would perform in events. The Consent Agreement noted that these were "single-patron contests" and that users did not compete against each other. Although Defendant had a license to operate fantasy sports contests, the Director of the Gambling Control Unit found that Defendant's Pick 'Em games violated Maine law. Defendant ceased offering Pick 'Em games in Maine and agreed to pay a fine of \$101,881.

37. Upon information and belief, thousands of people in Georgia have lost money to Defendant on Underdog Fantasy Pick 'Em games in the past four years.

38. For example, Jamal Rashad of Augusta, Georgia, spent \$15 on a four-pick Standard entry at Underdog Fantasy. He picked Anthony Davis, a basketball player on the Los Angeles Lakers, to have higher than 29.0 points in a March 7, 2023, game against the Memphis

Grizzlies. He picked Kyrie Irving, a basketball player on the Dallas Mavericks, to have higher than 26.0 points in a March 7, 2023, game against the Utah Jazz. He picked Stephen Curry, a basketball player on the Golden State Warriors, to have lower than 5.5 rebounds in a March 7, 2023, game against the Oklahoma City Thunder. Finally, he picked Mikal Bridges, a basketball player on the Brooklyn Nets, to have higher than 24.5 points in a March 7, 2023, game against the Houston Rockets. Since this was a Standard entry, every pick had to be correct for Jamal Rashad to win.

39. Jamal Rashad lost on this entry because Stephen Curry had six rebounds in his game. Therefore, Jamal Rashad lost \$15 to Defendant on March 7, 2023.

40. Upon information and belief, Jamal Rashad has not brought an action to recover this loss from Defendant.

COUNT I: RECOVERY OF GAMBLING LOSSES

41. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

42. Georgia law provides:

Money paid or property delivered upon a gambling consideration may be recovered from the winner by the loser by institution of an action for the same within six months after the loss and, after the expiration of that time, by institution of an action by any person, at any time within four years, for the joint use of himself and the educational fund of the county.

O.C.G.A. § 13-8-3(b).

43. In Georgia, a person commits the criminal offense of gambling when he "[m]akes a bet upon the partial or final result of any game or contest or upon the performance of any participant in such game or contest." O.C.G.A. § 16-12-21(a)(1).

44. For purposes of the criminal offense of gambling, a "bet" means "an agreement that, dependent upon chance even though accompanied by some skill, one stands to win or lose something of value." O.C.G.A. § 16-12-20(1).

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45. Underdog Fantasy users in Georgia have paid money to Defendant to gamble on the performance of athletes and other contest participants.

46. In doing so, Underdog Fantasy users in Georgia have gambled directly with Defendant, as opposed to other users.

47. Defendant misleadingly describes the money gambled by users as an "entry fee" or "entry amount." In reality, users in Georgia risk their money on the performance of athletes and other contest participants for the chance to win a prize.

48. Defendant awards money to Underdog Fantasy users in Georgia as a prize for winning entries. The potential prize includes the sum of money gambled by a user plus an additional sum.

49. The outcome of such bets depends on chance.

50. Underdog Fantasy users in Georgia have lost, and Defendant has won, money gambled on the performance of athletes and other contest participants.

51. Defendant's Pick 'Em games are illegal gambling under the Georgia Code and Georgia common law.

52. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 13-8-3(b), Plaintiff seeks to recover all money and property lost by Georgia Underdog Fantasy users who have not filed their own actions under the statute, excluding any judge(s) presiding over this action and the immediate family members of such judge(s).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for the following relief:

1. That service of process be had upon Defendant and that Defendant be required to appear and answer this complaint within the time prescribed by law;

- 2. A declaration that Defendant's conduct alleged herein is illegal gambling;
- 3. An order enjoining Defendant's wrongful conduct;
- 4. Recovery of gambling losses pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 13-8-3(b);
- 5. Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest, as provided by law;
- 6. An award of reasonable attorney's fees, litigation expenses, and court costs; and
- 7. All other relief, legal or equitable, that may be just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

<u>/s/ Benjamin A. Gastel</u>
Michael J. Wall (pro hac vice forthcoming)
Benjamin A. Gastel (GA Bar # 432776)
HERZFELD, SUETHOLZ, GASTEL, LENISKI, and WALL PLLC
The Freedom Center
223 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Suite 300
Nashville, TN 37203
Telephone: (615) 800-6225
Facsimile: (615) 994-8625
michael@hsglawgroup.com
ben@hsglawgroup.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff



IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA 136 PRYOR STREET, ROOM J2 C-103, ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303 **SUMMONS**

ADAM THOMASON) Case) No.:	24CV015670	
Plaintiff,))))		
vs.)		
UNDERDOG SPORTS, LLC)		
c/o Vcorp Agent Services, Inc.)		
108 W. 13th Street, Suite 100, Wilmington, DE 19801)		
Defendant)		
)		
)		
)		

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT(S):

You are hereby summoned and required to file electronically with the Clerk of said Court at https://efilega.tylertech.cloud/OfsEfsp/ui/landing (unless you are exempt from filing electronically) and serve upon plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address is:

Michael J. Wall Benjamin A. Gastel Herzfeld, Suetholz, Gastel, Leniski & Wall, PLLC 223 Rosa L. Parks Ave, Ste 300, Nashville, TN 37203

An answer to the complaint which is herewith served upon you, within 30 days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service; unless proof of service of this complaint is not filed within five (5) business days of such service. Then time to answer shall not commence until such proof of service has been filed. IF YOU FAIL TO DO SO, JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF DEMANDED IN THE COMPLAINT.

This	12/10/2024	day of	, 20
			Honorable Ché Alexander, Clerk of Superior Court By Deputy Clerk
	dant upon whom this y of complaint and su	petition is served: nmons was served upon you	, 20

Deputy Sherriff

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

EFILEDSJ Date: 1/3/2025 6:13 PM Che Alexander, Clerk

Case: 24CV015670	Court: IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA	County: FULTON	Job: 12353352 (Underdog Sports, LLC)	
Plaintiff / Petitioner: ADAM THOMASON		Defendant / Respondent: UNDERDOG SPORTS, LLC c/o Vcorp Agent Services, Inc.		
Received by: The Wesley Group		For: Herzfeld Sueth	nolz Gastel Leniski and Wall PLLC	
To be served Underdog Spo				

I, Nicole Bernardo, being duly sworn, depose and say: I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action, and that within the boundaries of the state where service was effected, I was authorized by law to make service of the documents and informed said person of the contents herein

Recipient Name / Address:	Underdog Sports, LLC c/o Vcorp Agent Services, Inc., 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, DE 19801
Manner of Service:	Corporation, Dec 19, 2024, 9:15 am EST
Documents:	Summons and Complaint

01/03/2025 Date

Additional Comments:

1) Successful Attempt: Dec 19, 2024, 9:15 am EST at 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, DE 19801 received by Underdog Sports, LLC. Received by Chimere Brooks. Age: 40; Ethnicity: African American; Gender: Female; Weight: 250; Height: 5'6"; Hair: Black; Eyes: Brown; Relationship: Intake Specialist;

Subscribed and sworn to before me by the affiant who is

personally known to me. Authored Notary Public 01/03/2025 1130/2027

Date

Commission Expires



Nicole Bernardo

The Wesley Group 107 S. West St. Ste. 417 Alexandria, VA 22314

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF FULTON

STATE OF GEORGIA

L

Adam Thomason,

Plaintiff(s)

VS.

Underdog Sports, LLC,

Defendant(s).

Civil Action No. 24CV015670 The Honorable Paige Reese Whitaker

VERIFIED APPLICATION FOR PRO HAC VICE ADMISSION

Pursuant to Georgia Uniform Superior Court Rule 4.4, I, Mr. Michael J Wall (Applicant), hereby applies to this Honorable Court for admission to practice in the above-styled case *pro hac vice*. In support of this application, Applicant states as follows:

1. I reside at:

2145 Shaw Road Goodlettsville, TN 37072

2. My business address is:

Herzfeld, Suetholz, Gastel, Leniski & Wall, PLLC 223 Rosa L. Parks Ave. Suite 300 Nashville, TN 37203 Phone: 615-800-6225 Fax: 615-994-8625 michael@hsglawgroup.com 3.

I have been retained to represent the following client(s)/plaintiff(s):

Adam Thomason 2606 Rangewood Drive NE Atlanta, GA 30345

4. I am a member in good standing of the following jurisdictions:

Court and/or Jurisdiction: Tennessee Supreme Court Contact information: 615-253-1470 Date admitted: 11/14/2005 Current Status: Active Bar/Registration No.: 024774

Jurisdiction: Eastern District of Tennessee Date admitted: 4/16/2009 Still admitted: Yes Current Status: ActiveBar/Registration No.: 024774

Jurisdiction: Western District of Tennessee Date admitted: 2/28/2008 Still admitted: Yes Current Status: ActiveBar/Registration No.: 024774

Jurisdiction: Middle District of Tennessee Date admitted: 8/30/2006 Still admitted: Yes Current Status: ActiveBar/Registration No.: 024774

Jurisdiction: First Circuit Court of Appeals Date admitted: 7/18/2014 Still admitted: Yes Current Status: ActiveBar/Registration No.: 024774

Jurisdiction: Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals Date admitted: 12/14/2006 Still admitted: Yes Current Status: ActiveBar/Registration No.: 024774 Jurisdiction: Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals Date admitted: 3/15/2011 Still admitted: Yes Current Status: ActiveBar/Registration No.: 024774

Jurisdiction: Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals Date admitted: 12/2/2010 Still admitted: Yes Current Status: ActiveBar/Registration No.: 024774

Jurisdiction: United States Supreme Court Date admitted: 3/2/2009 Still admitted: Yes Current Status: ActiveBar/Registration No.: 024774

- 5. I have never been a member of the State Bar of Georgia.
- 6. I have never been denied pro hac vice admission in Georgia.
- 7. I have never had *pro hac vice* admission revoked in Georgia.
- 8. I have never been sanctioned or formally disciplined by a court in Georgia.
- 9. I have never been the subject of any formal disciplinary proceedings.
- 10. I have never been formally held in contempt, or otherwise sanctioned by a court in a written order, for disobedience to its rules or orders.
- In the past two years I have filed for *pro hac vice* admission in Georgia in the following matter(s):
 Superior Court of Fulton
 Case number: 24CV015665
 Adam Thomason v. SidePrize LLC, et al.
 Application date: 01/08/25
 Application granted: Pending
- 12. I have reviewed and am familiar with the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct and all court rules relevant to practice before the court in which I am seeking admission.

13. My local sponsor is:

Benjamin A. Gastel Bar Number: 432776 Herzfeld, Suetholz, Gastel, Leniski & Wall, PLLC 223 Rosa L. Parks Ave. Suite 300 Nashville, TN 37203 615-800-6225

I am currently representing one or all of the clients listed above in matters related to this proceeding:
 I also represent Adam Thomason in a case pending in the Superior Court of Fulton County (No. 24CV015665) against SidePrize LLC and Performance Predictions LLC. I am applying for admission pro hac vice in the other case, as well. Both cases seek to recover losses from illegal gambling pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 13-8-3(b).

- 15. Is there any additional information you would like to provide to the court?: I am a member of the same law firm as Mr. Gastel and am familiar with the issues in this case.
- 16. When I file my application I will forward a copy to the State Bar of Georgia along with a check or money order made payable to the State Bar of Georgia in the amount of \$75, as I have submitted the annual fee for this calendar year.

I, Michael J Wall, applicant in the foregoing Verified Application for *Pro Hac Vice* Admission, hereby verify the facts contained therein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

This 8 Applicant Sworn to before me this Sworn to before me this otary Public My commission expires

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this date served the Office of the General Counsel with a true and complete copy of the foregoing Verified Application for Pro Hac Vice Admission by U.S. Mail with adequate postage thereon to:

Office of the General Counsel State Bar of Georgia 104 Marietta Street, NW Suite 100 Atlanta, GA 30303 Attn: Pro Hac Vice

Underdog Sports, LLC c/o Vcorp Agent Services, Inc. 1209 Orange Street Wilmington, DE 19801

Served on this 8th of January, 2025

Benjamin A. Gastel 432776