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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

\_\_\_\_\_, Individually and on Behalf of All  
Others Similarly Situated,  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
vs.  
  
AMPLITUDE, INC., SPENSER SKATES, and  
HOANG VUONG,  
  
Defendants.

) Case No. 3:24-cv-00898  
)  
) CLASS ACTION  
)  
) COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE  
) FEDERAL SECURITIES LAWS  
)  
)  
)  
)  
) DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 Plaintiff \_\_\_\_, by and through plaintiff’s undersigned attorneys, individually and on  
2 behalf of all others similarly situated, alleges the following based upon personal knowledge  
3 as to plaintiff and plaintiff’s own acts and upon information and belief as to all other matters,  
4 based upon, *inter alia*, the investigation conducted by and through plaintiff’s attorneys, which  
5 included, among other things, a review of defendants’ public documents, conference calls,  
6 announcements, and U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (“SEC”) filings, wire and press  
7 releases published by and regarding Amplitude, Inc. (“Amplitude” or the “Company”),  
8 analysts’ reports and advisories about the Company, and information readily obtainable  
9 on the Internet. Plaintiff believes that substantial evidentiary support will exist for the  
10 allegations set forth herein after a reasonable opportunity for discovery.

#### 11 NATURE OF THE ACTION

12 1. This is a securities class action on behalf of all persons who purchased or otherwise  
13 acquired Amplitude stock between September 21, 2021 and February 16, 2022, inclusive (“Class  
14 Period”), seeking to pursue remedies and recover damages caused by defendants’ violations of  
15 §§10(b) and 20(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”), 15 U.S.C. §§78j(b)  
16 and 78t(a), and SEC Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder, 17 C.F.R. §240.10b-5.

17  
18 2. Amplitude is a technology company that helps businesses analyze data for their  
19 digital products and track customer interactions. Beginning in September 2021, Amplitude  
20 claimed to be experiencing extraordinary growth due to “strong demand for [its products]” and a  
21 “robust” expansion from existing customers. Specifically, in connection with the Company’s  
22 second quarter 2021 (“2Q21”) earnings, Amplitude reported that “revenue growth accelerated”  
23 during the quarter and was “up 66% year over year.” The Company similarly reported that a key  
24 growth metric, known as current remaining performance obligations (“cRPO”), was up 76% year-  
25 over-year and that its dollar-based net retention rate (“NRR”) was 119%.

26  
27 3. Amplitude operates in a nascent industry: the digital optimization market. In  
28 addition, the Company has historically not been profitable. Thus, it was critical to investors that

1 Amplitude continue its impressive growth trajectory, so that it could demonstrate a sustained  
2 market for its products and services and ultimately achieve profitability. Throughout the Class  
3 Period, defendants claimed that this was in fact occurring. For example, when asked during the  
4 2Q21 earnings call whether the business acceleration achieved by the Company during the quarter  
5 was sustainable, Amplitude’s Chief Financial Officer (“CFO”) Hoang Vuong (“Vuong”)   
6 responded: “Yes.”  
7

8 4. Key to this purportedly sustainable acceleration was the Company’s “land-and-  
9 expand strategy,” whereby the Company grew revenue by upselling existing clients on increased  
10 usage and new products. In SEC filings, Amplitude listed this strategy as among its most important  
11 growth initiatives and represented that, as Amplitude “customers experience the value of our  
12 platform in helping to drive business outcomes in that initial use case, they frequently expand that  
13 initial use case, expand into new use cases, and expand into additional products.” In connection  
14 with Amplitude’s 2Q21 results, CFO Vuong told investors: “Expansion from existing customers  
15 were particularly robust as the team continued to execute well on our land-and-expand strategy.”  
16 Similarly, in connection with Amplitude’s third quarter 2021 (“3Q21”) results, Chief Executive  
17 Officer (“CEO”) Spenser Skates (“Skates”) stated: “Existing customer demand for Amplitude was  
18 also strong, with expanding customer usage and solid traction with our new products . . . .”

19 5. In September 2021, Amplitude conducted its initial public offering via direct listing  
20 (the “IPO”). Unlike a traditional initial public offering, which is underwritten at a set price, a  
21 direct listing is a public offering wherein existing shareholders can sell shares directly into the  
22 market at whatever prices the market will bear. The company often raises no money, and  
23 executives who can dump tens of millions of dollars’ worth of their personally held shares in the  
24 listing company have a strong incentive to keep the stock price as high as possible.

25 6. Defendants’ Class Period statements successfully caused the price of Amplitude  
26 stock to soar. On September 28, 2021, the stock opened at more than \$50 per share on its first day  
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1 of trading – more than 40% above the established reference price of \$35 per share<sup>1</sup> – and reached  
2 highs of nearly \$90 per share by the end 2021. Capitalizing on their rosy assessments and  
3 reassurances regarding Amplitude’s rapid growth trajectory and ability to sustain outsized gains  
4 through the Company’s land-and-expand strategy, in the months following the IPO Amplitude’s  
5 senior management and Company insiders cashed out more than \$275 million in Amplitude stock  
6 at artificially inflated prices, including more than \$30 million by CEO Skates and more than \$17  
7 million by CFO Vuong at prices as high as \$74 per share.

9       7.       Almost immediately after this insider selling spree ended, Amplitude’s high-flying  
10 stock price crashed back to reality. After the market closed on February 16, 2022, Amplitude  
11 revealed its fourth quarter 2021 (“4Q21”) results and revised downward its 2022 fiscal guidance.  
12 Most troubling, the Company revealed that its vaunted land-and-expand strategy, which  
13 defendants had claimed had already proven successful, was in fact poised to “take a few years”  
14 before it was expected to accelerate results and that despite their prior assurances of sustainable  
15 growth, Amplitude management “really [did not] know” when this impact would occur. Following  
16 this news, the price of Amplitude common stock plunged. After closing at \$41.61 per share on  
17 February 16, 2022, the stock dropped more than **58%** – or \$24.51 per share – to close at \$17.10  
18 per share on February 17, 2022, on unusually high trading volume of more than 20 million shares  
19 traded.

20       8.       As a result of defendants’ wrongful acts and omissions, and the subsequent declines  
21 in the market value of Amplitude stock, which dropped nearly **80%** from its Class Period peak,  
22 plaintiff and other members of the Class (defined below) suffered losses and damages.

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27 <sup>1</sup> A reference price is meant to be a guide that informs the public of a potential initial market  
28 price for stock sold in a direct listing based on investor interest in the stock.

1 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

2 9. The claims asserted herein arise under and pursuant to §§10(b) and 20(a) of the  
3 Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §§78j(b) and 78t(a), and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder, 17 C.F.R.  
4 §240.10b-5.

5 10. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to §27 of  
6 the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C. §78aa, and 28 U.S.C. §1331.

7 11. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to §27 of the Exchange Act, 15 U.S.C.  
8 §78aa, and 28 U.S.C. §1391(b). Many of the acts and transactions that constitute the alleged  
9 violations of law, including the dissemination to the public of untrue statements of material fact,  
10 occurred in this District. The Company’s headquarters are located in this District at 201 Third  
11 Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, California 94103.

12 12. In connection with the acts alleged in this complaint, defendants, directly or  
13 indirectly, used the means and instrumentalities of interstate commerce, including, but not limited  
14 to, the mails, interstate telephone communications, and the facilities of the national securities  
15 markets.  
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18 **PARTIES**

19 13. Plaintiff \_\_\_ purchased Amplitude stock as described in the attached  
20 certification, which is incorporated herein by reference, and suffered damages as a result of the  
21 conduct alleged herein.  
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23 14. Defendant Amplitude, Inc. is incorporated in Delaware and has its headquarters in  
24 this District. Shares of Amplitude stock trade on the Nasdaq under the ticker symbol “AMPL.”

25 15. Defendant Spenser Skates co-founded Amplitude in 2012 and is the Company’s  
26 CEO and a member of its Board of Directors (the “Board”).  
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1           16. Defendant Hoang Vuong was the Company’s CFO from April 2019 until February  
2 2023, when he was replaced by Christopher Harms as the Company’s next CFO.

3           17. Defendants Skates and Vuong are collectively referred to as the “Individual  
4 Defendants.” The Individual Defendants, together with Amplitude, are collectively “defendants.”  
5

6           18. Each of the Individual Defendants acted and/or made the statements detailed herein  
7 in his capacity as an officer and/or director of Amplitude. Each of the Individual Defendants was  
8 directly involved in the management and day-to-day operations of the Company at the highest  
9 levels and was privy to confidential proprietary information concerning the Company and its  
10 business, operations, services, and present and future business prospects. In addition, the  
11 Individual Defendants were involved in drafting, producing, reviewing, and/or disseminating the  
12 false and misleading statements and information alleged herein, were aware of, or recklessly  
13 disregarded, the false and misleading statements being issued regarding the Company, and  
14 approved or ratified these statements, in violation of the federal securities laws.  
15

16           19. The Individual Defendants, because of their positions of control and authority as  
17 officers and/or directors of the Company, were able to, and did, control the content of the various  
18 SEC filings, press releases, and other public statements pertaining to the Company during the Class  
19 Period. Each Individual Defendant was provided with copies of the documents alleged herein to  
20 be misleading before or shortly after their issuance, participated in conference calls with investors  
21 during which false and misleading statements were made, and/or had the ability and/or opportunity  
22 to prevent their issuance or cause them to be corrected. Accordingly, each Individual Defendant  
23 is responsible for the accuracy of the public statements detailed herein and is, therefore, primarily  
24 liable for the representations contained therein.  
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1 **BACKGROUND**

2 20. Amplitude makes software for what it refers to as “digital optimization,” or the  
3 process of helping companies figure out more about how their customers engage with the  
4 companies’ digital experiences. Amplitude’s technology is designed to provide insights regarding  
5 how customers interact with digital platforms or “apps,” allowing companies to determine which  
6 features are resonating with customers and tweak their products to maximize user engagement,  
7 monetization, and other desirable metrics.  
8

9 21. The Company’s main product offering is called Amplitude Analytics, which  
10 consists of product-analytics tools. The Company launched two new offerings in the middle of  
11 2021. One, called Amplitude Recommend, allows companies to send customized suggestions to  
12 their users depending on the users’ past behaviors. The other, called Amplitude Experiment, lets  
13 companies run various tests and otherwise try out different user experiences.  
14

15 22. Leading up to the start of the Class Period, Amplitude rapidly grew its revenues,  
16 but was not profitable. The Company reported \$16.5 million in losses for the six months ended  
17 June 30, 2021, compared to \$16.6 million in losses for the same time period in 2020. It was,  
18 therefore, critically important for investors that the Company continue growing revenues at a rapid  
19 pace. Based on statements by the Individual Defendants and the Company, investors expected just  
20 that at the time of the Company’s direct listing. For example, the Company’s revenue for the first  
21 six months of 2021 grew by 57% to \$72 million compared to \$46 million during the same period  
22 in 2020. For the rest of 2021, Amplitude told investors it expected continued, rapid growth in  
23 revenues in the range of \$160 million to \$162 million, representing 57% year-over-year revenue  
24 growth at the midpoint.  
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1                   **DEFENDANTS’ MATERIALLY FALSE AND MISLEADING STATEMENTS**  
2                   **AND OMISSIONS DURING THE CLASS PERIOD**

3                   23.     On September 21, 2021 – the same day that Amplitude announced that the  
4 registration statement for the IPO had been declared effective – the Company issued a press release  
5 announcing its financial results for its 2Q21. The release highlighted several metrics that  
6 purportedly showed favorable growth at the Company, including 66% quarterly revenue growth,  
7 76% cRPO growth, and a 119% NRR. The release further stated that “the Company expects that  
8 its full year 2022 total revenue growth will be in excess of 40%.” The 2Q21 earnings release  
9 included the following statement from defendants Skates:

10                                   “The acceleration of the digital world has put digital products at the center  
11 of business. Digital products are driving how businesses operate, go to market and  
12 generate revenue . . . . As organizations make the shift to product-led growth, they  
13 are turning to Amplitude to help drive business outcomes. ***Great execution***  
14 ***combined with strong demand for the Amplitude Digital Optimization System has***  
15 ***led to our exceptional second quarter results***, highlighted by revenue growth of  
16 66% year-over-year, and a strong outlook for the year. ***We believe we are in the***  
17 ***very early stages of a large opportunity*** and that we can help companies of various  
18 sizes and digital maturities build great products through data.”

19                   24.     On September 21, 2021, the Company hosted its 2Q21 earnings call led by  
20 defendants Skates and Vuong. In his prepared remarks, defendant Skates stated that “Amplitude  
21 had an outstanding second quarter, reflecting the rapid acceleration of the digital world and great  
22 execution by our team.” In particular, defendant Skates represented: “Marketing, product, data  
23 science and vendor teams increased their Amplitude usage and event volume substantially over  
24 this time frame, including a volume-based upsell in Q2.”

25                   25.     During his prepared remarks, defendant Vuong emphasized: “Expansion from  
26 existing customers were particularly robust as the team continued to execute well on our land-and-  
27 expand strategy.” Later, when asked by Amplitude’s investor relations representative: “What are  
28 some of the assumptions that you’ve built into your guidance given the acceleration you saw in  
Q2? And is that sustainable?,” defendant Vuong responded: “***Yes.***”



1           26.     As the call continued, defendant Vuong was asked about the primary drivers for  
2 Amplitude’s customer expansions. He responded that the expansion was “coming from multiple  
3 angle[s],” stating in pertinent part as follows:

4                     As far as some of the primary driver for driving expansion, we’re really  
5 excited by the fact that, when we look at Q2, *we saw expansion coming from*  
6 *multiple angle[s]. We saw folks that are just expanding purely because of their*  
7 *expanding from volume.* As Spenser highlighted, *we also saw a few customers*  
8 *added Recommend and Experiment.* Now I want to be careful that those are still  
9 relatively new and still relatively small, but it’s really an encouraging sign to see.  
10 *And then we also saw other customers really adding and expanding it into other*  
11 *product lines and business units.* And so there wasn’t one massive thing or  
12 another. *It actually kind of came pretty healthy in terms of the larger expansion*  
13 *coming from [either just] volume or people expanding into additional product*  
14 *lines.*

15           27.     On September 28, 2021, Amplitude filed with the SEC the prospectus for the IPO  
16 on Form 424B4, which was signed by defendants Skates and Vuong among others (“the  
17 Prospectus”). The Prospectus highlighted the Company’s land-and-expand strategy as one of its  
18 primary “Growth Strategies,” stating in pertinent part as follows:

- 19           •     ***Expand Across Our Existing Customer Base.*** We believe that there are  
20 significant opportunities to continue to expand our relationships with our  
21 existing customers. We employ a land and expand business model designed  
22 to land with an initial use case and expand through onboarding additional  
23 functional teams, products, and use cases.
  - 24           ○     ***Promote Upsell: Once a customer is on our platform there are***  
25 ***many ways we can promote upsell opportunities.*** Customers can  
26 expand an initial use case by adding additional events or  
27 functionality to generate deeper analytics. They can also expand  
28 into additional functional teams who are looking to address a related  
use case or bring new digital products on our platform, both of which  
require additional data to be instrumented.
  - ***Drive Cross-sell: Our platform delivers end-to-end optimization***  
***that allows our customers to expand beyond analytics and layer on***  
***additional products, such as Recommend and Experiment, and we***  
***offer to optimize the digital product experiences of their customers.***

***Within our largest customers, we have demonstrated our ability to grow***  
***our reach to include thousands of users across their organization who leverage***  
***our system to drive business outcomes. Our dollar-based net retention rate as of***  
***December 31, 2020 and June 30, 2021 was 119% for paying customers.***

1           28.     The Prospectus represented that this land-and-expand strategy was already  
2 working, claiming that Amplitude customers “frequently expand” after being onboarded to  
3 Amplitude products and had already been “demonstrated” by Amplitude’s existing NRR, stating  
4 in pertinent part as follows:

5                   *As customers experience the value of our platform in helping to drive business*  
6 *outcomes in that initial use case, they frequently expand that initial use case,*  
7 *expand into new use cases, and expand into additional products. Our ability to*  
8 *expand successfully within our customer base is demonstrated by our strong*  
*dollar-based net retention rates.* As of December 31, 2019 and 2020, our dollar-  
based net retention rate across paying customers was 116% and 119%, respectively.

9           29.     The Prospectus also emphasized that industry trends had moved in the Company’s  
10 favor and that the Company’s digital optimization products would “*be a strategic business*  
11 *imperative as digital transformation continues at an accelerated pace,*” and that digital  
12 optimization was needed for businesses “to make sense of the exponential increase in digital  
13 product and user behavioral data to help ensure businesses are making the right product bets and  
14 to maximize their impact.” The Prospectus touted the \$37 billion market for digital optimization  
15 and described the Company’s market leader position in the digital analytics space as one of the  
16 Company’s key “competitive strengths.”

17           30.     On September 29, 2021, CEO Skates participated in an online AMA (ask me  
18 anything) session, fielding questions from online participants. When asked where he saw the  
19 Company going now that it was public, Skates highlighted that the Company was experiencing  
20 explosive revenue growth, writing, in relevant part:

21                   I feel good about the massive market as well as our differentiation. The #1  
22 challenge is getting the right team in place to execute successfully against the  
23 opportunity. *When you’re growing 50-60% YoY,* you have an entirely new  
24 company every 2 years. There is such a high degree of variation between people  
25 that just because you’re a high functioning organization today does not guarantee  
26 you will be tomorrow. My biggest lever on it as CEO is the leaders we bring into  
the business and so I spend a lot of time thinking about how to get that right.

27           31.     During the same AMA, Skates touted the value of Amplitude’s stock price, stating  
28 that a traditional IPO “sets you up to massively underprice your stock” and that, in his opinion,

1 “companies that went through the traditional IPO process underpriced their stock by 50%,”  
2 strongly implying that Amplitude’s direct listing stock price, which opened at \$50 per share,  
3 accurately valued the Company. When asked why he took the Company public, Skates answered,  
4 in relevant part, by writing:

5  
6 You really should take your company public once you reach 100M in ARR. The  
7 expectation for performance across the board goes up and good companies rise to  
8 meet the moment. ***You’re expected to do a better job of forecasting and planning  
your business, telling your story, sharing your long term vision, ensuring proper  
financial and legal oversight, and a lot else.*** Companies staying private so much  
longer has been bad for the them and for the ecosystem IMO.

9 32. Discussing the Company’s path to a direct listing instead of a traditional IPO,  
10 Skates stated:

11  
12 My absolute favorite argument was that if you price too high, you price out  
13 people who will stick with you, and that will cause your price to be lower in the  
14 future than it would have been otherwise. Luckily, I did a year in the finance world  
15 in high frequency trading so they couldn’t pull this one on me. That logic is the  
16 opposite of how pricing in a market works. ***High prices now are a signal that  
prices in the future are expected to be higher. If you want your price to be higher  
in the future, having it be higher in the present will increase the likelihood of that  
outcome.*** The thinking reminded me of Yogi Berra’s famous quote: “Nobody goes  
there anymore. It’s too crowded.”

17 33. On November 9, 2021, Amplitude issued a press release announcing its financial  
18 results for its 3Q21. The release highlighted several metrics that purportedly showed favorable  
19 growth at the Company, including 72% quarterly revenue growth, 66% cRPO growth, and a 121%  
20 NRR. The release quoted defendant Skates, who stated: ““Good execution combined with strong  
21 demand for the Amplitude Digital Optimization System drove our third quarter results. We believe  
22 we are in the very early stages of a large market opportunity . . . .””

23 34. Also on November 9, 2021, the Company hosted its 3Q21 earnings call led by  
24 defendants Skates and Vuong. During his prepared remarks, defendant Skates stated: “Existing  
25 customer demand for Amplitude was also strong, with expanding customer usage and solid traction  
26 with our new products, Recommend and Experiment.” He continued: “This was further  
27 demonstrated by a dollar-based net retention rate of 121%, which improved 200 basis points year-  
28 on-year.” Defendant Skates later stated: “We’re also seeing the power of Amplitude’s digital

1 optimization system help with customers' critical business goals and enable them to become more  
2 product-led," which he claimed "leads to more expansion and upsells within existing accounts and  
3 increasing customer adoption with our new products." Defendant Skates then walked investors  
4 through several purported examples of Amplitude's success in upselling clients and employing  
5 their land-and-expand strategy.

6 35. In his prepared remarks, defendant Vuong stated that "we had some large expansion  
7 in Q2 '21 along with easier year-over-year comp due to the impact of COVID that are contributing  
8 to our growth rate" and claimed that Amplitude "ended Q3 '21 with 1,417 paying customers, an  
9 increase of 54% year-over-year versus 51% last quarter, continuing the acceleration of customer  
10 growth." He continued: "**Overall, our team continues to execute well on our land-and-expand**  
11 **strategy**, improving our dollar-based Net Retention Rate, or our NRR, to 121% and up 200 basis  
12 points both sequentially and year-over-year."

13 36. When asked by an analyst about the Company's cross-sell opportunities, defendant  
14 Vuong reassured investors that the Company was successfully pulling multiple levers in its land-  
15 and-expand strategy, stating in pertinent part as follows:

16 *I think as we look at the kind of medium-, long-term, we see opportunity to grow*  
17 *net retention rate, not just from [extension], as you mentioned, with both volume*  
18 *up-sell, but what we consider a horizontal upsell, where you're selling to different*  
19 *use cases or additional business unit and product line inside of the company. And*  
20 *then, obviously, the addition of Recommend and Experiment, as you just*  
21 *mentioned, that just gives us additional firepower to go after our existing base.*

22 *And so the combination of those strengths that we're seeing, along with*  
23 *we mentioned in Q2 we had some really great expansion, and then coming off of*  
24 *some quarters that had, let's say, more churn coming from SMB and other from*  
25 *COVID is why we're seeing the increase in that retention rate. And our goal is to*  
26 *try to maintain that and keep that well above \$120 million.*

27 37. Similarly, when defendant Vuong was asked about Amplitude's sales and  
28 marketing efforts, he responded: "I think we feel really great about, first, [getting] the story that  
we're able to tell both in the market and the customers and the success that we're actually having  
in terms of winning new customer and expanding customers."

1           38. The statements referenced in ¶¶23-37 above were each materially false and  
2 misleading when made because they misrepresented and failed to disclose the following adverse  
3 facts, which were known to defendants or recklessly disregarded by them as follows:

4                   (a) that Amplitude’s land-and-expand strategy was years away from  
5 significantly accelerating revenues among its newer client cohorts;

6                   (b) that the rapid acceleration in the Company’s 2Q21 results resulted from the  
7 ephemeral effects of the COVID-19 pandemic which had not continued by the start of the Class  
8 Period, as Amplitude clients were expanding at a slower pace; and

9                   (c) that, as a result of (a)-(b) above, Amplitude’s business, operations,  
10 financial results, and prospects were materially worse than represented to investors during the  
11 Class Period.

12           39. Then, after the market closed on February 16, 2022, the Company issued a press  
13 release announcing its 4Q21 financial results. The release revised downward the Company’s 2022  
14 revenue guidance, from more than 40% to a range of \$226 million to \$234 million (or 35% to  
15 40%).

16           40. Also on February 16, 2022, Amplitude hosted its 4Q21 earnings call which was led  
17 by defendants Skates and Vuong. During his prepared remarks, defendant Vuong stated that the  
18 Company was still “a few years” away from many of its new customers “completely embrac[ing]  
19 the full capability of [Amplitude’s] digital optimization,” which he stated would eventually “drive  
20 larger expansion.” Although defendants had previously indicated that significant expansions were  
21 “frequently” occurring, defendant Vuong stated that, in fact, “the precise timing of these can  
22 fluctuate and that timing uncertainty is reflected in our 2022 guidance.”

23           41. When questioned why the Company was not expanding as rapidly as before,  
24 defendant Vuong stated that the Company’s prior success was the temporary result of the COVID-  
25 19 pandemic, which had worn off, and “[w]e obviously expected that growth rate to kind of slow  
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1 down or decline.” He further stated that “it’s just not clear for us right now in terms of the exact  
2 timing of these expansions” and that the Company was progressing “slower” than previously.

3 42. Defendants were pressed more during the call on the sudden admission that  
4 Amplitude’s expansion efforts were slowing, as analysts asked why its customers “were really not  
5 expanding where you expected?” and whether Amplitude needed “to rectify that from a product  
6 perspective?” or take some other action. In response, defendant Skates stated that the “precise  
7 timing of these expansions can fluctuate.” He later stated that “it’s not just a one quarter or one  
8 year thing. It can take many years even in these companies that are very tech forward because  
9 they’re adopting a new way of building their product.” In response to an analyst who questioned  
10 how it could be that the Company was now saying, “we don’t know when the expansion is going  
11 to happen,” defendant Skates stated in pertinent part as follows:

12 As to the timing comment, I think this is something, frankly, I’ve seen as CEO since  
13 the very beginning of Amplitude. Like you come in, you land with a team and  
14 they’ll start to get some wins and then that religion will grow and get adopted by  
15 the rest of the company. ***But that process, it can take a few years. It’s not just  
like a one-quarter thing where it’s like, all right, let’s roll this whole thing out  
from day one.***

16 43. Reacting to the revelation that Amplitude’s vaunted land-and-expand strategy was  
17 still years away from accelerating revenue growth with the Company’s new clients and that the  
18 touted acceleration from 2Q21 was due to the ephemeral effects of the COVID-19 pandemic rather  
19 than sustainable business factors, the price of Amplitude stock plummeted. After closing at \$41.61  
20 per share on February 16, 2022, the stock opened at \$26 per share on February 17, 2022, 37%  
21 lower than its prior close, and continued dropping throughout the day, ultimately closing at \$17.10,  
22 down nearly 59% on elevated trading volume of more than 20 million shares traded.

23 44. In the wake of defendants’ disclosures, analysts imposed significant cuts on their  
24 price targets for Amplitude stock. For example, on February 17, 2022, Morgan Stanley lowered  
25 its price target on Amplitude stock by more than 50%, from \$70 per share to \$34 per share, and  
26 wrote that “Amplitude’s second quarter as a public company fell short of expectations” because of  
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1 customers “expanding spend at a slower rate” and added “[w]e expect shares to be under pressure  
2 until we see evidence of faster execution against the emerging Digital Optimizing software  
3 opportunity, supporting upside to guidance and limiting the growth deceleration into FY22  
4 (+37.5% from +63.2% in FY21).”

5  
6 45. Similarly, on February 17, 2022, BofA Global Research cut its Amplitude price  
7 target to \$38 per share from \$65 per share, and stated that Amplitude’s

8 2022 revenue guidance that came in below the Street, and management’s  
9 commentary on the puts and takes raises several questions on: 1) the stability of the  
10 future growth profile, 2) the magnitude of pandemic pull-forward tailwinds turning  
11 into headwinds, 3) visibility into the pipeline and end-market demand trends, 4)  
12 overall competitive environment, and 5) execution risks.

13 46. Although the Company ultimately achieved 40% revenue growth in 2022, the  
14 weakness in its land-and-expand strategy has kept the price of Amplitude stock depressed. The  
15 price of Amplitude Class A stock currently trades at less than \$15 per share, more than 80% below  
16 the Class Period high.

17 47. As a result of defendants’ wrongful acts and omissions, and the subsequent declines  
18 in the market value of the Company’s stock, plaintiff and other Class members suffered losses and  
19 damages.

#### 20 **FRAUDULENT SCHEME AND COURSE OF BUSINESS**

21 48. Defendants are liable for: (i) making false statements; and/or (ii) failing to disclose  
22 adverse facts known to them about Amplitude. Defendants’ fraudulent scheme and course of  
23 business that operated as a fraud or deceit on purchasers of Amplitude stock was a success, as it:  
24 (i) deceived the investing public regarding Amplitude’s prospects and business; (ii) artificially  
25 inflated the price of Amplitude stock; and (iii) caused plaintiff and other members of the Class to  
26 purchase Amplitude stock at artificially inflated prices and suffer damages when that artificial  
27 inflation was removed from the price of Amplitude stock.

1 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

2 49. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules  
3 of Civil Procedure on behalf of all persons who purchased or otherwise acquired Amplitude stock  
4 during the Class Period and were damaged thereby as alleged herein (the “Class”). Excluded from  
5 the Class are defendants and their immediate families, the officers, directors, and affiliates of  
6 defendants, at all relevant times, and their immediate families, and their legal representatives,  
7 heirs, successors, or assigns, and any entity in which defendants have or had a controlling interest.  
8

9 50. The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members is  
10 impracticable. The disposition of their claims in a class action will provide substantial benefits to  
11 the parties and the Court. Amplitude stock trades on the Nasdaq and Amplitude has millions of  
12 shares outstanding, owned by hundreds, if not thousands, of persons.  
13

14 51. There is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and fact  
15 involved in this case. Questions of law and fact common to the members of the Class that  
16 predominate over questions that may affect individual Class members include:

- 17 (a) whether defendants violated the Exchange Act;
- 18 (b) whether statements made by defendants to the investing public omitted  
19 and/or misrepresented material facts about Amplitude;
- 20 (c) whether defendants’ statements omitted material facts necessary to make  
21 the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading;  
22
- 23 (d) whether defendants knew or recklessly disregarded that their statements  
24 were false and misleading;
- 25 (e) whether the price of Amplitude stock was artificially inflated; and
- 26 (f) the extent of damages sustained by Class members and the appropriate  
27 measure of damages.  
28



1 52. Plaintiff's claims are typical of those of the Class because plaintiff and the Class  
2 sustained damages from defendants' wrongful conduct.

3 53. Plaintiff will adequately protect the interests of the Class and has retained counsel  
4 experienced in class action securities litigation. Plaintiff has no interests which conflict with those  
5 of the Class.  
6

7 54. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient  
8 adjudication of this controversy. There will be no difficulty in the management of this action as a  
9 class action.

#### 10 **ADDITIONAL SCIENTER ALLEGATIONS**

11 55. As alleged herein, defendants acted with scienter in that they knew that the public  
12 documents and statements issued or disseminated in the name of the Company were materially  
13 false and misleading and omitted material facts, knew that such statements or documents would  
14 be issued or disseminated to the investing public, and knowingly and substantially participated or  
15 acquiesced in the issuance or dissemination of such statements or documents as primary violations  
16 of the federal securities laws. As set forth elsewhere herein in detail, defendants, by virtue of their  
17 receipt of information reflecting the true facts regarding Amplitude, their control over and/or  
18 receipt and/or modification of allegedly materially misleading misstatements, and/or their  
19 associations with the Company, which made them privy to confidential proprietary information  
20 concerning Amplitude, participated in the fraudulent scheme alleged herein.  
21  
22

23 56. Amplitude's land-and-expand strategy was one of the Company's primary growth  
24 initiatives and was closely followed and overseen by the Individual Defendants, who held  
25 themselves out to the market as the persons most knowledgeable about its implementation. For  
26 example, defendant Vuong stated that Amplitude's management looks at "all the metrics . . . in  
27 terms of the product usage and what we call weekly learning users" to get a sense of expansion.  
28 Defendant Vuong has also admitted that the Company did not expect the growth rate experienced

1 in 2Q21 to continue and that they had known that Amplitude customers were expanding at a  
2 “slower” rate.

3 57. Defendants also had the motive and opportunity to commit fraud. In the months  
4 following the IPO Amplitude’s senior management and Company insiders cashed out more than  
5 \$275 million in Amplitude stock at artificially inflated prices, including more than \$30 million by  
6 CEO Skates and more than \$17 million by CFO Vuong at prices as high as \$74 per share.

### 7 **LOSS CAUSATION/ECONOMIC LOSS**

8 58. During the Class Period, as detailed herein, defendants engaged in a scheme to  
9 deceive the market and a course of conduct that artificially inflated the price of Amplitude stock  
10 and operated as a fraud or deceit on Class Period purchasers of Amplitude stock by failing to  
11 disclose and misrepresenting the adverse facts detailed herein. When defendants’ prior  
12 misrepresentations and fraudulent conduct were disclosed and became apparent to the market, the  
13 price of Amplitude stock fell precipitously as the prior artificial inflation came out of the stock’s  
14 price. As a result of their purchases of Amplitude stock during the Class Period, plaintiff and the  
15 other Class members suffered economic loss, *i.e.*, damages, under the federal securities laws when  
16 the truth about Amplitude was revealed through the disclosures specified herein, which removed  
17 the artificial inflation from the price of Amplitude stock.  
18

19 59. By failing to disclose to investors the adverse facts detailed herein, defendants  
20 presented a misleading picture of Amplitude’s business and prospects. Defendants’ false and  
21 misleading statements had the intended effect and caused Amplitude stock to trade at artificially  
22 inflated levels throughout the Class Period.  
23

24 60. As a direct result of the disclosures identified herein, the price of Amplitude stock  
25 fell precipitously. This removed the artificial inflation from the price of Amplitude stock, causing  
26 real economic loss to investors who had purchased Amplitude stock at artificially inflated prices  
27 during the Class Period.  
28

1           61.     The price declines were a direct result of the nature and extent of defendants' fraud  
2 being revealed to investors and the market through partial disclosures. The timing and magnitude  
3 of the price declines in Amplitude stock negate any inference that the losses suffered by plaintiff  
4 and the other Class members were caused by changed market conditions, macroeconomic or  
5 industry factors, or Company-specific facts unrelated to defendants' fraudulent conduct. The  
6 economic loss, *i.e.*, damages, suffered by plaintiff and the other Class members was a direct result  
7 of defendants' fraudulent scheme to artificially inflate the price of Amplitude stock and the  
8 subsequent significant declines in the value of Amplitude stock when defendants' prior  
9 misrepresentations and other fraudulent conduct were revealed.

11                   **APPLICABILITY OF PRESUMPTION OF RELIANCE:  
12                   FRAUD ON THE MARKET DOCTRINE**

13           62.     At all relevant times, the market for Amplitude stock was an efficient market for  
14 the following reasons, among others:

15                   (a)     Amplitude stock met the requirements for listing and was listed and actively  
16 traded on the Nasdaq, a highly efficient and automated market;

17                   (b)     as a regulated issuer, Amplitude filed periodic public reports with the SEC;

18                   (c)     Amplitude regularly communicated with public investors via established  
19 market communication mechanisms, including the regular disseminations of press releases on the  
20 national circuits of major newswire services and other wide-ranging public disclosures, such as  
21 communications with the financial press and other similar reporting services; and

22                   (d)     Amplitude was followed by several securities analysts employed by major  
23 brokerage firms who wrote reports that were distributed to the sales force and certain customers  
24 of their respective brokerage firms. Each of these reports was publicly available and entered the  
25 public marketplace.

1 63. As a result of the foregoing, the market for Amplitude stock promptly digested  
2 current information regarding Amplitude from all publicly available sources and reflected such  
3 information in the price of the stock. Under these circumstances, all purchasers of Amplitude  
4 stock during the Class Period suffered similar injury through their purchase of Amplitude stock at  
5 artificially inflated prices and a presumption of reliance applies.

### 6 **NO SAFE HARBOR**

7  
8 64. The “Safe Harbor” warnings accompanying Amplitude’s reportedly forward-  
9 looking statements (“FLS”) issued during the Class Period were ineffective to shield those  
10 statements from liability. To the extent that projected revenues and earnings were included in the  
11 Company’s financial reports prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting  
12 principles, including those filed with the SEC on Form 8-K, they are excluded from the protection  
13 of the statutory Safe Harbor. See 15 U.S.C. §78u-5(b)(2)(A).

14  
15 65. Defendants are also liable for any false and misleading FLS pled because, at the  
16 time each FLS was made, the speaker knew the FLS was false or misleading and the FLS was  
17 authorized and/or approved by an executive officer of Amplitude who knew that the FLS was false.  
18 In addition, the FLS were contradicted by existing, undisclosed material facts that were required  
19 to be disclosed so that the FLS would not be misleading. Finally, most of the purported “Safe  
20 Harbor” warnings were themselves misleading because they warned of “risks” that had already  
21 materialized or failed to provide meaningful disclosures of the relevant risks.

### 22 **COUNT I**

#### 23 **For Violations of §10(b) of the Exchange Act and Rule 10b-5** 24 **Against All Defendants**

25 66. Plaintiff incorporates ¶¶1-65 by reference.

26  
27 67. During the Class Period, Amplitude and the Individual Defendants disseminated or  
28 approved the false statements specified above, which they knew or recklessly disregarded were

1 misleading in that they contained misrepresentations and failed to disclose material facts necessary  
2 in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they were made,  
3 not misleading.

4           68. Amplitude and the Individual Defendants violated §10(b) of the Exchange Act and  
5 Rule 10b-5 in that they:

6                   (a) employed devices, schemes, and artifices to defraud;  
7                   (b) made untrue statements of material fact or omitted to state material facts  
8 necessary in order to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which they  
9 were made, not misleading; or  
10

11                   (c) engaged in acts, practices, and a course of business that operated as a fraud  
12 or deceit upon plaintiff and others similarly situated in connection with their purchases of  
13 Amplitude stock during the Class Period.  
14

15           69. In addition to the duties of full disclosure imposed on Amplitude and the Individual  
16 Defendants as a result of their affirmative false and misleading statements to the public, they had  
17 a duty to promptly disseminate truthful information with respect to Amplitude's operations and  
18 performance that would be material to investors in compliance with the integrated disclosure  
19 provisions of the SEC, so that the market price of the Company's stock would be based on truthful,  
20 complete, and accurate information. SEC Regulation S-X, 17 C.F.R. §210.1-01 *et seq.*; SEC  
21 Regulation S-K, 17 C.F.R. §229.10 *et seq.*  
22

23           70. As a direct and proximate result of defendants' wrongful conduct, plaintiff and the  
24 Class have suffered damages in connection with their respective purchases and sales of Amplitude  
25 stock during the Class Period, because, in reliance on the integrity of the market, they paid  
26 artificially inflated prices for Amplitude stock and experienced losses when the artificial inflation  
27 was released from Amplitude stock as a result of the partial revelations and price declines detailed  
28

1 herein. Plaintiff and the Class would not have purchased Amplitude stock at the prices they paid,  
2 or at all, if they had been aware that the market prices had been artificially and falsely inflated by  
3 defendants' misleading statements.

4 71. By virtue of the foregoing, Amplitude and the Individual Defendants have each  
5 violated §10(b) of the Exchange Act, and Rule 10b-5 promulgated thereunder.  
6

7 **COUNT II**

8 **For Violations of §20(a) of the Exchange Act**  
9 **Against All Defendants**

10 72. Plaintiff incorporates ¶¶1-71 by reference.

11 73. Amplitude and the Individual Defendants acted as controlling persons of Amplitude  
12 within the meaning of §20(a) of the Exchange Act. By reason of their controlling positions with  
13 the Company, and their ownership of Amplitude stock, the Individual Defendants had the power  
14 and authority to cause Amplitude to engage in the wrongful conduct complained of herein.  
15 Amplitude controlled the Individual Defendants and all of its employees. By reason of such  
16 conduct, Amplitude and the Individual Defendants are liable pursuant to §20(a) of the Exchange  
17 Act.  
18

19 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

20 WHEREFORE, plaintiff prays for judgment as follows:

21 A. Determining that this action is a proper class action, designating plaintiff as Lead  
22 Plaintiff, and certifying plaintiff as a Class representative and appointing plaintiff's counsel as  
23 Lead Counsel under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;

24 B. Awarding compensatory damages in favor of plaintiff and the other Class members  
25 against all defendants, jointly and severally, for all damages sustained as a result of defendants'  
26 wrongdoing, in an amount to be proven at trial, including interest thereon;  
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C. Awarding plaintiff and the Class their reasonable costs and expenses incurred in this action, including counsel fees and expert fees; and

D. Awarding such equitable, injunctive, or other relief as deemed appropriate by the Court.

**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury.

DATED:

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