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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
October 2023 Grand Jury

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

ANDREW A. WIEDERHORN,
WILLIAM J. AMON,
REBECCA D. HERSHINGER, and
FAT BRANDS INC.,

Defendants.

CR No. 2:24-cr-00295-RGK

I N D I C T M E N T

[26 U.S.C. § 7212(a): Endeavoring to Obstruct the Administration of the Internal Revenue Code; 26 U.S.C. § 7201: Evasion of Payment and Assessment of Tax; 26 U.S.C. § 7206(2): Aiding and Assisting Filing of False Tax Returns; 18 U.S.C. § 1343: Wire Fraud; 15 U.S.C. §§ 78m(k), 78ff: Extension and Maintenance of Credit in the Form of Personal Loan from Issuer to Executive Officer; 15 U.S.C. §§ 78m(b)(2)(B), 78ff(a) and 17 C.F.R. § 240.13b2-2: False Statements and Omission of Material Facts in Statements to Accountants in Connection with Audits and Reviews; 18 U.S.C. § 1350(c)(2), 17 C.F.R. §§ 229.402, 229.404: Certifying Faulty Financial Reports; 18 U.S.C. § 1001(a)(2): Making False Statements; 18 U.S.C. § 2(b): Willfully Causing Act To Be Done]

The Grand Jury charges:

1 INTRODUCTORY ALLEGATIONS

2 At times relevant to this Indictment:

3 A. SUMMARY OF INDICTMENT

4 1. Defendant ANDREW A. WIEDERHORN was the Chief Executive
5 Officer and controlling shareholder of defendant FAT BRANDS INC.
6 ("FAT"), a publicly traded casual-dining franchise company. From no
7 later than in or around 2010 through in or around January 2021,
8 defendant WIEDERHORN caused defendant FAT, as well as its affiliate,
9 Fog Cutter Capital Group Inc. ("FOG"), to compensate him through
10 approximately \$47 million in distributions, which he, defendants
11 WILLIAM J. AMON and REBECCA D. HERSHINGER, and others categorized as
12 "shareholder loans" from FOG in order to conceal the true nature of
13 the payments from defendant FAT's Board of Directors ("Board"), its
14 independent auditors, its minority shareholders, the Securities and
15 Exchange Commission ("SEC"), and the broader investing public.

16 2. In fact, as defendant WIEDERHORN then knew, these
17 distributions were not loans, and defendant WIEDERHORN had no
18 intention of repaying these sham "loans." For years, he posted no
19 collateral, was not even assessed interest, and made no payments on
20 interest or principal. Instead, defendant WIEDERHORN caused the
21 \$47 million in compensation and distributions to be both extended and
22 periodically forgiven from in or around 2016 through in or around
23 January 2021. In other words, defendant WIEDERHORN, posing as both
24 "lender" and "borrower," caused defendant FAT and FOG to extend to
25 him and then "forgive" tens of millions of dollars in distributions
26 made in the fraudulent form of loans -- all while paying no income
27 tax on these distributions and, in fact, using them to generate net
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1 operating losses ("NOLs") to provide defendant FAT with financially
2 beneficial tax treatment.

3 3. In so doing, defendant WIEDERHORN willfully concealed from
4 the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") millions of dollars of taxable
5 income, thereby evading payment of millions of dollars in preexisting
6 tax debts and evading assessment of millions more.

7 4. As defendant WIEDERHORN's tax preparer, defendant AMON
8 willfully assisted and advised defendant WIEDERHORN to submit
9 fraudulent filings to the IRS omitting millions of dollars in taxable
10 income, notwithstanding defendant AMON's awareness that defendant
11 WIEDERHORN was fraudulently treating as "shareholder loans" cash
12 transfers that defendant WIEDERHORN had otherwise repeatedly referred
13 to as "distributions" and "compensation."

14 5. To sustain the scheme, and despite federal laws designed to
15 protect investors and insure transparency and integrity by
16 prohibiting publicly traded companies from extending or maintaining
17 credit to their executives in the form of shareholder loans,
18 defendants WIEDERHORN and HERSHINGER misrepresented and concealed the
19 true nature of the payments from defendant FAT's Board, its
20 independent auditors, its minority shareholders, the Securities and
21 Exchange Commission ("SEC"), and the broader investing public, and,
22 along with other employees of defendant FAT, caused defendant FAT
23 illegally to extend and maintain credit to defendant WIEDERHORN in
24 the form of shareholder loans.

25 6. On or around December 1, 2021, defendants WIEDERHORN and
26 FAT learned that defendant WIEDERHORN was the target of a federal
27 criminal investigation into defendant WIEDERHORN's and defendant
28 FAT's financial dealings. On or around February 22, 2022, defendant

1 FAT publicly claimed that it was "cooperating with the government
2 regarding these matters." After members of defendant FAT's Board
3 communicated with the government regarding that federal criminal
4 investigation, however, defendant WIEDERHORN removed every director
5 other than himself on or around March 28, 2023, and reconstituted
6 defendant FAT's Board with a majority of non-independent directors
7 under his control.

8 B. DEFENDANTS AND RELATED PERSONS AND ENTITIES

9 7. Defendant WIEDERHORN was a resident of Beverly Hills,
10 California.

11 8. Defendant WIEDERHORN was the Chief Executive Officer
12 ("CEO") and controlling shareholder of defendant FAT, a Delaware
13 corporation headquartered in Beverly Hills. As the CEO of defendant
14 FAT, defendant WIEDERHORN owed fiduciary duties, including duties of
15 care and loyalty, to defendant FAT, and was also required to certify
16 that defendant FAT's periodic reports with the SEC, including annual
17 reports using SEC Form 10-K and quarterly reports using SEC Form 10-
18 Q, fully complied with requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of
19 1934 and that information contained in those reports fairly
20 presented, in all material respects, the financial condition and
21 results of operations of defendant FAT.

22 9. Defendant FAT was a global franchising company that
23 acquired and developed casual-dining restaurant concepts, including
24 Fatburger, Johnny Rockets, Hurricane Grill and Wings, Yalla
25 Mediterranean, and Ponderosa and Bonanza Steakhouses. Defendant FAT
26 was also an "issuer" of securities as defined by Title 15 of the
27 United States Code, subject to the reporting requirements set forth
28

1 therein, and its shares were listed and traded on the Nasdaq National
2 Market ("Nasdaq") under the ticker symbol "FAT."

3 10. Defendant WIEDERHORN was also the controlling shareholder
4 of FOG. FOG was a holding company headquartered in Beverly Hills
5 that ultimately conveyed its ownership interests in restaurant brands
6 to defendant FAT in connection with defendant FAT's 2017 Initial
7 Public Offering ("IPO") and the December 2020 merger between
8 defendant FAT and FOG.

9 11. FOG owned approximately 80% of defendant FAT's outstanding
10 shares after defendant FAT's 2017 IPO, and defendant WIEDERHORN and
11 his family members and associates owned and controlled approximately
12 80% of FOG.

13 12. Defendant AMON, a resident of Los Angeles, California, was
14 a Managing Director of the Los Angeles Office of Andersen, a global
15 tax-advisory firm. Defendant AMON was a Certified Public Accountant
16 ("CPA") licensed in California, an inactive attorney, and an
17 experienced tax professional with approximately forty-five years of
18 advisory experience. Defendant AMON, with other colleagues at
19 Andersen, provided tax-advisory services to defendants WIEDERHORN and
20 FAT as well as to FOG.

21 13. Defendant HERSHINGER was a resident of Los Angeles County
22 and defendant FAT's Chief Financial Officer ("CFO"). As defendant
23 FAT's CFO, defendant HERSHINGER owed fiduciary duties, including
24 duties of care and loyalty, to defendant FAT, and was also required
25 to certify that defendant FAT's periodic reports with the SEC,
26 including annual reports using SEC Form 10-K and quarterly reports
27 using SEC Form 10-Q, fully complied with requirements of the
28 Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and that information contained in

1 those reports fairly presented, in all material respects, the
2 financial condition and results of operations of defendant FAT.

3 C. FEDERAL TAX OBLIGATIONS

4 14. The Internal Revenue Code ("Title 26") imposed four types
5 of tax obligations on employers with respect to wages paid to
6 employees: (1) income tax; (2) Social Security tax; (3) Medicare tax;
7 and (4) federal unemployment tax (collectively, "payroll taxes").

8 15. Income tax was calculated based upon the amount of wages
9 employees received; Social Security tax and Medicare tax were imposed
10 by the Federal Insurance Contributions Act ("FICA") and were
11 collectively referred to as "FICA" taxes. FICA taxes were imposed
12 separately on employees and on employers.

13 16. Employers were required to withhold employee FICA taxes and
14 income taxes from the wages paid to their employees, and to pay over
15 the withheld amounts to the United States. The employer's duty to
16 pay over income taxes required to be collected existed even if the
17 taxes were not actually withheld from the employees' wages. The
18 employee FICA taxes and income taxes that employers were required to
19 withhold and pay over to the United States were commonly collectively
20 referred to as "Trust Fund Taxes" because federal law required
21 employers to hold the withheld amounts in trust until they were paid
22 to the United States Treasury on employees' behalf.

23 17. The IRS assessed a Trust Fund Recovery Penalty ("TFRP")
24 against any person responsible for collecting or paying withheld
25 Trust Fund Taxes who willfully failed to collect or pay them. A
26 responsible person was a person or group of people at an employer
27 with the duty to perform and the power to direct the collecting,
28 accounting, and paying of Trust Fund Taxes.

1 18. Gross income was defined under Title 26 as all income from
2 whatever source derived, including, but not limited to, the following
3 items: (1) compensation for services, including fees, commissions,
4 fringe benefits, and similar items; (2) gross income derived from
5 business; (3) gains derived from dealings in property; and
6 (4) dividends. Bonuses from employers were included in the
7 definition of gross income.

8 19. Individuals who failed to pay over taxes due were subject
9 to civil IRS collection efforts. The IRS had the power to levy and
10 seize assets to satisfy delinquent tax balances.

11 20. NOLs arose under the federal tax laws when a company's
12 allowable deductions exceeded its taxable income. NOLs could be
13 applied to offset a company's tax liability in other, subsequent
14 periods through a "loss carryforward."

15 D. METHODS OF COLLECTING AND EVADING TAXES OWED

16 21. If an individual did not pay the full amount of taxes owed,
17 the IRS could institute a collection process to satisfy the
18 outstanding tax obligation. Some individuals who owed tax could
19 qualify for a payment plan, known as an installment agreement, under
20 which the taxpayer made payments in monthly installments. The IRS
21 relied upon taxpayers' stated income and assets in fashioning
22 repayment plans and other efforts to collect taxes owed.

23 22. To assess a taxpayer's ability to repay a tax debt, the IRS
24 also required completion of an IRS Form 433-A ("Form 433-A"),
25 otherwise known as a "Collection Information Statement for Wage
26 Earners and Self-Employed Individuals," which required detailed,
27 current financial information from taxpayers.

28

1 23. Concealing income and assets by omitting or misstating
2 items on a Form 433-A, avoiding transfers of funds into taxpayer
3 accounts, and titling assets under nominee individuals and business
4 entities were known methods to impede and evade IRS collection
5 efforts.

6 24. Generating compensation in forms that appeared not to be
7 income, such as in the form of reimbursements, shareholder loans, and
8 transfers of funds through intermediary entities, were additional
9 methods used to generate income while evading IRS efforts to assess
10 taxes owed upon such income and collect preexisting tax debts.

11 E. DEFENDANT WIEDERHORN'S PRIOR SHAREHOLDER BORROWING AND LENDING,
12 FELONY CONVICTIONS, AND KNOWLEDGE OF RELEVANT TAX LAWS

13 25. Beginning no later than in or around 1993, defendant
14 WIEDERHORN began to cause Wilshire Credit Corporation ("WCC"), a
15 company for which he served as CEO, to make distributions in the form
16 of shareholder loans to himself and to a colleague ("WCC Executive").
17 Defendant WIEDERHORN made these distributions to himself and WCC
18 Executive in a 2:1 ratio, which corresponded to their employment and
19 compensation agreement.

20 26. As the size of defendant WIEDERHORN's distributions in the
21 form of shareholder loans increased between 1993 and 1998, defendant
22 WIEDERHORN's tax advisors, including Tax Advisor 1, advised defendant
23 WIEDERHORN that he was required to repay these debts or else pay
24 income tax on their forgiveness. Tax Advisor 1 also advised
25 defendant WIEDERHORN that he was required to make interest and
26 principal payments on shareholder loans, and that, to the extent
27 defendant WIEDERHORN's borrowings had rendered him insolvent, any
28 additional borrowings in the form of shareholder loans would be

1 legally improper because it would be commercially unreasonable for a
2 lender to extend additional loans in that circumstance (i.e., loaning
3 substantial amounts of money to someone with no ability to repay the
4 loans).

5 27. Notwithstanding these warnings from Tax Advisor 1,
6 defendant WIEDERHORN continued the extensions of credit from WCC to
7 himself and WCC Executive, including extensions and distributions
8 beyond amounts previously authorized by defendant WIEDERHORN himself
9 and despite WCC Executive's protests and objections.

10 28. In or around 1998, a publicly traded affiliate of WCC
11 controlled by defendant WIEDERHORN, Wilshire Financial Services Group
12 ("WFSG"), plummeted in value in connection with a collapse in the
13 value of WCC's loan portfolio. Defendant WIEDERHORN nevertheless
14 continued to compensate himself and WCC Executive through
15 distributions made in the form of shareholder loans from WCC
16 notwithstanding the collapse of the value of defendant WIEDERHORN's
17 holdings in WCC and WFSG.

18 29. Defendant WIEDERHORN ultimately forgave \$65 million in
19 outstanding putative shareholder loan debts he had owed to WCC.

20 30. Beginning no later than in or around 2001, defendant
21 WIEDERHORN was informed that he was a target of a federal grand jury
22 investigation into his business and financial dealings, and was
23 informed no later than in or around 2003 that that investigation
24 included his pattern and practice of causing companies under his
25 control to extend and forgive shareholder loans to him.

26 31. On or about June 3, 2004, defendant WIEDERHORN resolved
27 that investigation by pleading guilty to Payment of Gratuities, in
28 violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1954, and Filing a

1 False Tax Return, in violation of Title 26, United States Code,
2 Section 7206(1), in the United States District Court for the District
3 of Oregon, case number 3:04-cr-00238-BR.

4 32. FOG and its affiliates were related corporate entities and
5 successors to WFSG and WCC, and, beginning no later than tax year
6 2008, FOG and its affiliates generated payroll-tax liabilities for
7 which defendant WIEDERHORN became responsible in the form of TFRPs.

8 F. DUTIES OF ISSUERS, CEOs, AND CFOs UNDER THE FEDERAL SECURITIES
9 LAWS

10 33. Under the federal securities laws, defendant FAT, as an
11 issuer of securities, was required to file comprehensive periodic
12 reports with the SEC, including annual reports using SEC Form 10-K
13 and quarterly reports using SEC Form 10-Q.

14 34. SEC regulations required defendant FAT to disclose certain
15 information regarding related party transactions and executive
16 compensation in their SEC Forms 10-K.

17 a. Related Party Transactions - 17 C.F.R. § 229.404

18 i. Defendant FAT was required to disclose, in the
19 "Relationships and Related Transactions" portion of its SEC Form 10-
20 K, all disclosures prescribed by Item 404 of SEC Regulation S-K,
21 including "any transaction, since the beginning of the registrant's
22 last fiscal year . . . in which the registrant was or is to be a
23 participant and the amount involved exceeds \$120,000, and in which
24 any related person had or will have a direct or indirect material
25 interest."

26 ii. A "related person" included "[a]ny director or
27 executive officer" of the company as well as "[a]ny immediate family
28 member of a director or executive officer of the registrant."

1 iii. Item 404 defined a transaction as "any financial
2 transaction, arrangement, or relationship (including any indebtedness
3 or guarantee of indebtedness)." The disclosure was required to
4 include the name of the related person, the person's relationship to
5 the public company, the nature of the person's interest in the
6 transaction, and the amount of the person's interest in the
7 transaction.

8 b. Executive Compensation - 17 C.F.R. § 229.402

9 i. Defendant FAT was also required to disclose, in
10 the "Executive Compensation" section of its SEC Form 10-K, "all plan
11 and non-plan compensation awarded to, earned by, or paid to" the CEO
12 and all directors "by any person for all services rendered in all
13 capacities to the registrant" for the last completed fiscal year.
14 The term "plan compensation" included "[a]ny plan, contract,
15 authorization or arrangement, whether or not set forth in any formal
16 document, pursuant to which cash, securities, . . . or any other
17 property may be received. "A plan may be applicable to one person."

18 c. CEO and CFO Certification - 15 U.S.C. § 7241

19 i. Among other requirements imposed by federal
20 securities laws, CEOs and CFOs of companies required to file periodic
21 reports with the SEC were required to sign and certify that:

22 (I) They had reviewed such report;

23 (II) The report contained no untrue statement of
24 material fact or omits to state a material fact necessary in order to
25 make other statements made not misleading;

26 (III) Financial statements and information
27 contained in such reports fairly presented in all material respects

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1 the financial condition and results of operations of the reporting
2 company;

3 (IV) They were responsible for establishing and
4 maintaining internal controls;

5 (V) They had disclosed to the reporting
6 company's independent auditors and audit committee of the board of
7 directors that all significant deficiencies in the design and
8 operation of internal controls that could adversely affect the
9 company's ability to record, process, summarize, and report financial
10 data and had identified to the independent auditors any material
11 weaknesses in internal controls; and

12 (VI) They had disclosed any fraud, whether or not
13 material, that involved management or other employees who have a
14 significant role.

15 ii. Defendants WIEDERHORN and HERSHINGER, in their
16 capacity as CEO and CFO of defendant FAT, respectively, were required
17 to make these certifications in defendant FAT's periodic reports with
18 the SEC.

19 G. DEFENDANT WIEDERHORN'S TAX DEBTS, IRS COLLECTION EFFORTS,
20 MISREPRESENTATIONS AND MATERIAL OMISSIONS

21 35. From at least 2006 to 2021, defendant WIEDERHORN was the
22 subject of ongoing IRS collection activities related to nonpayment of
23 personal income tax and Trust Fund Taxes owed by defendant WIEDERHORN
24 personally and as a responsible party and guarantor for entities,
25 including FOG.

26 36. Beginning no later than April 2006, the IRS had issued to
27 defendant WIEDERHORN notices of intent to levy and notices of liens
28

1 and had also placed levies and liens on defendant WIEDERHORN's
2 accounts and assets due to outstanding taxes he owed to the IRS.

3 37. Additional notices of intent to levy, notices of lien, and
4 levies and liens were placed on his assets in ensuing years,
5 including in 2009, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2014, 2016, and 2017.

6 38. In or around October 2015, an IRS Revenue Officer ("RO")
7 interviewed defendant WIEDERHORN regarding unpaid Trust Fund Taxes,
8 informed defendant WIEDERHORN of his personal liabilities for failure
9 to pay Trust Fund Tax balances due and owing, and emphasized that the
10 IRS could levy defendant WIEDERHORN's personal bank accounts along
11 with defendant WIEDERHORN's other properties and assets should
12 defendant WIEDERHORN remain delinquent on his federal tax
13 obligations.

14 39. In or around April 2016, the IRS assessed defendant
15 WIEDERHORN a penalty of \$2,167,187 for FOG's failure to pay over
16 Trust Fund Taxes from 2013 to 2015 and established an installment
17 agreement for payment of the amounts he owed.

18 40. In or around September 2016, the IRS assessed defendant
19 WIEDERHORN an additional penalty of \$239,141 for failure to pay over
20 Trust Fund Taxes owed by FOG from the first quarter of 2016.

21 41. In or around May 2018, the IRS assessed defendant
22 WIEDERHORN an additional penalty of approximately \$687,395 for FOG's
23 failure to pay over Trust Fund Taxes from the second quarter of 2016
24 through the third quarter of 2017.

25 42. By on or about March 24, 2021, defendant WIEDERHORN's
26 unpaid personal income tax liability to the IRS totaled approximately
27 \$7,743,952, inclusive of statutory interest and penalties, and his
28 unpaid principal balance totaled approximately \$3,664,224.

1 H. RELEVANT CORPORATE STRUCTURE AND HISTORY OF DEFENDANT FAT AND
2 FOG

3 43. In or around 2003, FOG purchased the Fatburger casual
4 burger franchise concept.

5 44. In or around December 2011, FOG purchased Buffalo's Café,
6 another restaurant concept, and in or around 2017, FOG also purchased
7 two additional brands, Ponderosa and Bonanza steakhouses.

8 45. In or around October 2017, defendant FAT completed an IPO
9 of some twenty percent (20%) of its equity being offered to and
10 purchased by the investing public. In doing so, defendant FAT became
11 subject to the requirements of issuers under federal securities laws.

12 46. After the IPO, FOG retained approximately eighty percent
13 (80%) of defendant FAT's common stock, and defendant FAT, in turn,
14 owned restaurant properties and brands including Fatburger North
15 America, Buffalo's Franchise Concepts, Ponderosa Franchising Company,
16 and Bonanza Restaurant Company.

17 47. FOG's retention of 80% ownership of defendant FAT after the
18 IPO meant that any NOLs generated by FOG could also be used by
19 defendant FAT to lower its taxable income in the event of a merger
20 between those two entities.

21 48. On or about September 6, 2017, in connection with its IPO,
22 defendant FAT disclosed that its "board of directors recognizes the
23 fact that transactions with related persons present a heightened risk
24 of conflicts of interests and/or improper valuation" and committed to
25 "adopt a written policy on transactions with related persons that is
26 in conformity with the requirements for issuers having publicly-held
27 common stock that is listed on NASDAQ." Defendant FAT also disclosed
28 that its "new policy" would require, among other things, that:

1 a. "any related person transaction . . . must be reviewed
2 and approved or ratified by a committee of the board of directors
3 composed solely of independent directors who are disinterested or by
4 the disinterested members of the board of directors;

5 b. any employment relationship or transaction involving
6 an executive officer and any related compensation must be approved by
7 the compensation committee of the board of directors or recommended
8 by the compensation committee to the board of directors for its
9 approval;

10 c. In connection with the review and approval or
11 ratification of a related person transaction:

12 i. management must disclose to the committee or
13 disinterested directors . . . the name of the related person . . .
14 the material terms of the related person transaction, including the
15 approximate dollar value of the amount involved in the transaction,
16 and all the material facts as to the related person's direct or
17 indirect interest in, or relationship to, the related person
18 transaction;

19 ii. management must advise the committee or
20 disinterested directors, as applicable, as to whether the related
21 person transaction complies with the terms of our agreements
22 governing our material outstanding indebtedness that limit or
23 restrict our ability to enter into a related person transaction;

24 iii. management must advise the committee or
25 disinterested directors, as applicable, as to whether the related
26 person transaction will be required to be disclosed in our applicable
27 filings under the Securities Act or the Exchange Act, and related
28 rules, and, to the extent required to be disclosed, management must

1 ensure that the related person transaction is disclosed in accordance
2 with such Acts and related rules; and

3 iv. management must advise the committee or
4 disinterested directors, as applicable, as to whether the related
5 person transaction constitutes a 'personal loan' for purposes of
6 Section 402 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act."

7 49. On or around July 3, 2018, defendant FAT entered into and
8 disclosed a Loan and Security Agreement with FB Lending, LLC, by
9 which FB Lending, LLC would lend \$16 million to defendant FAT so that
10 defendant FAT could "retire and extinguish all of the existing senior
11 secured indebtedness" owed to another lender; "complete the
12 acquisition of Hurricane AMT, LLC"; "fund Transaction Costs"; and
13 "fund . . . general corporate purposes."

14 50. On or around February 4, 2019, defendant FAT refinanced the
15 FB Lending Loan Services Agreement by entering into a new Loan and
16 Security Agreement (the "Lion Fund LSA") with The Lion Fund, L.P. and
17 The Lion Fund II, L.P. (collectively the "Lion Funds"). In this
18 refinancing, defendant FAT took on \$20 million of debt at twenty
19 percent annual interest and used the proceeds to repay the existing
20 \$16 million FB Lending loan plus accrued interest and fees and
21 provide what it described as additional general working capital to
22 defendant FAT.

23 51. On or around December 11, 2020, defendant FAT announced
24 that it had entered into a merger agreement with FOG by which the
25 entities would be combined. In connection with such merger,
26 defendant WIEDERHORN announced that the combination of defendant FAT
27 and FOG would, among other things, "eliminate limitations that
28 restrict our ability to use common stock for accretive acquisitions

1 and capital raising. [FOG] holds more than \$100 million of . . .
2 NOL's, which could only be made available to [defendant FAT] as long
3 as [FOG] owned at least 80% of [defendant FAT]. With this
4 combination, the NOL's will be internalized at [defendant FAT], and
5 we will now have much greater flexibility and optionality in our
6 capital structure."

7 I. DEFENDANT WIEDERHORN CAUSED DEFENDANT FAT AND FOG TO EXTEND,
8 MAINTAIN, AND FORGIVE APPROXIMATELY \$47 MILLION IN COMPENSATION
9 TO HIM IN THE FORM OF SHAM SHAREHOLDER LOANS, WHICH HE AND
10 DEFENDANT AMON KNEW WERE "DISGUISED COMPENSATION"

11 52. From no later than in or around 2010 through in or around
12 January 2021, defendant WIEDERHORN caused employees of defendant FAT
13 and FOG to compensate him through approximately \$47 million in
14 distributions, which he concealed by categorizing them as
15 "shareholder loans" for tax purposes.

16 53. As of in or around December 2011, the "ending balance" on
17 the distributions defendant WIEDERHORN had taken from FOG in the form
18 of "loans" totaled approximately \$2,063,045, and that balance grew
19 annually as defendant WIEDERHORN continued to take distributions from
20 defendant FAT and FOG.

21 54. At no time did defendant WIEDERHORN make an interest
22 payment upon any of the distributions he took in the asserted form of
23 "shareholder loans," nor were interest payments demanded by FOG or
24 defendant FAT.

25 55. Although defendant WIEDERHORN had taken more than \$20
26 million in distributions styled as "shareholder loans" from in or
27 around January 2011 through January 2018, a former FOG CFO stated in
28 an email of January 24, 2018, that FOG's loan documents from 2011 had

1 gone unexecuted. The 2011 shareholder loan documents also set a
2 limit for loans to defendant WIEDERHORN of \$4 million. At no time
3 did the authorized FOG shareholder lending limit exceed \$4 million.

4 56. After defendant FAT became an issuer of securities through
5 its IPO, defendant WIEDERHORN caused millions of dollars from
6 defendant FAT's accounts to be disbursed to defendant WIEDERHORN and
7 his family members for their personal benefit. These disbursements
8 were used to fund the purchase of private-jet travel, vacations, a
9 Rolls Royce Phantom, other luxury automobiles, jewelry, and a piano.
10 Defendant WIEDERHORN caused employees of defendant FAT to account for
11 the disbursements directly from defendant FAT to his accounts as:
12 (i) an increase in an intercompany loan between defendant FAT and
13 FOG; and (ii) an increase in FOG's shareholder loan "balance" or
14 "receivable" to defendant WIEDERHORN.

15 57. This accounting did not accurately describe the economic
16 substance of these disbursements from defendant FAT to defendant
17 WIEDERHORN. After the IPO, FOG became a holding company with little
18 to no business operations or associated revenues of its own. FOG
19 received the vast majority of its funds from defendant FAT. Between
20 the IPO and merger between defendant FAT and FOG, almost all of the
21 "shareholder loan" from FOG to defendant WIEDERHORN derived from
22 defendant FAT's revenues and borrowings.

23 58. For example, on or about July 3, 2018, FB Lending LLC wired
24 approximately \$13,630,951 to defendant FAT pursuant to the parties'
25 lending agreement. Between on or around July 3, 2018, and on or
26 around October 5, 2018, defendant FAT transferred approximately
27 \$5,207,351 of that amount to three accounts: a FOG Mechanics Bank
28 account x3472, a Fatburger North America Mechanics Bank account

1 x3478, and a FOG Mechanics Bank account x3469. Defendant WIEDERHORN
2 directed an employee of defendant FAT to use approximately \$944,185
3 of those funds to pay a balance owed on defendant WIEDERHORN's
4 American Express ("AMEX") Centurion Card that paid for his personal
5 expenses; approximately \$105,000 to pay defendant WIEDERHORN's rent;
6 and approximately \$762,455 to be wired directly into defendant
7 WIEDERHORN's personal Mechanics Bank account x3481.

8 59. In another example, on or about January 30, 2019, the Lion
9 Funds wired approximately \$1,670,376 to a defendant FAT Mechanics
10 Bank account x1080. That same day, upon receipt of the Lion Funds
11 wire, defendant WIEDERHORN caused approximately \$623,364 to be
12 transferred to the Fatburger North America Mechanics Bank account
13 x3478, from which a \$604,011 payment was made to satisfy defendant
14 WIEDERHORN's AMEX Centurion Card personal debt.

15 60. Between approximately on or about October 20, 2017, and May
16 13, 2019, defendant WIEDERHORN caused defendant FAT to pay more than
17 \$5 million from the Fatburger North America Mechanics Bank Account to
18 satisfy defendant WIEDERHORN's personal debts owed on his AMEX
19 Centurion Card.

20 61. Although defendant FAT and FOG accounted for these
21 disbursements as "loans," defendant WIEDERHORN characterized them as
22 "distributions" and "compensation in excess of my salary" to
23 defendant AMON, putative personal lenders, and others.

24 62. For example, when seeking to establish creditworthiness
25 with outside parties, on or about September 28, 2020, defendant
26 WIEDERHORN wrote in an email that, in addition to his disclosed
27 annual salary of approximately \$400,000, he also received "\$3m-4m of
28

1 distributions from my company as loans, then periodically the company
2 forgives those loans."

3 63. When describing FOG's capital structure to outside lenders,
4 defendant WIEDERHORN also wrote, in or around April 25, 2017, that
5 "[d]istributions to me (booked as compensation for tax purposes by
6 the company) were made from time to time in the form of a
7 loan/advance."

8 64. As of on or about June 30, 2017, defendant WIEDERHORN had
9 accrued a balance of approximately \$22,438,798 (inclusive of unpaid
10 "interest") in distributions booked in the form of a shareholder loan
11 balance he owed to FOG.

12 65. As of on or about December 31, 2017, defendant WIEDERHORN
13 had transferred to himself additional amounts from defendant FAT and
14 FOG totaling approximately \$2,525,937 such that the total "balance"
15 of distributions styled as "shareholder loans" (inclusive of unpaid
16 "interest") was approximately \$24,964,735.

17 66. On or around January 17, 2018, defendant WIEDERHORN emailed
18 defendant AMON a "personal financial statement" purporting to
19 establish his insolvency and, therefore, his inability to repay
20 existing "shareholder loan" debts owed to FOG. On or around January
21 24, 2018, defendant AMON responded, noting that "the approach is
22 complicated" due to the need to "[e]stablish that the advances are in
23 fact true loans—meaning an advance with an expectation of repayment
24 . . . v in your case disguised compensation."

25 67. Working further on the preparation of
26 defendant WIEDERHORN's 2017 income-tax filings on or around October
27 14, 2018, and preparing to categorize the entire balance owed by
28 defendant WIEDERHORN to FOG as a set of two forgiven shareholder

1 loans, defendant AMON emailed defendant WIEDERHORN, "I am really
2 struggling with the December 31, 2017 write off of about \$2.464
3 million plus interest," because asserting that FOG had written off
4 that second balance of approximately \$2.5 million "puts in some risk
5 the much larger June 2017 write off. That is, from a commercial
6 perspective, why would a company advance additional monies if we just
7 had to write off over \$20 million in June of the same year?" "My
8 concern is that the IRS will take issue with both write offs."
9 Accordingly, defendant AMON suggested that he and defendant
10 WIEDERHORN should "treat the advances . . . post June 2017 as
11 compensation."

12 68. In response, defendant WIEDERHORN replied, "treat the \$2.4
13 as a loan, then recognize as comp in 2018. The board was adamant
14 that the old loans be written off in June. But when we found a new
15 underwriter in Q3 and then completed the IPO in Q4, the board felt
16 comfortable with the additional advances."

17 69. In fact, however, the FOG Board of Directors was not
18 "adamant that the old loans be written off in June"; they were
19 instead unaware of the quantity and timing of defendant WIEDERHORN's
20 distributions because defendant WIEDERHORN unilaterally determined
21 and controlled, without input or approval from the FOG Board of
22 Directors, the nature, quantity, and timing of both his distributions
23 made in the form of shareholder loans as well as all putative events
24 of forgiveness of the distributions to himself made in the form of
25 "shareholder loans."

26 70. Notwithstanding the agreement between defendants WIEDERHORN
27 and AMON that "the \$2.4" million would be recognized as taxable
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1 income in defendant WIEDERHORN's 2018 income taxes, such amount was,
2 in fact, never disclosed as taxable income in tax year 2018.

3 71. After unilaterally causing FOG to "forgive" the \$24 million
4 in "shareholder debt" he owed to FOG as of the end of 2017, defendant
5 WIEDERHORN continued to withdraw funds from defendant FAT and FOG
6 until his "balance" reached approximately \$16.8 million on or around
7 December 31, 2019.

8 72. On or about January 10, 2020, defendants WIEDERHORN and
9 AMON agreed to treat this additional \$16.8 million in total
10 distributions to defendant WIEDERHORN as shareholder debts owed by
11 defendant WIEDERHORN to FOG forgiven "as of" December 31, 2019, with
12 defendant AMON emphasizing, "Insolvency . . . is . . . determined
13 immediately before the debt discharge."

14 73. When the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in March 2020
15 created a more convincing opportunity for defendant WIEDERHORN to
16 justify "forgiving" the millions he had taken in the form of
17 shareholder loans, however, defendant WIEDERHORN recharacterized the
18 date upon which FOG (by defendant WIEDERHORN) had forgiven his \$16.8
19 million in "debt" to coincide with the pandemic. Thus, by in or
20 around September 2020, defendant WIEDERHORN had characterized to
21 defendant FAT's Board and independent auditors at Baker Tilly that
22 the debt had been "forgiven" in or around March 2020.

23 74. In or around March 2021, defendant AMON supervised the
24 drafting of an Uncertain Tax Position ("UTP") Memo on behalf of
25 defendant FAT to its independent auditors at Baker Tilly.

26 75. One draft of the UTP Memo sent to defendant AMON by a
27 subordinate, V.M., on or about March 11, 2021, contained the
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1 assertion, "while the creditor [FOG] is still working with the debtor
2 [defendant WIEDERHORN], it has ceased making loans to the debtor."

3 76. On the following day, however, on or around March 12, 2021,
4 V.M. notified defendant AMON that "only 19 million was written off at
5 3/1/2020, then the line got back up to \$10 million around the date of
6 the merger in December, and then they wrote off that \$10. So, I
7 deleted the point that the creditor ceased making more loans to the
8 debtor in March."

9 77. Notwithstanding this material clarification and change to
10 the circumstances of the distributions defendant WIEDERHORN had
11 caused FOG to extend and forgive in the form of shareholder loans,
12 neither defendant AMON, as drafter, nor defendant HERSHINGER, as
13 named author, altered the conclusions of the UTP Memo that these
14 distributions represented "a bona fide debt," nor did defendants AMON
15 or HERSHINGER disclose in the UTP Memo that defendant WIEDERHORN had
16 taken an additional \$10 million in distributions after causing FOG to
17 forgive \$19 million in previous distributions in the form of a
18 shareholder loan.

19 78. In the UTP Memo, defendants AMON and HERSHINGER also
20 included the following material misrepresentation: "In March of 2020
21 the Company assessed the collectability of the note. During the
22 COVID-19 pandemic, the Company business operations [sic] suffered .
23 . . . Due to this, the likelihood of repayment seemed remote. The
24 Company deemed the note uncollectable and wrote-off the shareholder
25 loan for \$29 million as worthless. Pursuant to Section 166 of the
26 IRC, a deduction is allowed in the taxable year wherein deemed
27 worthless. As such, this resulted in COD [cancellation of debt]
28 income to Andy Wiederhorn in the same year. It is the Company's

1 understanding that Andy Wiederhorn will be recognizing income for the
2 same amount on his personal tax returns." As defendants AMON and
3 WIEDERHORN knew, however, from communications between them, defendant
4 WIEDERHORN had in fact determined to forgive \$16.8 million of such
5 distributions in the form of shareholder debt as of December 31,
6 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic had created a new justification
7 for doing so.

8 79. Defendant WIEDERHORN recognized no taxable "cancellation-
9 of-debt" income on his 2020 tax returns, which returns were prepared
10 by and in consultation with defendant AMON.

11 80. In addition to failing to disclose more recent forgiveness
12 events of distributions in the form of a shareholder loan, the UTP
13 Memo also failed to disclose to defendant FAT's independent auditor
14 that the loans discussed in that memorandum followed prior
15 distributions and related "events of forgiveness" in favor of
16 defendant WIEDERHORN totaling tens of millions of dollars, including
17 in the years 2016 through 2019.

18 J. MATERIAL MISREPRESENTATIONS, OMISSIONS, AND CIRCUMVENTIONS OF
19 INTERNAL CONTROLS BY DEFENDANTS WIEDERHORN AND HERSHINGER

20 81. As the size of the intercompany transfers between defendant
21 FAT and FOG increased to fund defendant WIEDERHORN's distributions in
22 the form of a "shareholder loan" from FOG, both defendant FAT's Board
23 and independent auditors raised concerns about the transfers to
24 defendants WIEDERHORN and HERSHINGER.

25 82. In response, defendants WIEDERHORN and HERSHINGER made
26 material misrepresentations, omitted material facts, and caused
27 others to make material misrepresentations, material omissions, and
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1 misleading statements to defendant FAT's Board and independent
2 auditors regarding such intercompany transfers.

3 83. For example:

4 a. On or around March 22, 2019, a Hutchinson & Bloodgood
5 LLP, auditor asked defendant FAT's controller for information about
6 defendant FAT's January 30, 2019, payment of a \$604,011.12 balance on
7 defendant WIEDERHORN's personal AMEX card. A few days later, on or
8 around March 25, 2019, FAT's controller emailed defendant HERSHINGER
9 asking whether to send a proposed draft response informing the
10 auditor that "there are various Fatburger North America/FAT Brand
11 charges from Andy's Black AMEX card that are expensed to Fatburger
12 North America and FAT Brands." After communicating with defendant
13 HERSHINGER, FAT's controller omitted in her response to the auditor
14 that many of the payments on that credit card, which balance
15 defendant FAT paid down, were defendant WIEDERHORN's personal
16 expenses.

17 b. On or about May 11, 2019, a member of defendant FAT's
18 Board emailed defendant WIEDERHORN, defendant HERSHINGER, and
19 defendant FAT's then-auditors at Hutchison & Bloodgood asking about
20 the company's draft first quarter 2019 SEC Form 10-Q filing
21 reflecting "activity in [the] inter company account," which indicated
22 an increase in the transfer of funds from defendant FAT to FOG. On
23 or about that same day, defendant WIEDERHORN responded to defendant
24 FAT's Board only, prefacing, "I've removed the Auditors from this e-
25 mail string as this is a board communication, not auditor
26 communication," before misrepresenting to defendant FAT's Board that
27 "[t]he increase in intercompany is a combination of tax benefit from
28 the loss . . . , interest on the intercompany debt \$416k, and

1 principal invested 'in guarantor'/loaned in lieu of the cash
2 dividends for [FOG] to pay the various tax and legal settlements and
3 other obligations pending the refi and merger (structured this way to
4 comply with the original FB lending loan)." In this communication,
5 defendant WIEDERHORN failed to disclose and materially omitted that
6 the intercompany balance had increased because of defendant
7 WIEDERHORN's continuing transfers from defendant FAT to FOG, which he
8 documented in the form of FOG's "shareholder loan" to himself. These
9 transfers included payment of the \$604,011.12 balance in or around
10 January 2019 on defendant WIEDERHORN's personal AMEX credit card.

11 84. In or around February and March 2020, certified public
12 accountants employed by defendant FAT's new independent auditor,
13 Squar Milner LLP, began focusing on the increase in intercompany
14 transfers between defendant FAT and FOG, the reasons for the
15 transfers, and the process by which defendant FAT had authorized
16 those transfers.

17 85. On or about February 25, 2020, defendant HERSHINGER sent
18 defendant WIEDERHORN a spreadsheet from Squar Milner, which requested
19 additional information about defendant FAT's 2019 journal entries
20 related to the intercompany transfers between defendant FAT and FOG.
21 Included in the spreadsheet was the January 30, 2019 payment from
22 defendant FAT of the \$604,011.12 balance on defendant WIEDERHORN's
23 personal AMEX credit card.

24 86. On or about March 2, 2020, defendant WIEDERHORN sent
25 defendant HERSHINGER an email attaching a spreadsheet with defendant
26 WIEDERHORN's explanations for the transactions identified by Squar
27 Milner. In his responses, defendant WIEDERHORN misrepresented and
28 misleadingly described the transfers that were made for his own

1 personal benefit by not disclosing his personal interest in those
2 transactions. For example, defendant WIEDERHORN described defendant
3 FAT's January 30, 2019, payment of his \$604,011.12 personal credit
4 card bill as "Payment on Amex account for corporate and intercompany
5 (see Amex bill)," without disclosing that this transaction was for
6 his undisclosed personal benefit. On or around March 3, 2020,
7 defendant HERSHINGER forwarded defendant WIEDERHORN's message to
8 Squar Milner.

9 87. On or around March 6, 2020, and referring to a
10 "conversation from the other day" between Squar Milner's Los Angeles
11 Managing Partner ("Managing Partner") and defendant WIEDERHORN,
12 Managing Partner sent defendant WIEDERHORN an email requesting
13 "clarity in the related party disclosures" in connection with
14 defendant FAT's 2019 SEC Form 10-K because "[r]elated party
15 disclosures are a hot button focus issue for the SEC." To that end,
16 the email noted Squar Milner would be sending defendant WIEDERHORN a
17 related-party questionnaire to fill out because "much of our reliance
18 on these transactions is based on the representations of management."
19 In the same email, Managing Partner also told defendant WIEDERHORN
20 that the loans from defendant FAT to FOG "are allowable if they are
21 to [FOG] and not to you personally."

22 88. Managing Partner forwarded that email along with other
23 messages in a related chain to defendant HERSHINGER on or around
24 March 19, 2020; neither defendant HERSHINGER nor defendant WIEDERHORN
25 disclosed to Managing Partner or anyone else at Squar Milner at that
26 time or for months thereafter that, in fact, "the loans" were to
27 defendant WIEDERHORN "personally." Instead, they omitted this
28 material fact.

1 89. On or about March 23, 2020, defendant WIEDERHORN completed
2 and executed the related-party questionnaire and materially
3 misrepresented the nature of the intercompany advances from defendant
4 FAT to FOG. Though defendant WIEDERHORN identified the intercompany
5 loan between defendant FAT and FOG as a related-party transaction, he
6 misrepresented that "\$0" of those transactions were for defendant
7 WIEDERHORN's personal benefit in 2019 and 2018. In reality, as
8 defendant WIEDERHORN knew, millions of dollars of funds transferred
9 from defendant FAT to FOG pursuant to the intercompany account were
10 for defendant WIEDERHORN's personal benefit in 2018 and 2019. In
11 executing this questionnaire, defendant WIEDERHORN also certified
12 that his answers were "correctly stated to the best of my knowledge
13 and belief."

14 90. On or about April 27, 2020, defendants WIEDERHORN and
15 HERSHINGER, in their capacities as defendant FAT's CEO and CFO,
16 signed and sent a representation letter to Squar Milner in connection
17 of their audit of defendant FAT. In the letter, defendants
18 WIEDERHORN and HERSHINGER certified that, among other
19 representations, "we have disclosed to you the identity of the
20 entity's related parties and all information concerning related-party
21 relationships, transactions and amounts receivable from or payable to
22 related parties of which we are aware, including support for any
23 assertion that a transaction with a related party was conducted on
24 terms equivalent to those prevailing in an arm's-length transaction."

25 91. During this same time, Squar Milner also expressed concern
26 to defendants WIEDERHORN and HERSHINGER regarding the authorization
27 process for the transfer of funds from defendant FAT to FOG. On or
28 about April 20, 2020, Squar Milner sent defendant HERSHINGER an email

1 identifying a potential "material weakness" in defendant FAT's
2 internal controls for related party transactions in 2019. Squar
3 Milner emphasized that "the CEO has the ability to transfer funds for
4 parent company advances, at no limit, without Board approval and
5 there was no formal agreement for the advances." On or around April
6 24, 2020, Squar Milner submitted a report to defendant FAT's audit
7 committee identifying the same control deficiencies for transfers
8 from defendant FAT to FOG.

9 92. To address this identified deficiency in authorization
10 procedures for intercompany transfers, defendants WIEDERHORN and
11 HERSHINGER created (and defendant WIEDERHORN signed) the Intercompany
12 Revolving Credit Agreement ("IRCA") on or about April 14, 2020. The
13 IRCA provided that, beginning in the second quarter 2020, any
14 additional loans from defendant FAT to FOG "shall be subject to the
15 approval of [defendant FAT]'s board of directors, in advance on a
16 quarterly basis." Defendant FAT's Board approved the IRCA during a
17 meeting on or around April 14, 2020.

18 93. As reflected by minutes taken by defendant HERSHINGER of
19 the April 14, 2020 Special Meeting of defendant FAT's Board, the
20 Board "engaged in a rigorous discussion about the Intercompany
21 Agreement." Nevertheless, neither defendant WIEDERHORN nor defendant
22 HERSHINGER disclosed to defendant FAT's Board the material fact that
23 a majority of the funds to be loaned by defendant FAT to FOG pursuant
24 to the IRCA would then be distributed to defendant WIEDERHORN in the
25 form of shareholder loans. Instead, defendants WIEDERHORN and
26 HERSHINGER omitted this material fact from defendant FAT's Board.
27 Defendant FAT's Board did not approve any advances from defendant FAT
28 to FOG during the April 24, 2020 Special Meeting.

1 94. On or around April 21, 2020, defendant FAT's Board approved
2 a \$50,000 increase in the intercompany loan to FOG and resolved that
3 any further disbursements would require and be addressed at
4 subsequent meetings.

5 95. On or around April 28, 2020, defendant WIEDERHORN emailed
6 defendant FAT's Board members about his request for additional loans
7 from defendant FAT to FOG. In that message, defendant WIEDERHORN
8 asserted, "I have navigated the cashflow of both FAT and FOG through
9 these difficult three years carefully keeping in mind the best
10 interests of all FAT shareholders as well as FOG shareholders. It
11 does no good to create a situation where FOG is put at risk with its
12 existing creditors, hence putting the NOL at risk." Defendant
13 WIEDERHORN additionally falsely stated that "[f]unds at FOG are used
14 to pay pre-existing pre-IPO liabilities" and listed a number of
15 specific liabilities with associated monthly payment requirements.
16 At the end of the FOG liabilities list, defendant WIEDERHORN also
17 noted that funds loaned under the IRCA would also be devoted to
18 "SG&A, including compensation at [FOG]." Defendant WIEDERHORN
19 provided no quantitative estimate or information for this line item,
20 however, nor did defendant WIEDERHORN disclose that he would route a
21 majority of the funds requested to himself in the form of a
22 shareholder loan.

23 96. On or around April 28, 2020, defendant FAT's Board approved
24 a \$1 million increase in the intercompany loan to FOG for the second
25 quarter of 2020.

26 97. Also on or about April 28, 2020, defendant FAT filed its
27 2019 SEC Form 10-K with the SEC. In it, defendants WIEDERHORN and
28 HERSHINGER certified that they had "reviewed" the annual report and

1 that it did "not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or
2 omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made,
3 in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made,
4 not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report."
5 Defendants WIEDERHORN and HERSHINGER also certified, among other
6 things, that the financial statements within that report fairly
7 presented "in all material respects the financial condition, results
8 of operations, and cash flows" of the company and that they had
9 disclosed "[a]ny fraud, whether or not material, that involves
10 management or other employees who have a significant role in the
11 registrant's internal control over financial reporting."
12 Nevertheless, neither defendant WIEDERHORN nor defendant HERSHINGER
13 disclosed any of the transfers from defendant FAT to defendant
14 WIEDERHORN personally as related-party transactions in the 2019 SEC
15 Form 10-K. Nor did defendants WIEDERHORN and HERSHINGER disclose any
16 of these transfers as executive compensation to defendant WIEDERHORN
17 in the 2019 SEC Form 10-K.

18 98. On or around July 13, 2020, defendant FAT's Board approved
19 another \$1 million increase in the loan to FOG for the third quarter
20 of 2020.

21 99. In connection with these additional disbursements from
22 defendant FAT to FOG, neither defendant WIEDERHORN nor defendant
23 HERSHINGER disclosed to defendant FAT's Board that the majority of
24 such disbursements would be distributed to defendant WIEDERHORN in
25 the form of a shareholder loan from FOG for his own undisclosed
26 personal enrichment.

27 100. Without obtaining the necessary Board approvals, defendant
28 WIEDERHORN also caused distributions from defendant FAT to FOG that

1 exceeded the amounts authorized by the IRCA and defendant FAT's Board
2 in both the second and third quarters of 2020.

3 101. In the second quarter 2020, defendants WIEDERHORN and
4 HERSHINGER advanced approximately \$1,354,531 in loans to FOG --
5 approximately \$304,531 over the limit. In the third quarter 2020,
6 defendant FAT's intercompany loan ledger showed that defendants
7 WIEDERHORN and HERSHINGER advanced approximately \$3,762,680 in loans
8 to FOG -- approximately \$2,762,679 over the limit.

9 102. In the fourth quarter of 2020, defendants WIEDERHORN and
10 HERSHINGER advanced an additional \$3,133,891 to FOG, much of which
11 FOG disbursed to defendant WIEDERHORN personally.

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1 c. Defendant WIEDERHORN caused these distributions to be
2 made to him by FAT and FOG notwithstanding that:

3 i. Defendant WIEDERHORN had no intent to repay these
4 distributions at the times he caused FAT and FOG to make them.

5 ii. Neither FAT nor FOG undertook an underwriting
6 process to determine defendant WIEDERHORN's suitability as a
7 borrower, including from in or around 2017 through January 2021,
8 after defendant WIEDERHORN had caused millions of dollars of prior
9 distributions given in the form of shareholder loans to be
10 "forgiven."

11 iii. Neither FAT nor FOG collected interest payments
12 from defendant WIEDERHORN on these distributions given in the form of
13 shareholder loans.

14 iv. Neither FAT nor FOG required defendant WIEDERHORN
15 to pledge or provide any collateral in connection with these
16 distributions given in the form of shareholder loans.

17 v. Neither FAT nor FOG required defendant WIEDERHORN
18 to adhere to a repayment schedule for these distributions given in
19 the form of shareholder loans.

20 vi. Defendant WIEDERHORN, and not the Boards of
21 Directors of FAT or FOG, made the ultimate decisions as to whether
22 and when to cancel and forgive such distributions given in the form
23 of shareholder loans.

24 d. Beginning no later than in or around 2016 and
25 continuing through at least in or around January 2021, defendant
26 WIEDERHORN caused FAT to make direct payments upon defendant
27 WIEDERHORN's personal credit-card and other debts, including for
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1 private aviation services, in order to conceal these expenditures
2 from the IRS.

3 e. Beginning no later than in or around March 2011 and
4 continuing through at least in or around May 2021, defendant
5 WIEDERHORN attempted to frustrate, evade, and delay payment of a
6 substantial part of approximately \$7,314,020 in federal taxes due to
7 and owed by him by submitting materially false IRS Forms 433-A to the
8 IRS, lying to assigned IRS Revenue Officers, using nominee
9 individuals and business entities to hide assets, and engaging in a
10 long-term scheme to conceal additional unreported income. Among
11 other material misrepresentations and acts defendant WIEDERHORN made
12 and undertook and caused to be made and undertaken to frustrate,
13 evade, and delay payment:

14 i. On or about March 23, 2016, defendant WIEDERHORN,
15 through an authorized representative, submitted a Form 433-A to the
16 IRS containing material misstatements and omitting material
17 information, including his access to and use of an AMEX Centurion
18 credit card, the magnitude and nature of his "Actual Monthly
19 Expenses," "Total Living Expenses," and "Total Income."

20 ii. On or about November 30, 2017, defendant
21 WIEDERHORN, through an authorized representative, sent a letter to
22 the IRS attaching a check for \$10,000. By his letter, defendant
23 WIEDERHORN represented that, apart from "restricted Fat Brands stock
24 with a time-lock," he had "no cashflow for . . . the next twelve
25 months other than his salary," and requested "that the levies on
26 [his] bank accounts [be] released and his installment agreement be
27 reinstated with this new information."

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1 iii. On or about June 12, 2018, defendant WIEDERHORN
2 submitted to an IRS RO an executed Form 433-A of the same date
3 containing materially false information and materially false
4 omissions, including:

5 (I) An assertion that defendant WIEDERHORN's
6 Oregon residence was in "foreclosure," when, in fact, defendant
7 WIEDERHORN had requested and received a mortgage modification in
8 March 2018 and had listed the same residence as an asset with a net
9 value of \$5,750,000 on an application for a mortgage for a different
10 residential property.

11 (II) Misstating the list of credit card accounts
12 required to be reported by omitting defendant WIEDERHORN's personal
13 AMEX Centurion credit card from the list of all credit card accounts.

14 (III) Misstating the list of assets required
15 to be reported by omitting an option to purchase his Los Angeles
16 residence, for which residence defendant WIEDERHORN had emailed a
17 financial statement to a mortgage broker the very same day and which
18 listed that Los Angeles residence as an \$8 million net asset.

19 (IV) Misstating the list of miscellaneous
20 property by disclosing only \$10,000 in miscellaneous property when in
21 fact defendant WIEDERHORN and his wife owned at least approximately
22 hundreds of thousands of dollars of personal property.

23 (V) Misstatements and omissions regarding the
24 magnitude and nature of his "Actual Monthly Expenses," "Total Living
25 Expenses," and "Total Income."

26 (VI) Misstating assets by omitting a 2016 Rolls
27 Royce Phantom Drophead Coupe, which defendant WIEDERHORN had
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1 purchased for \$435,211.13 just three days prior, on or around June 9,
2 2018, and for which he had made a down payment of \$150,000.

3 (VII) Misstating assets by omitting a
4 Mercedes Benz G63 AMG, which defendant WIEDERHORN had leased just ten
5 days prior, on or around June 2, 2018.

6 iv. On or around August 24, 2018, defendant
7 WIEDERHORN caused an LLC he controlled, 929 Foothill, LLC, to offer
8 to purchase his residence for approximately \$9,094,137, and caused
9 929 Foothill, LLC, to in fact purchase that residence in or around
10 September 20, 2018, for approximately \$9,094,500.

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COUNT TWO

[26 U.S.C. § 7201]

[DEFENDANT WIEDERHORN]

106. The Grand Jury realleges paragraphs 1 through 102 and 105 of this Indictment here.

107. Beginning no later than in or around March 2011 and continuing through at least in or around May 2021, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant WIEDERHORN willfully and affirmatively attempted to evade and defeat the payment of a substantial part of approximately \$7,314,020 in federal taxes and additions to taxes then due and owing by defendant WIEDERHORN to the United States of America, specifically, approximately \$3,914,285 in TFRPs as well as approximately \$3,399,735 in penalties, which had been assessed against defendant WIEDERHORN, by committing, among others, the affirmative acts alleged in paragraph 105, the likely effect of each of which would have been to mislead and conceal defendant WIEDERHORN's assets and ability to pay defendant WIEDERHORN's outstanding taxes from the IRS.

COUNTS EIGHT THROUGH ELEVEN

[26 U.S.C. § 7206(2)]

[DEFENDANT AMON]

123. The Grand Jury realleges paragraphs 1 through 102 and 105 of this Indictment here.

124. On or about the dates listed below, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant AMON willfully aided and assisted in, and procured, counseled, and advised the preparation and presentation to the IRS, of U.S. Individual Income Tax Returns, IRS Form 1040s, on behalf of Andrew A. Wiederhorn for the calendar years indicated below, which returns were false and fraudulent as to a material matter in that they understated the wages and other compensation paid to Wiederhorn, thereby understating the income and other taxes due to the United States of America, as defendant AMON then knew:

COUNT	DATE	CALENDAR YEAR
EIGHT	10/30/2018	2017
NINE	10/15/2019	2018
TEN	11/23/2020	2019
ELEVEN	10/22/2021	2020

1 defendant WIEDERHORN was receiving millions of dollars in undisclosed
2 distributions and compensation from FAT, and instead materially
3 misrepresented the nature of these transactions and the extent to
4 which FAT had instituted appropriate controls concerning its
5 financial operations and intercompany transactions.

6 c. Exceeding loan authorizations by FOG's Board by
7 millions of dollars, defendant WIEDERHORN also took millions of
8 dollars of distributions and compensation in the form of shareholder
9 loans from FOG, which "loans" he never intended to repay and never
10 repaid.

11 d. In order to fund FOG's distributions and compensation
12 to him in the form of shareholder loans, defendant WIEDERHORN caused
13 FAT to extend and maintain intercompany loans to FOG while
14 misrepresenting the purpose and nature of such intercompany loans and
15 omitting, along with defendant HERSHINGER, the material fact that
16 such loans from FAT to FOG were primarily for the purpose of funding
17 FOG's distributions and compensation in the form of shareholder loans
18 to defendant WIEDERHORN.

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1 B. USE OF THE WIRES

2 128. On or about the dates set forth below, in Los Angeles
3 County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, for
4 the purpose of executing the scheme to defraud described above,
5 defendants WIEDERHORN and HERSHINGER transmitted and caused the
6 transmission of the following items by means of wire communication in
7 interstate and foreign commerce:

COUNT	DATE	INTERSTATE WIRE TRANSMISSION
TWELVE	5/11/2019	Email sent by defendant WIEDERHORN from the Central District of California to FAT's Board and others within, through, and outside of the Central District of California with the subject, "10Q & Earning Release"
THIRTEEN	4/28/2020	Email sent by defendant WIEDERHORN from the Central District of California to FAT's Board and others within, through, and outside of the Central District of California with the subject, "Supplement to Allen's memo re: Intercompany Loan"
FOURTEEN	8/31/2020	Wire transfer in the amount of \$10,000 from FAT's Bank of America bank account x7899 within the Central District of California through the FedWire system to CalPrivate Bank account x7817 in the name of Andrew A. Wiederhorn within the Central District of California
FIFTEEN	8/31/2020	Wire transfer in the amount of \$30,000 from FAT's Bank of America bank account x7899 within the Central District of California through the FedWire system to CalPrivate Bank account x7795 in the name of Andrew A. Wiederhorn within the Central District of California.

COUNTS SIXTEEN AND SEVENTEEN

[15 U.S.C. §§ 78m(k)(1), 78ff; 18 U.S.C. § 2(b)]

[DEFENDANTS WIEDERHORN, HERSHINGER, AND FAT]

129. The Grand Jury realleges paragraphs 1 through 102 and 105 of this Indictment here.

130. On or about the following dates, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendant FAT knowingly and willfully extended and maintained credit, arranged for the extension of credit, and renewed an extension of credit, and defendants WIEDERHORN and HERSHINGER willfully caused the extension and maintenance of credit, arrangement for the extension of credit, and renewal of an extension of credit, directly and indirectly, in the form of the personal loans set forth below, to and for a director and executive officer of defendant FAT, namely, defendant WIEDERHORN:

COUNT	DATE(S)	AMOUNT	SOURCE
SIXTEEN	1/30/2019	\$604,011.12	Transfer from Fatburger N.A. Mechanics Bank Account x3478 within the Central District of California to defendant WIEDERHORN's personal AMEX Account Ending in 5007 in the form of a personal loan to defendant WIEDERHORN
SEVENTEEN	4/1/2020 to 9/30/2020	\$2,050,000	Loans from defendant FAT to FOG pursuant to the IRCA then indirectly extended in the form of a loan to defendant WIEDERHORN within the Central District of California.

1 defendant WIEDERHORN in the form of shareholder loans from FOG to
2 defendant WIEDERHORN.

COUNT	DEFENDANT (s)	DATE	DOCUMENT
EIGHTEEN	WIEDERHORN and HERSHINGER	3/3/2020	Email, Subject: "FW: Auditor Requests," from defendant HERSHINGER to Squar Milner, with attachment "Copy of Related Party Selections - AW Responses.xlsx," which forwarded a March 2, 2020 E-mail, Subject: "RE: Auditor Requests," from defendant WIEDERHORN to defendant HERSHINGER, with the same attachment, in connection with preparation of FAT's 2019 SEC Form 10-K, related to characterization and disposition of "intercompany advances" from FAT to FOG
NINETEEN	WIEDERHORN	3/23/2020	"Fat Brands, Inc. RELATED PARTY QUESTIONNAIRE," in connection with preparation of FAT's 2019 SEC Form 10-K, related to characterization and disposition of "intercompany advances" from FAT to FOG and the existence of internal controls over related- party transactions

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COUNT	DEFENDANT (s)	DATE	DOCUMENT
TWENTY	WIEDERHORN and HERSHINGER	4/27/2020	Representation letter from FAT, signed by defendants WIEDERHORN and HERSHINGER, in connection with preparation of FAT's 2019 SEC Form 10-K, representing that "[w]e have disclosed to you the identity of the entity's related parties and all information concerning related-party relationships, transactions, and amounts receivable from or payable to related parties of which we are aware"

COUNT TWENTY-ONE

[18 U.S.C. § 1350(c)(2); 17 C.F.R. §§ 229.402, 229.404]

[DEFENDANTS WIEDERHORN AND HERSHINGER]

133. The Grand Jury realleges paragraphs 1 through 102 and 105 of this Indictment here.

134. On or about April 27, 2020, in Los Angeles County, within the Central District of California, and elsewhere, defendants WIEDERHORN and HERSHINGER knowingly and willfully certified that a periodic report containing financial statements, namely, a 2019 SEC Form 10-K for FAT, fully complied with the requirements of section 13(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and that the information contained in the periodic report fairly presented, in all material respects, the financial condition and results of operations of the issuer, knowing that the periodic report accompanying the statement did not comport with all the requirements of that section, namely, that the 2019 SEC Form 10-K omitted certain direct and indirect transfers of funds from FAT to defendant WIEDERHORN for his personal benefit in excess of \$120,000 during 2019.

1 personal." In fact, defendant HERSHINGER then knew that at least
2 hundreds of thousands of dollars transferred by FAT to FOG were for
3 personal benefit of Wiederhorn.

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1 FORFEITURE ALLEGATION

2 [18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C); 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c)]

3 137. Pursuant to Rule 32.2 of the Federal Rules of Criminal
4 Procedure, notice is hereby given that the United States of America
5 will seek forfeiture as part of any sentence, pursuant to Title 18,
6 United States Code, Section 981(a)(1)(C) and Title 28, United States
7 Code, Section 2461(c), in the event of any defendant's conviction of
8 the offenses set forth in any of Counts Twelve through Twenty of this
9 Indictment.

10 138. Any defendant so convicted shall forfeit to the United
11 States of America the following:

12 (a) All right, title, and interest in any and all
13 property, real or personal, constituting, or derived from, any
14 proceeds traceable to the offenses; and

15 (b) To the extent such property is not available for
16 forfeiture, a sum of money equal to the total value of the property
17 described in subparagraph (a).

18 139. Pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 853(p),
19 as incorporated by Title 28, United States Code, Section 2461(c), any
20 defendant so convicted shall forfeit substitute property, up to the
21 value of the property described in the preceding paragraph if, as the
22 result of any act or omission of said defendant, the property
23 described in the preceding paragraph or any portion thereof (a)
24 cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence; (b) has been
25 transferred, sold to, or deposited with a third party; (c) has been
26 placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court; (d) has been

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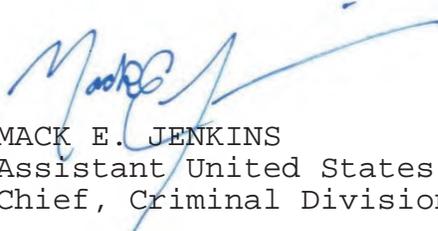
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1 substantially diminished in value; or (e) has been commingled with
2 other property that cannot be divided without difficulty.

3
4 A TRUE BILL

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6 /s/
7 _____
Foreperson

8 E. MARTIN ESTRADA
9 United States Attorney

10 
11 MACK E. JENKINS
12 Assistant United States Attorney
13 Chief, Criminal Division

14 BRETT A. SAGEL
15 Assistant United States Attorney
16 Chief, Corporate and Securities
17 Fraud Strike Force

18 ALEXANDER B. SCHWAB
19 Assistant United States Attorney
20 Deputy Chief, Corporate and
21 Securities Fraud Strike Force

22 ADAM P. SCHLEIFER
23 Assistant United States Attorney
24 Corporate and Securities Fraud
25 Strike Force

26 KEVIN B. REIDY
27 Assistant United States Attorney
28 Major Frauds Section