

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

PAULA BAILEY, KRYSTAL
CLARK, and HOPE ZENTZ, on
behalf of themselves and others
similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

V.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS, HEIDI
WASHINGTON, in her official and
individual capacity, SHAWN
BREWER, in his official and
individual capacity, RUSSELL
MARLAN, in his individual and
official capacity, KENNETH
MCKEE, in his individual and official
capacity, LLOYD RAPELJE, in his
individual and official capacity, LIA
GULICK, in her individual and
official capacity, DAVID JOHNSON,
in his individual and official capacity,
KARRI OUSTERHOUT, in her
individual and official capacity,
JOSEPH TREPPA, in his official and
individual capacity, DAN CARTER,
in his official and individual capacity,
RICHARD BULLARD, in his official
and individual capacity, and TONI
MOORE, in her official and individual
capacity,

Defendants.

MARKO LAW, PLLC

Jonathan R. Marko (P72450)
1300 Broadway Street, Suite 500
Detroit, MI 48326
P: (313) 777-7LAW
jon@jmarkolaw.com

NICHOLS KASTER, PLLP

Matthew H. Morgan (MN304657)
Rebekah L. Bailey (MN0387013)
Nicole J. Schladt (MN0400234)
80 South Eight Street, Suite 4600
Minneapolis, MN 55402
P: (612) 256-3200
morgan@nka.com
bailey@nka.com
nschladt@nka.com

**PITT MCGEHEE PALMER &
RIVERS PC**

Cary S. McGehee (P42318)
Beth M. Rivers (P33614)
Channing Robinson-Holmes
(P81698)
117 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Royal Oak, MI 48067
P: (248) 398-9800
cmcgehee@pittlawpc.com
brivers@pittlawpc.com
crobinson@pittlawpc.com

**LAW OFFICES OF DAVID S.
STEINGOLD, PLLC**

David S. Steingold (P29752)
500 Griswold Street, Suite 2320
Detroit, MI 48226
P: (313) 962-0000
detroitdefender@yahoo.com

EXCOLO LAW, PLLC

Solomon M. Radner (P73653)
26700 Lahser Road, Suite 401
Southfield, MI 48033
P: (866) 939-2656
sradner@excololaw.com

*Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the
Putative Classes*

PLAINTIFFS' CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs Paula Bailey, Krystal Clark, and Hope Zentz, on behalf of themselves and members of the proposed Classes below, and by and through counsel Marko Law, PLLC, Nichols Kaster, PLLP, Pitt McGehee Palmer & Rivers, P.C., Law Offices of David S. Steingold, PLLC, and Excolo Law, PLLC, state as follows for their Complaint against the above-named Defendants:

INTRODUCTION

1. Huron Valley Correctional Facility for Women (“WHV”) is operating under a state of degradation, filth, and inhumanity, endangering the health and safety of incarcerated women and staff alike daily.

2. WHV is underfunded, understaffed, poorly administered, poorly managed and maintained, and intentionally overcrowded, giving rise to a chaotic and perilous environment inside the prison walls.

3. Incarcerated women are regularly denied hygienic conditions and movement at WHV, in part because the facilities have been allowed to deteriorate beyond their useful lives, and because WHV's facilities were not originally designed to house the number of incarcerated women they currently house. In some cases, WHV's facilities were not originally designed to house incarcerated women at all. Haphazard retrofitting through the years has placed enormous strain on WHV's aging units and has resulted in dangerous living conditions for the incarcerated women.

4. Many of the facilities at WHV suffer from roof leaks and other forms of water penetration, leading to damp and damaged carpets and ceilings, as well as a generally humid environment.

5. Inadequate ventilation and exhaust systems further compound the problem. In 2018, WHV's Annual Physical Plant Report recommended replacing the HVAC system in Housing Units 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, noting, "The typical life expectancy of an industrial/commercial HVAC system is 20-25 years with proper maintenance. This system is 43 years old. Essentially, the entire HVAC system needs to be replaced." The report also referenced aging HVAC in the Emmett, Filmore, Gladwin, and Lenawee Units. For these four units, the report suggested that "[r]estroom and shower exhaust systems need to be upgraded to accommodate their use." In 2018, air handlers needed to be replaced in 15 different buildings at WHV.

6. As a result, the women incarcerated in WHV suffer ongoing exposure to harmful varieties of mold, including *Ochroconis*, *Cladosporium*, *Chaetomium*, and *Stachybotrys* (“mold”), caused by WHV’s unclean, dilapidated conditions and lack of ventilation.

7. The mold has taken a significant toll on the women incarcerated in WHV, both physically and mentally. The mold has caused respiratory infections, coughing, wheezing, rashes, dizziness, and fatigue—all symptoms which, in turn, impact the inflicted’s mental health and which may lead to serious, long-lasting physical effects, such as asthma, life-threatening secondary infections, insomnia, memory loss, trouble concentrating and confusion.

8. The women have complained about the presence of mold in the facility for years, and continue to do so, but their pleas have been ignored. Defendants have failed to remove the mold, remedy the conditions causing the mold, and otherwise protect Plaintiffs and the putative Classes from exposure to mold and from suffering symptoms and health conditions caused by mold exposure.

9. As discussed below, conditions at WHV have deteriorated to such a degree as to expose Plaintiffs and the proposed Classes to an excessive risk of serious harm to their health and safety, in violation of the rights guaranteed to them under the United States Constitution.

10. The constitutional violations complained of herein are not isolated incidents impacting a few inmates and caused by a few correctional personnel. Rather, the mold infestation at WHV and related lack of medical care has persisted for more than six years and impacted prisoners housed in numerous units.

11. Defendants have long been on notice of the horrific conditions and constitutional deprivations occurring daily at WHV yet have failed to remedy the deplorable state of affairs.

12. This is a civil rights class action, brought under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, challenging the inhumane, dangerous, and unconstitutional conditions endured by the women locked inside WHV.

13. Plaintiffs Paula Bailey, Krystal Clark, and Hope Zentz (collectively “Plaintiffs”), on behalf of themselves and members of the proposed Classes, seek monetary damages and injunctive and declaratory relief.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

14. Jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and jurisdiction is therefore proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343.

15. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391. The parties reside, or at the time the events took place, resided in this judicial district, and the events giving rise to Plaintiffs’ claims also occurred in this judicial district. Defendants are subject to this Court’s personal jurisdiction.

PARTIES

16. Plaintiff Paula Bailey is a woman currently incarcerated in WHV. She brings this Complaint on behalf of herself and the proposed Classes, as described herein.

17. Plaintiff Krystal Clark is a woman currently incarcerated in WHV. She brings this Complaint on behalf of herself and the proposed Classes, as described herein.

18. Plaintiff Hope Zentz is a woman currently incarcerated in WHV. She brings this Complaint on behalf of herself and the proposed Classes, as described herein.

19. Defendant Michigan Department of Corrections (“MDOC”) is a Michigan governmental agency that operates WHV. WHV is a prison for women located in Washtenaw County, Michigan. It is the only prison in Michigan that houses women.

20. Defendant Heidi Washington (“Washington”), at all relevant times, was the Director of the Michigan Department of Corrections. As Director, Washington oversees Michigan’s correctional system, including WHV. Her duties and responsibilities include a responsibility for developing and implementing policies and procedures for the operation and management of the Michigan Department of Corrections and its employees. She is responsible for the care, custody and

protection of prisoners under the jurisdiction of the Michigan Department of Corrections. Washington is named as a Defendant in both her official and individual capacity.

21. Defendant Shawn Brewer (“Brewer”), at all relevant times, was the Warden of WHV. As Warden, Brewer is responsible for overseeing the operation of WHV, development of WHV policies and practices, and the supervision, training, discipline, and other functions of WHV’s employees, staff and/or agents, including housekeeping staff, and ensuring that Defendants enforced and abided by policies and regulations at the MDOC, the State of Michigan, and the United States. He is further responsible for the care, custody and protection of individuals including Plaintiffs. Brewer is named as a Defendant in both his official and individual capacity.

22. Defendant Russell Marlan (“Marlan”), at all relevant times, has been the Deputy Director for Field Operations Administration at MDOC. As Deputy Director, Marlan’s duties and responsibilities include field operations within the MDOC system, including promulgating and administering MDOC’s policies related to preventive and emergency maintenance. Marlan is named as a Defendant in both his official and individual capacity.

23. Defendant Kenneth McKee (“McKee”), at relevant times, has been the Deputy Director for Correctional Facilities Administration (“CFA”) at MDOC. As

Deputy Director, McKee's duties and responsibilities include the operation of all correctional institutions in the MDOC system, including promulgating and administering MDOC's policies related to preventive and emergency maintenance. McKee is named as a Defendant in both his official and individual capacity.

24. Defendant Lloyd Rapelje ("Rapelje"), at relevant times, has been the Assistant Deputy Director for CFA at MDOC. As Assistant Deputy Director, Rapelje's duties and responsibilities include the operation of the Jackson Region of CFA, including the WHV, and promulgating and administering MDOC's policies and supervising and administering the Warden for the WHV. Rapelje is named as a Defendant in both his official and individual capacity.

25. Defendant Lia Gulick ("Gulick"), at relevant times, has been the Acting Deputy Director for Budget and Operations Administration at MDOC. As Acting Deputy Director, Gulick is responsible for budgetary matters related to, among other matters, facility maintenance and sanitation. Gulick is named as a Defendant in both her official and individual capacity.

26. Defendant David Johnson ("Johnson"), at relevant times, has been the Deputy Warden of WHV. As Deputy Warden, upon information and belief, Johnson is responsible for the operation of WHV, development of WHV policies and practices, and the supervision, training, discipline, and other functions of WHV's employees, staff and/or agents, and ensuring that Defendants enforced and abided

by policies and regulations at the MDOC, the State of Michigan, and the United States. He is further responsible for the care, custody and protection of individuals including Plaintiffs. Johnson is named as a Defendant in both his official and individual capacity.

27. Defendant Karri Ousterhout (“Ousterhout”), at relevant times, has been the Deputy Warden of WHV. As Deputy Warden, upon information and belief, Ousterhout is responsible for the operation of WHV, development of WHV policies and practices, and the supervision, training, discipline, and other functions of WHV’s employees, staff and/or agents, and ensuring that Defendants enforced and abided by policies and regulations at the MDOC, the State of Michigan, and the United States. She is further responsible for the care, custody and protection of individuals including Plaintiffs. Ousterhout is named as a Defendant in both her official and individual capacity.

28. Defendant Joseph Treppa (“Treppa”), at all relevant times until on or about October of 2017, was a Physical Plant Supervisor. As Physical Plant Supervisor, Treppa is responsible for the overall maintenance of the WHV facility physical plant, including building, electrical, mechanical, power plant, sewage lift station, and grounds maintenance. As Physical Plant Supervisor, Treppa was responsible for planning and coordinating the work of a variety of trades persons and their supervisors in maintenance activities. Maintenance activities include the

installation, maintenance, and repair of electrical, steam, water, and sewer systems, such as ventilation and HVAC systems. Treppa also directed custodial services responsible for cleanup, painting, and other projects. Treppa is named as a Defendant in both his official and individual capacity.

29. Defendant Dan Carter (“Carter”), at all relevant times, was a Physical Plant Supervisor. As Physical Plant Supervisor, Carter is responsible for the overall maintenance of the WHV physical plant, including building, electrical, mechanical, power plant, sewage lift station, and grounds maintenance. As Physical Plant Supervisor, Carter is responsible for planning and coordinating the work of a variety of trades persons and their supervisors in maintenance activities. Maintenance activities include the installation, maintenance, and repair of electrical, steam, water, and sewer systems, such as ventilation and HVAC systems. Carter also directs custodial services responsible for cleanup, painting, and other projects. Carter is named as a Defendant in both his official and individual capacity.

30. Defendant Richard Bullard (“Bullard”), at all relevant times, was the Physical Plant Superintendent. As Physical Plant Superintendent, Bullard is responsible for overseeing and maintaining the conditions and logistical operations of WHV, and serves as the direct supervisor to the Physical Plant Supervisors. Bullard is also responsible for preparing the Annual Physical Plant Report each year for WHV, a responsibility which requires inspecting the facilities’ roof, HVAC

system, and ventilation with an eye toward preventative maintenance and necessary repairs. Bullard is named as a Defendant in both his official and individual capacity.

31. Defendant Toni Moore (“Moore”), at all relevant times, was the State Administrative Manager. As State Administrative Manager, Moore oversees the administration of Michigan’s correctional system, including WHV, and serves as Bullard’s supervisor. Moore is named as a Defendant in both her official and individual capacity.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

32. Plaintiffs and the proposed Classes by reference incorporate the preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

33. Plaintiffs Paula Bailey, Krystal Clark, and Hope Zentz are inmates of WHV and bring this action on behalf of similarly situated former, current, and future inmates of WHV.

34. WHV houses pretrial detainees as well as convicted women. The facility houses substantially more than 2,000 women at any given time.

35. WHV is currently the only women’s prison in the state of Michigan.

36. At all material times, the actions and/or omissions alleged herein occurred under color of state law, and the individual employees of the Defendants were acting within the scope and course of their employment.

37. At all material times, Defendant MDOC employed Defendants Washington, Brewer, Marlan, McKee, Rapelje, Gulick, Johnson, Ousterhout, Treppa, Carter, Bullard, and Moore (collectively “Defendants”), all of whom initiated and carried out the policies, practices, and customs of MDOC, and are also liable for their own actions and/or omissions.

38. Defendants’ policies, practices, customs, actions and/or omissions related to mold at WHV stand in stark contrast to their affirmative duty and obligation to quickly address issues with mold exposure and inadequate ventilation in the facility.

39. For example, Defendants have an affirmative duty and obligation to provide prisoners with “[l]ighting, ventilation, heating, and noise levels that are adequate for comfort.”¹

40. Importantly, “[p]reventive and emergency maintenance shall be performed at all state-owned correctional facilities to ensure the proper functioning of all electrical, mechanical and plumbing equipment and systems as well as the facility’s physical plant.”² Defendants have an affirmative duty and obligation to provide for emergency maintenance programs that result in the “immediate

¹ MDOC’s Humane Treatment and Living Conditions for Prisoners Policy Directive 03.03.130.

² MDOC’s Preventive and Emergency Maintenance for Correctional Facilities Policy Directive 04.03.100.

restoration of equipment and facilities to such a condition that human life or structural soundness of equipment or facilities is not endangered.”³

41. Additionally, “[w]ardens shall ensure that a housekeeping plan is developed and maintained for all areas of their respective facilities.”⁴ In particular, “[n]ecessary cleaning materials and equipment shall be issued by housing unit staff” so that inmates may clean their individual living areas, including walls, floors, sinks, toilets, windows, beds, lockers, and property.⁵

42. “Deficiencies which may threaten the health or welfare of staff or offenders shall be corrected immediately whenever possible. If the deficiency cannot be immediately corrected, the Regional Environmental Sanitarian shall be contacted to determine appropriate temporary corrective measures to be implemented.”⁶

43. Despite Defendants’ affirmative duties and obligations, the conditions at WHV continue to deteriorate without meaningful intervention, threatening the health and safety of all incarcerated women at the facility on a daily basis.

Conditions at WHV

44. As is, the prison and its bunkrooms lack proper ventilation, leading to a general moist environment and dampness in most of WHV’s units. At all material times the facility has been overcrowded, and the conditions at WHV have been filthy

³ *Id.*

⁴ MDOC’s Sanitation and Housekeeping Standards Policy Directive 04.03.102.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

and dangerous, providing a breeding ground for microscopic fungi and spore-producing mold. In particular, the facility's haphazard retrofitting, leaky roofs, inoperable windows, inadequate ventilation, and outdated HVAC systems all contribute to the mold problem at WHV.

Haphazard Retrofitting

45. In the mid-2000's, the WHV facility began operating exclusively as an all-women's prison. At various points in time before, it had operated as a mental institution, as well as a male and female prison.

46. The facility's infrastructure is outdated and badly in need of repair. To combat over-crowding, the institution has undergone retrofitting that has further exacerbated issues with ventilation and mold throughout WHV facilities.

47. For example, Defendants have converted many structures that were not designed for sleeping and bathroom facilities into housing units without repairing the roofs, adequately ventilating the spaces, or updating the HVAC systems.

48. The gymnasium in the Jennings Building/School was converted into housing and renamed the Lenawee Temporary Housing Unit in 2015.

49. At least four former TV rooms at WHV were converted into cell areas in 2015, as well as 44 former offices.⁷ The prison also opened a building once used for storage and food services as a cell area in 2015.⁸

50. Storage closets without windows or ventilation are now being used as group rooms. These retrofitted facilities have become ideal breeding grounds for mold.

Leaky Roofs

51. Further contributing to the mold problem, many units have leaky roofs and/or widespread water damage from flooding.

52. Water leaks through the roof of WHV units regularly. Defendant Bullard submitted Annual Physical Plant Reports to Defendant Moore from 2013 to 2018 that detailed extensive problems with leaking roofs and water damage to ceilings and carpets at WHV.

53. For example, according to plant reports, roofs needed replacement in the Calhoun, Dickinson, and Lenawee units from 2013 through at least 2018.

54. The Kent Building's roof needed replacement from 2013 through 2017.

55. The MSI Building's roof needed replacement from 2015 through at least 2018.

⁷ Paul Egan, "State's female inmates crowded," *Livingston County Daily Press and Argus* (November 26, 2015).

⁸ *Id.*

56. Leaks continue in at least the Lenawee unit, some of which are directly dampening occupied beds. Leaks have also occurred in at least Units 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, Harrison A and Dickinson B, the Field House, MSI Programs Building, and the Chow Hall.

57. Women have complained to Defendants, including specifically Defendant Brewer, that the leaks lead to mold.

58. A former facility worker reported that “the roof leaks so badly it has shorted out the lights.”⁹ Others described the leaks by saying, “when it would rain, it looked like coffee coming out of the ceiling.”¹⁰

59. One inmate reported using “10 to 20 buckets” to capture leaking water in one part of the prison alone.¹¹

60. This water damage has not been properly cleaned or remediated. In fact, the 2016 flood in the fieldhouse was cleaned up by inmates without proper protective gear.

Inoperable Windows, Grading, and Gutters

61. Many housing units have needed window replacements since 2013, either because the windows do not open, limiting ventilation in the units, or because

⁹ Paul Egan, “Ex-officer says Michigan’s only prison for women is crowded, dangerous,” *Detroit Free Press* (July 25, 2019).

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

the windows allow water to come into the facility, increasing humidity and promoting a wet environment for mold to proliferate.

62. Windows needed replacement in Housing Units 1, 2, and 3 from 2016 through at least 2018.

63. Windows needed replacement in Housing Units 4 and 5 from 2014 through at least 2018.

64. Additionally, the lawn areas surrounding WHV units are improperly graded, causing drainage to flow toward the buildings and through cracks in the windows and other parts of the building. Drainage issues due to soil grading plagued the facility from 2013 through 2018. This has been a recurrent problem and directly contributes to the damp environment experienced by incarcerated women at WHV.

65. Further, gutter systems above the windows were “leading to more serious problems” by 2016 in the Dickinson, Emmett, Filmore, Gladwin, Harrison, and Lenawee units, as well as the Kent Building. Gutter systems were leading to “water damage” in those structures by 2017. Gutters needed replacement in most buildings throughout the facility from 2013 through at least 2018.

Inadequate Ventilation

66. By approximately 2018, several housing units on the compound were experiencing a failure in the operation of ventilation and air conditioning units

wherein the units were “not functioning properly or at all,” according to Defendant Bullard’s 2018 Annual Physical Plant Report.

67. Air handlers, which are responsible for regulating and circulating air, have needed replacement in almost every housing unit since 2013, as well as the Administration Building, Programs Building, Field House, Prisoner Services Building, and the Kent Building.

68. Mold is a common problem for air handlers, as they frequently build up condensation that encourages growth of mold spores.

69. Air handlers needed replacement in Housing Units 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 from 2013 through at least 2018.

70. Air handlers needed replacement in the Emmett, Filmore, Gladwin, and Harrison units, as well as the Kent Building, from 2014 through at least 2018.

71. In 2018, the restroom and shower exhaust systems were deemed inadequate for the spaces they serviced in the Dickinson, Emmett, Filmore, Gladwin, Harrison, and Lenawee units.

72. “In restrooms and shower rooms in eight [out of 14] residential units at Women’s Huron Valley Correctional Facility, ‘existing exhaust fans are beyond repair, resulting in limited to no ventilation,’ [the Michigan Department of

Technology, Management, and Budget] said in an unsigned memo received July 9 by the Building Committee of the State Administrative Board.”¹²

73. The shower unit in Gladwin-B has particularly poor ventilation causing condensation to drip on the women’s clothes while they shower.

74. The poor ventilation further provides an environment conducive for mold to develop and grow throughout the facility.

75. Additionally, Defendants do not adequately clean this antiquated ventilation system further shortening its useful life and exasperating the conditions for inmates and detainees. WHV’s Housekeeping Plan requires ventilation ducts be cleaned four times annually. Yet, for example, Defendants failed to clean the ducts at all in the west side units for several years.

Outdated HVAC Systems

76. As acknowledged by Defendants Bullard and Brewer, the HVAC system needs to be replaced and is nearly 20 years past its peak life expectancy in most WHV buildings, including Housing Units 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5; the Emmett, Filmore, Gladwin, Harrison, and Lenawee units; the Administration Building; the Programs Building & Unit 6; the Field House; the Prisoner Services Building; and the Kent Building.¹³

¹² *Id.*

¹³ Paul Egan, “State agency does about-face on why women’s prison is getting \$488,000 fix,” *Detroit Free Press* (July 15, 2019).

77. Upon information and belief, the HVAC system in Housing Units 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5; the Administration Building; the Programs Building & Unit 6; the Field House; and the Prisoner Services Building reached its peak life expectancy at some point from approximately 1995 to 2000.

78. In 2017, Defendant Bullard wrote in his Annual Physical Plant Report: “The typical life expectancy of an industrial/commercial HVAC system is 20-25 years with proper maintenance. This system is 42 years old. The entire HVAC system needs to be replaced.” He repeated the same comment multiple times throughout the report for various buildings at WHV, including with respect to Housing Units 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, as well as the Administration Building, Programs Building, and Field House.

79. Defendant Bullard’s Annual Physical Plant Report in 2018 contained the exact same statement for all of the same buildings (updating to note that the system was now *forty-three* years old).

80. For the Emmett, Filmore, Gladwin, and Lenawee units in 2018, Defendant Bullard simply wrote, “The typical life expectancy of an industrial/commercial HVAC system is 20-25 years with proper maintenance.” Upon information and belief, the HVAC systems for those buildings exceeded their life expectancy as well.

81. Defendants were actually aware of the conditions and actually aware that a substantial risk of serious inmate harm would result from the conditions.

82. Defendants disregarded that risk by failing to take reasonable measures to abate the problem.

Mold

83. Mold is a large group of microscopic fungi. Most types of mold produce spores that can be air-, water-, or insect-borne.

84. Mold thrives in humid, damp spaces that are poorly ventilated.

85. As mold grows, spores can be released into the air where they become easy to inhale.

86. Exposure to mold spores can cause symptoms such as skin rash and itching, respiratory infections, headaches, dizziness, nosebleeds, nasal stuffiness, throat irritation, coughing, watery eyes, or wheezing. Mold exposure may also lead to muscle cramps, numbness in extremities, weight gain, light sensitivity, and hair loss. Some individuals develop serious infections in their lungs when they are exposed to mold, causing shortness of breath, chest tightness, and diseases like pneumonia or a pulmonary hemorrhage.

87. Mold can also lead to asthma, or trigger allergies or asthma attacks in those who already suffer from these ailments. People with serious allergies or problems with asthma may have more severe reactions to mold exposure.

88. Mold exposure may also lead to or contribute to insomnia, anxiety, depression, loss of appetite, confusion, and trouble concentrating. Long-term exposure to toxic mold can affect the brain and lead to nervous-system challenges and cognitive and emotional impairments.

89. Prolonged exposure to mold may exacerbate the severity of the reaction and result in perturbation of the immunological system.

90. Mold-colonized environments often harbor bacteria and dust mites that release toxins and contribute to “toxic mold” and “sick building syndrome.”

91. Mold also emits volatile organic compounds that produce strong fumes directly into the air. These fumes are linked to symptoms such as headaches, dizziness, fatigue, nasal irritation, and nausea.

92. Assessments for mold exposure include environmental assessments for the presence of mold and allergy testing. Allergy testing can be accomplished through skin or blood tests. Some physicians recommend testing for mold-specific antibodies.

93. Removing affected individuals from damp places where mold exists is a necessary part of preventing and treating mold exposure.

94. The best practice in addressing mold growth is to remove the mold and work to prevent future growth. This includes controlling humidity levels with dehumidifiers and/or exhaust fans; proper air circulation; promptly fixing leaky

roofs, windows, and pipes; thoroughly cleaning and drying after flooding or water damage; and ventilating shower, laundry, and cooking areas.

95. Small amounts of mold can be removed with commercial mold removers or with water and bleach, ammonia, Borax, or hydrogen peroxide. Large amounts of mold, though, require specialized removal techniques and personal protective equipment.

96. Defendants were actually aware of the physical dynamics of mold and its growth as set forth above, and the substantial risk of serious inmate harm that would result, including the physical symptoms set forth above.

Mold at WHV

97. Upon information and belief, testing in the WHV would disclose the presence of various molds such as:

a) *Ochroconis* is known to grow principally in soil and can cause infections under the skin.

b) *Cladosporium* is known to grow on decaying paint and textiles and is generally regarded to be allergenic. *Cladosporium* can cause extrinsic asthma, skin lesions, sinusitis, and pulmonary infections.

c) *Chaetomium* is known to grow on water-damaged paper and drywall. Several species of *Chaetomium* are toxigenic and known

to cause systemic, cerebral, skin (and under the skin), and pulmonary infections.

d) *Stachybotrys* is known to grow on water-damaged drywall. Several species of *Stachybotrys* are toxigenic and can specifically produce Stratoxin H, which is poisonous upon inhalation. Individuals with chronic exposure to Stratoxin H experience cold and flu symptoms, sore throats, diarrhea, headaches, fatigue, dermatitis, hair loss, and general malaise. Stratoxin H is also a liver and kidney carcinogen. Areas with relative humidity above 55% and that are subject to temperature fluctuations are ideal for Stratoxin H production.

98. MDOC personnel, including Defendants Washington, Brewer, Marlan, McKee, Rapelje, Gulick, Johnson, Ousterhout, Treppa, Carter, Bullard, and Moore, were actually aware of the extensive mold problem as it was readily visible, and they actually observed it. Likewise, they received numerous complaints about mold by detainees and inmates at WHV. Many inmates filed grievances about the mold, bringing mold directly to the attention of Defendant Brewer on many occasions during Step Two of the inmates' grievance process.

99. The mold in shower units, including those in Gladwin-B, Unit 4 and others, has been especially extreme for more than five years, visibly covering the walls, ceilings, and floors.

100. Mold also grows in storage closets and other closets adjacent to the shower units.

101. The mold looks green, black, and fuzzy. Many inmates describe the mold as looking “alive.” The mold is flakey and slimy to the touch. It can also have a sticky, gum-like feeling.

102. In some instances, the mold has “eaten” through bricks and door frames. The mold has also caused tiles throughout the units to peel up from the ground.

103. As early as 2013, detainees and inmates at WHV began complaining to Defendants—including multiple guards, nurses, nurse practitioners, and doctors—about the presence of visible mold in shower units, in sinks, around toilets in cells, near the windows, around door casings, in the hallways, and in the air vents.

104. For example, inmate/detainee members of the Warden’s Forum Committee wrote a letter to Defendant Brewer in 2018, complaining that women were “experiencing health problems due to environmental hazards within [unit #2 westside housing]. Due to the improper function of HVAC units, compounded by lack of proper cleaning agents to kill the mold arising from the poor ventilation/unwarranted condensation on walls/windows in housing/cell areas and unit (base-hallways, etc.) continuously moist areas breed mold leeching levels of toxins into the air.”

105. The Warden's Forum Committee exists to assist Defendant Brewer in identifying and resolving problems in the general population of WHV. The Committee consists of WHV's housing unit representatives, and the Committee meets at least monthly to discuss inmate concerns with Defendant Brewer. According to MDOC's Prisoner Housing Unit Representatives/Warden's Forum Policy Directive, 04.01.150, "the Warden shall provide the Warden's Forum with written responses to each agenda item, copies of which shall be posted in each housing unit and forwarded to the appropriate Regional Prisoner Administrator (RPA) and to the Grievance Section in the Office of Legal Affairs." Inmates at WHV complained regularly about mold at Committee meetings.

106. Plaintiffs and other women have also complained about symptoms, such as skin rash and itching, nasal stuffiness, throat irritation, coughing, watery eyes, wheezing, and respiratory conditions and infections, which are known to be caused by the types of mold present in WHV.

107. Plaintiffs and other women complained about these symptoms, but their requests for treatment were largely ignored by guards, nurses, physician assistants, or physicians.

108. Several women were explicitly told by doctors and/or nurses that their symptoms were caused by mold exposure, and yet the appropriate repairs, maintenance, and cleanup has not yet taken place.

109. Several MDOC employees complained to women about their own allergies and headaches triggered by working in the facility. They attributed their symptoms to mold in the building and said their symptoms cleared up when they went home at the end of the day. New MDOC guards are placed in buildings with the worst mold problems because seasoned guards refuse to work in them.

110. MDOC personnel, including Defendants Washington, Brewer, Marlan, McKee, Rapelje, Gulick, Johnson, Ousterhout, Treppa, Carter, Bullard, and Moore have failed to take appropriate measures to eradicate the mold despite actual knowledge of its existence and prevalence, and Defendants have disregarded the substantial risk of serious inmate harm that resulted from long-term mold exposure.

Deliberate Indifference

111. Defendants failed to test the mold present at WHV, despite actual knowledge of its existence, women's health complaints, and actual knowledge of the causal link between the two.

112. Defendants have failed—for more than twenty years—to replace the inadequate and failing HVAC system; instead allowing vents to fill up with mold and electing instead to use floor fans causing the mold to circulate in the air, further sickening inmates and staff.

113. Defendants have failed to replace the inadequate and failing air handlers, directly contributing to poor ventilation and condensation levels that encourage mold growth.

114. In many cases, Defendants have failed to properly repair roof leaks and grading issues throughout WHV, choosing instead to cover up ceiling and carpet damage caused by regular water infiltration into the units.

115. In Filmore B, Defendants instructed guards to wear masks and/or gloves to help minimize the impact of mold exposure on those employees.

116. Rather than abate the mold, MDOC personnel, at the direction of Defendants Washington, Brewer, Marlan, McKee, Rapelje, Gulick, Johnson, Ousterhout, Treppa, Carter, Bullard, and Moore, have elected instead to conceal it.

117. Defendants have painted over the mold, including directly painting ventilation screens in order to conceal its existence from the inmates, increasing the likelihood that the inmates would be unknowingly exposed to it.

118. Inmates have been awoken in the middle of the night by MDOC personnel painting over mold before a morning inspection in an effort to conceal the problem.

119. Notwithstanding, the mold, particularly in the shower units, has penetrated through. The mold bubbled and burst through the paint. It continues to spread and be visible in the units.

120. As the mold problem continued to spread, worsen, and proliferate throughout the units, Defendants exasperated the problem further by prohibiting shower porters from using bleach and other stringent cleaners when cleaning the showers. On one occasion, a guard instructed inmates to instead scratch the mold off the shower tiles and wall with their finger nails.

121. In December 2014, the Warden's Forum Committee requested stronger, undiluted disinfectant and cleaning supplies to help ameliorate health issues related to wet cells. Administration responded that there was "absolutely no need to replace the current cleaning supplies with stronger products."

122. Defendants have required on occasions inmates to clean showers from 11:00 pm until 5:00 am straight "or else." Of course, without changes to building ventilation and without the appropriate cleaning supplies, the mold will never truly be eradicated and continues to spread in the bathrooms, showers, and cells.

123. Defendants' failures and inactions amount to deliberate indifference towards Plaintiffs' Constitutional rights as well as deliberate indifference to the human feelings and physical safety of Plaintiffs and the proposed Classes they seek to represent.

124. Defendants have intentionally ignored complaints made by Plaintiffs and the putative Class regarding the presence of mold and symptoms caused by mold

exposure and in some instances intentionally sought to cover up or conceal the problem.

125. As early as 2009, Warden's Forum Committee members began voicing concerns regarding a "vent cleaning" project which had been put on hold. The Committee voiced the concerns again in 2013 while the project remained on hold, specifically indicating concern for the health effects related to lack of vent maintenance. WHV responded by requiring inmates to clean the vents themselves and paint over the moldy vents prior to inspections.

126. Defendants have gone as far as to proactively prohibit inmates from talking about the mold problem, indicating that such discussions could cause a riot. In fact, Defendant Brewer told inmates/detainees during the Warden's Forum Committee that they could not refer to the "mold problem" and instead had to discuss "mildew."

127. MDOC personnel and contractors are actively prohibited by Defendants from talking about the mold problem.

128. Upon information and belief, Defendants would not allow medical staff to conduct allergy tests to identify mold allergies for inmates who requested the tests.

129. Despite continuous complaints—including many kites and many filed grievances—over the past several years, Defendants maintained a policy, custom, pattern, and practice of utterly failing to remedy their gross failures and ignoring,

denying, and then deflecting responsibility onto the inmates for the conditions at WHV causing deprivation of Plaintiffs' constitutional rights.

130. Mold remains a continuing condition and threat to the health of women incarcerated at WHV thereby necessitating this Court's intervention to enjoin Defendants from continuing to violate Plaintiffs' and the Class Member's constitutional rights and to hold Defendants accountable to current, former, and future incarcerated women who were forced or who will be forced to suffer unbearable pain and horrendous, inhumane, and deplorable conditions within the walls of WHV.

Plaintiff Paula Bailey

131. Plaintiff Paula Bailey ("Bailey") is an inmate at WHV currently housed in Unit Filmore-B.

132. Plaintiff Bailey has noticed mold in at least three units during her time at WHV, including Gladwin-B, Dickinson-B, and Filmore-B.

133. Plaintiff Bailey first noticed mold at WHV in 2016 when she lived in Gladwin-B. In Gladwin-B, the windows remained closed, causing the windows to sweat and creating a musty odor.

134. Eventually, brown and black mold formed in Gladwin-B, dripping from the ceiling in the shower onto Plaintiff Bailey's face and body. She developed a rash that left visible scars on her face, chest, and legs.

135. Plaintiff Bailey noticed similar mold in the showers during her time in Dickinson-B. However, after transferring to Filmore-B, Plaintiff Bailey began experiencing even more severe symptoms such as wheezing, chest pain, and coughing due to mold.

136. Mold is visibly present in Filmore-B.

137. Plaintiff Bailey developed a respiratory infection on or around April of 2018 when she was housed in Filmore-B.

138. Plaintiff Bailey suffered from the respiratory infection for several months. Plaintiff Bailey continues to suffer from excessive coughing and difficulty breathing. Her symptoms subside only when she leaves the Filmore-B facility.

139. Plaintiff Bailey has been seen by MDOC healthcare for her symptoms on many occasions. When she complained about her symptoms, Plaintiff Bailey was told that her medical conditions were caused by exposure to mold at WHV. Specifically, Nurse Tinsley, Nurse Porter, and Nurse Smith all separately said her symptoms were related to mold.

140. Plaintiff Bailey complained about the presence of mold to other MDOC personnel, including Prison Counselor Schilling, Resident Unit Manager Jackson, and Officer Norris, on numerous occasions.

141. Despite repeated complaints, Defendants failed to take reasonable steps to eradicate the mold from the unit or to keep it from returning by, for example

updating the WHV's ventilation system, following Defendants' housekeeping protocols, or by making desperately needed repairs.

142. Plaintiff Bailey has suffered, and continues to suffer from, physical injuries and emotional distress related to the mold and her associated health symptoms.

Plaintiff Krystal Clark

143. Plaintiff Krystal Clark ("Clark") is an inmate at WHV currently housed in Unit 4.

144. Plaintiff Clark observed mold in at least three units during her time at WHV, including Gladwin-A, Gladwin-B, and Unit 4.

145. Plaintiff Clark first observed mold at WHV in Gladwin-A and Gladwin-B. The fuzzy, brown and black mold dripped down on her while she showered.

146. During Plaintiff Clark's time at WHV, she has developed significant respiratory problems and other mold-related symptoms. While Plaintiff Clark experienced headaches prior to incarceration, they have exponentially worsened.

147. The conditions at WHV have also exacerbated Plaintiff Clark's shortness of breath, chest tightness, allergies and asthma. It is hard for Plaintiff Clark to breathe anywhere at WHV, but she experiences some relief when she is allowed to be outside.

148. Plaintiff Clark suffers from coughing fits so severe that she has been provided with a facemask to wear when visiting with other people. She also wheezes when she talks.

149. Plaintiff Clark's respiratory problems continue to persist without improvement.

150. Plaintiff Clark's symptoms are caused by exposure to mold at WHV.

151. Plaintiff Clark complained about the presence of mold to MDOC personnel on numerous occasions. She complained directly to Defendant Brewer during Step 2 of the grievance process. She has also submitted multiple kites in an effort for relief from her mold-related symptoms. When Plaintiff Clark asked for WHV to conduct an allergy test, the nurses said WHV did not give allergy tests in the facility.

152. Despite Defendants' actual knowledge of the mold problem and actual knowledge of its substantial risk of harm to Plaintiff Clark as a result of exposure to it, Defendants failed to take reasonable steps to eradicate the mold from the unit or to keep it from returning by, for example updating the WHV's ventilation system, following Defendants' housekeeping protocols, or by making desperately needed repairs.

153. Plaintiff Clark has suffered, and continues to suffer from, physical injuries and emotional distress caused by exposure to mold at the WHV.

Plaintiff Hope Zentz

154. Plaintiff Hope Zentz (“Zentz”) is an inmate at WHV currently housed in Unit 2.

155. Plaintiff Zentz first observed mold at WHV during her time in Unit 2. The mold is present on the windows, showers, heat registers, and vents.

156. Patchy black mold drips from the ceiling in the shower onto Plaintiff Zentz’s face and body. She developed a rash on her body in the places where the mold dripped.

157. After a year-and-a-half in Unit 2, Plaintiff Zentz began experiencing chronic headaches and dizziness. Her symptoms subsided only when she left the facility for fresh air.

158. Plaintiff Zentz also suffers from trouble breathing, coughing, and wheezing, which worsens at night.

159. In 2019, Plaintiff Zentz suffered from a nose infection for two months without relief.

160. Plaintiff Zentz complained about her symptoms to the health care unit on many occasions, including Nurse Practitioner Olmstead.

161. Plaintiff Zentz was told by MDOC health care, including Nurse Porter, that her respiratory problems were probably caused by exposure to mold at WHV.

Nurse Porter told Plaintiff Zentz that her allergies start to act up every time she comes to work in the facility.

162. Mold is visibly present in Unit 2.

163. Plaintiff Zentz complained about the presence of mold to MDOC personnel, including Defendant Brewer, on numerous occasions.

164. Despite repeated complaints, effective steps were not taken to eradicate the mold from the unit or to keep it from returning by, for example updating the WHV's ventilation system, following Defendants' housekeeping protocols, or by making desperately needed repairs.

165. Once, Plaintiff Zentz had a conversation with a maintenance man who said the ventilation systems at WHV were covered in mold. He told Plaintiff Zentz that administration kept asking him to put a "band-aid" on the problem by painting over mold throughout the facility.

166. Plaintiff Zentz has suffered, and continues to suffer from, physical injuries and emotional distress related to the mold and her associated health symptoms.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

167. Plaintiffs bring this action as a class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23.

168. Plaintiffs assert their claims on behalf of the former inmate class defined as follows:

Current and Former Inmate Class

All current and former detainees and inmates in WHV who, while incarcerated at WHV, experienced symptoms consistent with mold exposure since November 20, 2016.

169. Plaintiffs assert their claims on behalf of the injunctive relief class defined as follows:

Injunctive Relief Class

All detainees and inmates of WHV who were incarcerated at WHV since November 20, 2016.

(collectively referred to as “the proposed Classes”).

170. The proposed Classes exclude Defendants’ officers, directors, and employees, as well as any judicial officer who presides over this action and members of the judicial officer’s immediate family.

171. **Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(1)—Numerosity / Impracticability of Joinder:**
The proposed Classes are so numerous that joinder of all proposed Class Members is impracticable. On information and belief, there are hundreds of Class Members in the proposed Classes, all of whom are or were subject to the conditions set forth herein and therefore face a significant risk of serious illness and injury.

172. Class members are identifiable using records maintained in the ordinary course of business by WHV.

173. **Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(2)—Commonality:** Common questions of law and fact exist as to all proposed Class Members. Among the common questions are, including but not limited to:

a) Whether inmates have experienced chronic exposure to mold-covered showers, inadequate ventilation, and prolonged exposure to mold.

b) Whether the unhygienic and dangerous conditions at WHV subject the proposed Classes to an ongoing, substantial, and imminent risk of physical and psychological harm, illness, and death;

c) Whether the conditions at WHV violate the Eighth Amendment's prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment;

d) Whether the unhygienic and dangerous conditions at WHV, and Defendants' refusal to effectively remedy the conditions, result in constitutionally cognizable harm or present a constitutionally excessive risk of harm;

e) Whether Defendants knowingly instituted or condoned the dangerous and unhygienic conditions at WHV;

f) Whether Defendants have been deliberately indifferent to the actual and serious risk of mental and physical suffering of proposed Classes;

g) Whether Defendants maintain a policy, custom, and/or widespread practice of violating proposed Classes' constitutional rights through exposure to the dangerous conditions at WHV;

h) The nature, scope, and operation of Defendants' practices, policies and customs as applied to prisoners incarcerated at WHV; and

i) Whether Defendants failure to hire, train, and/or supervise competent WHV staff and agents resulted in violations of proposed Classes' constitutional rights.

174. **Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(3)—Typicality:** The claims of the Plaintiffs are typical of other members of the proposed Classes, as their claims from the same policies, practices, and courses of conduct, and their claims are based on the same theory of law as the class claims.

175. Further, Defendants are expected to raise common defenses to these claims, so that final relief is appropriate for both Classes.

176. **Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a)(4)—Adequacy of Representation:** Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the proposed Classes and will serve diligently as class representatives. Their interests are aligned with those of the purported Classes and they have retained counsel experienced in civil rights litigation, litigation involving rights of prisoners, and class action litigation.

177. This action is maintainable as a class action because Defendants have acted or refused to act on grounds that generally apply to the proposed Classes, so that final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief is appropriate respecting the proposed Classes as a whole.

178. **Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)**—The Current, Former, and Future Inmate Class should be certified under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(3) because questions of law and fact common to the Class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the Class, and because a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. The illegal conduct is standardized; the proposed Classes do not have an interest in individually controlling the prosecution of the case.

179. Proceeding as a class action would permit the large number of injured parties to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without unnecessary duplication of evidence, effort, and judicial resources. A class action is the only practical way to avoid the potentially inconsistent results that numerous individual trials are likely to generate. Numerous repetitive individual actions would also place an enormous burden on the courts, as they would be forced to take duplicative evidence and repeatedly decide the same issues concerning Defendants' conduct.

180. The proposed Classes should also be certified under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(1) and/or (b)(2) because:

a) The prosecution of separate actions by individual Class Members would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudication with respect to individual Class Members that would establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants;

b) The prosecution of separate actions by individual Class Members would create a risk of adjudications with respect to them which would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other Class Members not parties to the adjudications, or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests; and/or

c) Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the proposed Classes, thereby making appropriate final and injunctive relief with respect to the Class Members as a whole.

181. Alternatively, this case can be maintained as a class action with respect to particular issues under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(c)(4).

CAUSES OF ACTION

**COUNT I: VIOLATIONS OF THE EIGHTH AND FOURTEENTH
AMENDMENTS TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION**

(Against All Defendants)

182. Plaintiffs and the proposed Classes, by reference, incorporate the preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

183. Defendants had actual knowledge through personal observation that there was a substantial risk of serious harm to the proposed Classes due to exposure to mold but failed to take reasonable measures to abate it.

184. In addition to actual knowledge by personal observation, numerous complaints were filed by Plaintiffs and members of the proposed Classes and submitted to Defendants and other prison officials, all of which were inadequately addressed and many of which were intentionally ignored. Defendants knew there was a substantial risk of serious harm to the proposed Classes but failed to take reasonable measures to abate it and instead actively worked to conceal the problem.

185. Despite actual knowledge of the presence of mold in the facility, Defendants did not take reasonable steps to eradicate or prevent mold growth to protect Plaintiffs or the proposed Classes from serious injury.

186. Defendants had actual knowledge of the mold present at WHV. These individuals had actual knowledge of Plaintiffs' and proposed Classes' asserted

serious needs but disregarded them by failing to take reasonable measures to abate them.

187. Defendants created a policy or custom under which the unconstitutional practice of intentionally failing to take reasonable steps to abate the mold condition and intentionally attempting to conceal the mold problem with actual knowledge that the inmates faced a substantial risk of serious harm as a result and/or Defendants allowed the continuance of such a policy or custom.

188. The conduct of Defendants, as alleged in the preceding paragraphs, violates the rights guaranteed to Plaintiffs and the proposed Classes they represent under the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution and laws in violation of 42 U.S.C. §1983, subjecting them to a substantial risk of serious harm, and causing the injuries alleged in this Complaint.

189. Such actions and decisions on the part of Defendants, individually, separately, and/or jointly, were done in a knowing, willful, or in a reckless manner and in bad faith.

190. By virtue of the special relationship of the state-imposed custodial setting, Defendants were under an affirmative obligation to spend their resources to protect Plaintiffs and proposed Classes from harm.

191. Defendants' policies, practices, and customs violate Plaintiffs' basic human rights and dignity, and their right to be free from unconstitutional unhygienic

and dangerous conditions and cruel and unusual punishment under the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

192. These policies, practices, and customs have been and continue to be implemented by the Defendants and their agents and employees, under color of law, in their official and individual capacities, and are the proximate cause of the ongoing violations of the constitutional rights of Plaintiffs and the proposed Classes.

193. Defendants have been and are aware of the unconstitutional and dangerous conditions of the WHV and have unreasonably instituted and/or condoned such conditions and/or been deliberately indifferent to the inhumane conditions and rampant violations of law and the substantial risk of serious harm and actual harm to Plaintiffs and the proposed Classes.

194. Defendants have failed to prevent, caused, and continue to cause Plaintiffs and the proposed Classes tremendous mental anguish, suffering, and pain, as well as the serious and lasting injury they are currently experiencing or are at risk of experiencing. Defendants' conduct is the direct and proximate cause of the constitutional violations and injuries to Plaintiffs and the proposed Classes as set forth above.

195. Defendants' failure and refusal to eliminate the mold present at WHV directly exposed Plaintiffs and the proposed Classes to an excessive risk of serious illness and injury caused by mold.

196. As a result of the Defendants' actions and/or omissions, Plaintiffs and the proposed Classes were deprived of their fundamental rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, when they were knowingly exposed to dangerous varieties of mold known to cause serious illness and injury while in the custody of the state.

197. As a result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and the proposed Classes are entitled to all damages and relief available at law and equity.

COUNT II: GROSS NEGLIGENCE
(Against All Defendants)

198. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs as thought

199. As a result of Defendants' unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs and the proposed Classes are entitled to all damages and relief available at law and equity.

200. The acts and conduct of Defendants alleged in the above stated cause of action when considered under the laws of the State of Michigan, constitute gross negligence and the Defendants are not entitled to the immunity of MCL 600.1407(2) because they were grossly negligent.

201. The conduct of the Defendants was so reckless as to demonstrate a substantial lack of concern for whether injury resulted and exhibited a deliberate indifference by intentional acts and/or omissions amounting to gross negligence.

202. Defendants not only breached their duty to Plaintiffs but also acted with gross negligence under the laws of the State of Michigan as to Plaintiffs' safety, protection and health by:

a) Failing to provide prisoners with a functioning heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system, functioning windows and functioning roofing for safety and health, in violation of MDOC's Humane Treatment and Living Conditions for Prisoners Policy Directive 03.03.130;

b) Failing to ensure that a housekeeping plan is developed and maintained for all areas of their respective facilities that is consistent with requirements set forth in the Preventive and Emergency Maintenance for Correctional Facilities, in violation of MDOC Policy Directive 04.03.100, Policy Directive 04.03.102, and the MDOC Sanitation Manual;

c) Failing to issue necessary cleaning materials and equipment to housing unit staff to be provided to offenders responsible for the cleanliness and orderliness of their individual living areas, including walls, floors, sinks, toilets, windows, beds, lockers, and property, in violation of MDOC's Preventive and Emergency

Maintenance for Correctional Facilities Policy Directive 04.03.100, Policy Directive 04.03.102, and the MDOC Sanitation Manual;

d) Failing to immediately and effectively correct deficiencies that threaten the health or welfare of staff or offenders, in violation of MDOC's Preventive and Emergency Maintenance for Correctional Facilities Policy Directive 04.03.100 and the MDOC Sanitation Manual;

e) Failing to contact the Regional Environmental Sanitarian to determine appropriate temporary corrective measures to be implemented when deficiencies which threatened the health or welfare of staff or offenders could not be immediately and effectively corrected, in violation of MDOC's Preventive and Emergency Maintenance for Correctional Facilities Policy Directive 04.03.100;

f) Failing to implement procedures necessary to effectively enforce requirements set forth in MDOC Policy Directives 04.03.100, 04.03.102, and 03.03.130, as well as the MDOC's Sanitation Manual;

g) Acting or failing to act in other ways to expose Plaintiffs to a known and extreme risk to their health and safety that may or will become known during discovery.

203. It was foreseeable that Defendants actions and omissions, as set forth above, would result in injury to Plaintiffs. It was foreseeable that haphazard retrofitting, leaky roofs, inoperable windows, inadequate ventilation, and outdated HVAC systems would contribute to an environment ripe for mold proliferation and that failure to properly clean or eradicate this proliferation would further exasperate the problem. It was similarly foreseeable that mold would result in dangerous conditions for the incarcerated women at WHV.

204. Defendants were the factual cause of Plaintiffs' injuries.

205. Defendants' actions were the ones most immediate, efficient, and direct cause of Plaintiffs' injuries.

206. As the direct and proximate result of Defendants' gross negligence, Plaintiffs and the proposed Class are entitled to all damages and relief available at law and equity.

RELIEF REQUESTED

207. WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray on behalf of themselves and the members of the proposed Classes for entry of judgment finding and awarding as follows:

- a) Certifying the proposed Classes under Rule 23;

b) For an Order adjudging the practices and conduct of Defendants complained of herein to be in violation of the rights guaranteed to Plaintiffs under the U.S. Constitution and Federal law;

c) For an Order adjudging that Defendants were deliberately indifferent to the serious medical risk to the Plaintiffs and proposed Classes;

d) For an Order adjudging that Defendants failed to protect Plaintiffs and the proposed Classes from a state-created danger;

e) For an award to Plaintiffs against Defendants, jointly and severally, all relief available under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, to be determined at trial, with interest on such amounts;

f) For an award to the proposed Classes against Defendants, jointly and severally, all relief available under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, to be determined at trial, with interest on such amounts;

g) For an award of injunctive relief to the proposed Classes against Defendants;

h) For an award to Plaintiffs and the proposed Classes of actual damages, including those arising from loss of past and future income and benefits, humiliation, mental anguish, loss of reputation, emotional distress and other harm, in an amount in excess of \$75,000

against Defendants Washington, Brewer, Marlan, McKee, Rapelje, Gulick, Johnson, Ousterhout, Treppa, Carter, Bullard, and Moore in their individual capacity;

i) For an award of punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial;

j) For an award to Plaintiffs of their attorneys' fees, disbursements, and costs in this action, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988, and as otherwise available at law or in equity;

k) For an award of prejudgment interest;

l) For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

Dated: November 20, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Rebekah L. Bailey

NICHOLS KASTER, PLLP

Matthew H. Morgan (MN 304657)

Rebekah L. Bailey (MN 0389599)

Nicole J. Schladt (MN0400234)

80 South Eighth Street, Ste. 4600

Minneapolis, MN 55402

P: (612) 256-3200

F: (612) 338-4878

morgan@nka.com

bailey@nka.com

nschladt@nka.com

MARKO LAW, PLLC

Jonathan R. Marko (P72450)
1300 Broadway Street, Suite 500
Detroit, MI 48326
P: (313) 777-7LAW
jon@jmarkolaw.com

**PITT MCGEHEE PALMER &
RIVERS PC**

Cary S. McGehee (P42318)
Beth M. Rivers (P33614)
Channing Robinson-Holmes (P81698)
117 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Royal Oak, MI 48067
P: (248) 398-9800
cmcgehee@pittlawpc.com

**LAW OFFICES OF DAVID S.
STEINGOLD, PLLC**

David S. Steingold (P29752)
500 Griswold Street, Suite 2320
Detroit, MI 48226
P: (313) 962-0000
detroitdefender@yahoo.com

EXCOLO LAW, PLLC

Solomon M. Radner (P73653)
26700 Lahser Road, Suite 401
Southfield, MI 48033
P: (866) 939-2656
sradner@excololaw.com

**ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFFS
AND THE PUTATIVE CLASSES**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on November 20, 2019, I electronically filed the foregoing paper with the Clerk of the Court using the ECF system. I hereby also certify that the foregoing document will be served to the Registered Agent of Defendants or Defendants listed in the above-captioned matter pursuant to Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and an Affidavit of Service will be filed with the Court upon completion of service.

Dated: November 20, 2019

/s/Rebekah L. Bailey

Rebekah L. Bailey (MN 0389599)

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

PAULA BAILEY, KRYSTAL
CLARK, and HOPE ZENTZ, on
behalf of themselves and others
similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

V.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
CORRECTIONS, HEIDI
WASHINGTON, in her official and
individual capacity, SHAWN
BREWER, in his official and
individual capacity, RUSSELL
MARLAN, in his individual and
official capacity, KENNETH
MCKEE, in his individual and official
capacity, LLOYD RAPELJE, in his
individual and official capacity, LIA
GULICK, in her individual and
official capacity, DAVID JOHNSON,
in his individual and official capacity,
KARRI OUSTERHOUT, in her
individual and official capacity,
JOSEPH TREPPA, in his official and
individual capacity, DAN CARTER,
in his official and individual capacity,
RICHARD BULLARD, in his official
and individual capacity, and TONI
MOORE, in her official and individual
capacity,

Defendants.

MARKO LAW, PLLC

Jonathan R. Marko (P72450)
1300 Broadway Street, Suite 500
Detroit, MI 48326
P: (313) 777-7LAW
jon@jmarkolaw.com

NICHOLS KASTER, PLLP

Matthew H. Morgan (MN304657)
Rebekah L. Bailey (MN0387013)
Nicole J. Schladt (MN0400234)
80 South Eight Street, Suite 4600
Minneapolis, MN 55402
P: (612) 256-3200
morgan@nka.com
bailey@nka.com
nschladt@nka.com

**PITT MCGEHEE PALMER &
RIVERS PC**

Cary S. McGehee (P42318)
Beth M. Rivers (P33614)
Channing Robinson-Holmes
(P81698)
117 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Royal Oak, MI 48067
P: (248) 398-9800
cmcgehee@pittlawpc.com
brivers@pittlawpc.com
crobinson@pittlawpc.com

**LAW OFFICES OF DAVID S.
STEINGOLD, PLLC**

David S. Steingold (P29752)
500 Griswold Street, Suite 2320
Detroit, MI 48226
P: (313) 962-0000
detroitdefender@yahoo.com

EXCOLO LAW, PLLC

Solomon M. Radner (P73653)
26700 Lahser Road, Suite 401
Southfield, MI 48033
P: (866) 939-2656
sradner@excololaw.com

*Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the
Putative Classes*

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiffs and the proposed Classes they represent hereby demand a trial by jury in the above-captioned matter.

Dated: November 20, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Rebekah L. Bailey

NICHOLS KASTER, PLLP

Matthew H. Morgan (MN 304657)
Rebekah L. Bailey (MN 0389599)
Nicole J. Schladt (MN0400234)
80 South Eighth Street, Ste. 4600
Minneapolis, MN 55402
P: (612) 256-3200
F: (612) 338-4878
morgan@nka.com
bailey@nka.com
nschladt@nka.com

MARKO LAW, PLLC

Jonathan R. Marko (P72450)
1300 Broadway Street, Suite 500
Detroit, MI 48326
P: (313) 777-7LAW

jon@jmarkolaw.com

**PITT MCGEHEE PALMER &
RIVERS PC**

Cary S. McGehee (P42318)
Beth M. Rivers (P33614)
Channing Robinson-Holmes (P81698)
117 W. 4th Street, Suite 200
Royal Oak, MI 48067
P: (248) 398-9800
cmcgehee@pittlawpc.com

**LAW OFFICES OF DAVID S.
STEINGOLD, PLLC**

David S. Steingold (P29752)
500 Griswold Street, Suite 2320
Detroit, MI 48226
P: (313) 962-0000
detroitdefender@yahoo.com

EXCOLO LAW, PLLC

Solomon M. Radner (P73653)
26700 Lahser Road, Suite 401
Southfield, MI 48033
P: (866) 939-2656
sradner@excololaw.com

**ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFFS
AND THE PUTATIVE CLASSES**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on November 20, 2019, I electronically filed the foregoing paper with the Clerk of the Court using the ECF system. I hereby also certify that the foregoing document will be served to the Registered Agent of Defendants or Defendants listed in the above-captioned matter pursuant to Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and an Affidavit of Service will be filed with the Court upon completion of service.

Dated: November 20, 2019

/s/Rebekah L. Bailey

Rebekah L. Bailey (MN 0389599)