CLARKSON LAW FIRM, P.C. Ryan J. Clarkson, State Bar No. 257074 1 rclarkson@clarksonlawfirm.com 2 Shireen M. Clarkson, State Bar No. 237882 sclarkson@clarksonlawfirm.com 3 The Pershing Square Building 448 S. Hill St., Suite 701 4 Los Angeles, CA 90013 Tel: (213) 788-4050 Fax: (213) 788-4070 5 6 Attorney for Plaintiff Lisa Ohlweiler and the Plaintiff Class 7 8 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 10 11 The Pershing Square Building 12 Los Angeles, CA 90013 448 S. Hill St., Suite 701 LISA OHLWEILER, individually and Case No. on behalf of all others similarly situated, 13 **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT** Plaintiff, 14 1. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 2. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500 3. Cal. Civ. Code § 1750 15 VS. 4. Breach of Implied Warranty MARS, INC., and DOES 1 through 10, 16 inclusive 5. Unjust Enrichment 6. Negligent Misrepresentations 17 Defendants. 7. Fraud 18 JURY TRIAL DEMANDED 19 20 21 Plaintiff, Lisa Ohlweiler, individually and on behalf of all others similarly 22 23 situated ("Plaintiff" or "Ohweiler"), brings this class action complaint against Mars, Inc. ("Mars" or "Defendant") and Does 1 through 10, inclusive (collectively referred 24 to herein as "Defendants") and alleges as follows: 25 26 /// 27 /// 28 ///

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

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The Pershing Square Building

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I.

## **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

1. This is a class action lawsuit brought on behalf of all purchasers of M&M's Minis tube products (the "Product(s)") (pictured below). Mars falsely and deceptively misrepresents the quantity of candies contained in each unit of Product by way of its packaging.



- 2. At all relevant times, Mars has packaged the Products in tube containers, the contents of which cannot be seen or felt at the time of purchase. The packaging of the Products leads the reasonable consumer to believe he or she is purchasing a container full of the advertised candies. In reality, the Product is consistently underfilled by 30% or more (represented by the red line pictured above). The empty space, or "slack-fill," present in the Products' packaging is nonfunctional and therefore unlawful. This misleading practice allows Mars to save a considerable amount of money on food production costs to the detriment of unsuspecting consumers.
- 3. The non-transparent containers of the Products are invariably covered with brightly colored, non-transparent graphic-covered wrappings so that Plaintiff

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and Class members cannot see the non-functional slack-fill in the container. As shown above, the size of the containers in comparison to the volume of the Products contained therein makes it appear as though Plaintiff and Class members are buying more than what is actually being sold.

- Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the proposed class, seeks damages, restitution and injunctive relief against Defendants for false and misleading advertising in violation of Business & Professions Code Section 17200, et seq., Business & Professions Code Section 17500, et seq., Civil Code Section 1750, et seq., breach of the implied warranty of merchantability, unjust enrichment, negligent misrepresentation, and fraud.
- Defendants were placed on statutory notice of their false and misleading claims pursuant to California Civil Code Section 1782(a).

#### II.

## **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 6. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1332 of the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 because: (i) there are 100 or more class members, (ii) there is an aggregate amount in controversy exceeding \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and (iii) there is minimal diversity because at least one plaintiff and defendant are citizens of different states. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over any state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391, this Court is the proper venue for this action because a substantial part of the events, omissions, and acts giving rise to the claims herein occurred in this District. Plaintiff is a citizen of California, resides in this District, and her purchase of the Product was made in this District. Moreover, Defendants receive substantial compensation from sales in this District, and Defendants made numerous misrepresentations which had a substantial effect in this District, including, but not limited to, label, packaging, and internet advertisements, among other advertising.

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8. Defendants are subject to personal jurisdiction in California based upon sufficient minimum contacts which exist between Defendants and California. Defendants are authorized to do and doing business in California.

#### III.

#### **PARTIES**

- Plaintiff is, and at all times relevant hereto was, an individual residing in 9. Los Angeles County, California, which is located in the federal judicial district for the Central District of California. Plaintiff purchased the M&M's Minis from a Los Angeles supermarket in 2016. After purchasing the Product, Plaintiff subsequently learned the Product was under-filled with candies and contained an unlawful amount of slack-fill to the tune of approximately 30% or more. In making her purchase, Plaintiff relied upon the packaging which was prepared and approved by Defendants and their agents and disseminated statewide and nationwide and designed to encourage consumers to purchase the Product.
- 10. Mars International, Inc. is a corporation headquartered in McLean, Virginia. Mars maintains its principal business office at 6885 Elm St., McLean, VA 22101. Mars, directly and through its agents, has substantial contacts with and receives substantial benefits and income from and through the State of California. Mars is the owner, manufacturer, and distributor of the Product, and is the company that created and/or authorized the false, misleading, and deceptive advertisements and/or packaging and labeling for the Product.
- The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate, or otherwise of certain manufacturers, distributors, and/or their alter egos sued herein as DOES 1 through 10 inclusive are presently unknown to Plaintiff who therefore sues these individuals and/or entities by fictitious names. Plaintiff will seek leave of this Court to amend the Complaint to show their true names and capacities when the same have been ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believes and based thereon alleges that DOES 1 through 10 were authorized to do and did business in the Central

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District of California. Plaintiff is further informed and believes and based thereon alleges that DOES 1 through 10 were and/or are, in some manner or way, responsible for and liable to Plaintiff for the events, happenings, and damages hereinafter set forth below.

- Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based thereon alleges that at all times relevant herein each of these individuals and/or entities was the agent, servant, employee, subsidiary, affiliate, partner, assignee, successor-in-interest, alter ego, or other representative of each of the remaining defendants and was acting in such capacity in doing the things herein complained of and alleged.
- 13. In committing the wrongful acts alleged herein, Defendants planned and participated in and furthered a common scheme by means of false, misleading, deceptive, and fraudulent representations to induce members of the public to purchase the Products. Defendants participated in the making of such representations in that it did disseminate or cause to be disseminated said misrepresentations.
- 14. Defendants, upon becoming involved with the manufacture, advertising, and sale of the Products, knew or should have known that the Products were being under-filled, and thus the packaging of the Product was misleading. Defendants affirmatively misrepresented the quantity of the Products' contents in order to convince the public and the Products' consumers to purchase and consume the Products, resulting in profits of millions of dollars or more to Defendants, all to the damage and detriment of the consuming public.

#### IV.

## **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

- 15. Plaintiff brings this action on her own behalf and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated. The Classes which Plaintiff seeks to represent are:
  - a. All persons residing in the United States who purchased the Product for personal use and not for resale during the time period August 22, 2012, through the present. Excluded from the Class are Defendants' officers,

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directors, and employees, and any individual who received remuneration
from Defendants in connection with that individual's use or endorsement
of the Product.

- b. All persons residing in the State of California who purchased the Product for personal use and not for resale during the time period August 22, 2012, through the present. Excluded from the Class are Defendants' officers, directors, and employees, and any individual who received remuneration from Defendants in connection with that individual's use or endorsement of the Product.
- The Class comprises many thousands of persons throughout the United States and California, the joinder of whom is impracticable, and the disposition of their claims in a Class Action will benefit the parties and the Court. The Class is sufficiently numerous because millions of units of the Product have been sold in the United States and State of California during the time period August 22, 2012, through the present (the "Class Period").
- There exist common questions of law and fact which predominate over questions which may affect individual Class members. Common questions of law and fact include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - a. Whether Defendants' conduct is an unlawful business act or practice within the meaning of Business and Professions Code section 17200, et seq.;
  - b. Whether Defendants' conduct is a fraudulent business act or practice within the meaning of Business and Professions Code section 17200, et seq.;
  - c. Whether Defendants' advertising is untrue or misleading within the meaning of Business and Professions Code section 17500, et seq.;
  - d. Whether Defendants made false and misleading representations in their advertising and packaging of the Product;

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e.	Whether Defendants knew or should have known that the representations
	were false;

- Whether Defendants represented that the Product has characteristics, benefits, uses, or quantities which the Product does not have;
- Whether Defendants warranted that the Product contained an adequate amount of candies for a container of its size;
- h. Whether Defendants warranted that the Product is legal for sale in the United States;
- Whether Defendants breached these warranties; and
- Whether Defendants committed statutory and common law fraud by doing so.
- 18. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class, and Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class. Plaintiff has retained competent and experienced counsel in class action and other complex litigation.
- Plaintiff and the Class have suffered injury in fact and have lost money as 19. a result of Defendants' false representations. Indeed, Plaintiff purchased the Product under the belief that they were appropriately filled. Plaintiff relied on Defendants' packaging and would not have purchased the Product if she had known that the Product did not have the characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities as represented.
- 20. A class action is superior to other available methods for fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. The expense and burden of individual litigation would make it impracticable or impossible for Class members to prosecute their claims individually.
- 21. The trial and litigation of Plaintiff's claims are manageable. Individual litigation of the legal and factual issues raised by Defendants' conduct would increase delay and expense to all parties and the court system. The class action device presents

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far fewer management difficulties and provides the benefits of a single, uniform adjudication, economies of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court.

- 22. Defendants have acted on grounds generally applicable to the entire Class, thereby making final injunctive relief and/or corresponding declaratory relief appropriate with respect to the Class as a whole. The prosecution of separate actions by individual Class members would create the risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the Class that would establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants.
- 23. Absent a class action, Defendants will likely retain the benefits of their wrongdoing. Because of the small size of the individual Class members' claims, few, if any, Class members could afford to seek legal redress for the wrongs complained of herein. Absent a representative action, the Class members will continue to suffer losses and Defendants will be allowed to continue these violations of law and to retain the proceeds of their ill-gotten gains.

#### V.

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 24. The Product is marketed and sold at retailers across California and the United States with the packaging at issue.
- 25. Defendants regularly employed slack-filled packaging to mislead consumers into believing they were receiving more than they actually were.
- 26. Defendants lacked any lawful justification for doing so. Under the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetic Act (herein "FDCA"), Section 403(d) (codified as 21 U.S.C. § 343(d)), a food shall be deemed misbranded "[i]f its container is so made, formed, or filled as to be misleading." Consumer protection laws of the fifty states and the District of Columbia correspond to the requirements of the FDCA, 21 U.S.C. §§ 343 et seq.
  - According to 21 C.F.R. 100.100: 27.

In accordance with section 403(d) of the act, a food shall be deemed to be

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misbranded if its container is so made, formed, or filled as to be misleading.

- (a) A container that does not allow the consumer to fully view its contents shall be considered to be filled as to be misleading if it contains nonfunctional slackfill. Slack-fill is the difference between the actual capacity of a container and the volume of product contained therein. Nonfunctional slack-fill is the empty space in a package that is filled to less than its capacity for reasons other than:
  - (1) Protection of the contents of the package;
- (2) The requirements of the machines used for enclosing the contents in such package;
  - (3) Unavoidable product settling during shipping and handling;
- (4) The need for the package to perform a specific function (e.g., where packaging plays a role in the preparation or consumption of a food), where such function is inherent to the nature of the food and is clearly communicated to consumers;
- (5) The fact that the product consists of a food packaged in a reusable container where the container is part of the presentation of the food and has value which is both significant in proportion to the value of the product and independent of its function to hold the food, e.g., a gift product consisting of a food or foods combined with a container that is intended for further use after the food is consumed; or durable commemorative or promotional packages; or
- (6) Inability to increase level of fill or to further reduce the size of the package (e.g., where some minimum package size is necessary to accommodate required food labeling (excluding any vignettes or other non-mandatory designs or label information), discourage pilfering, facilitate handling, or accommodate tamper-resistant devices).
- 28. However, none of the above provisions apply to the Products. Defendants deliberately incorporated non-functional slack-fill in its packaging of the Products in order to deceive the consumers, including Plaintiff and members of the Class.

29. Plaintiff and members of the Class relied on and were deceived by						
Defendants' misleading slack-filled packaging. Plaintiff purchased slack-filled						
packages of Defendants' M&M's Minis Products. In reliance on Defendants' product						
packaging, Plaintiff and Class members believed that they were getting more of the						
Products than was actually being sold. Had Plaintiff and Class members known that						
exclusive of functional headspace, Defendants' Products contained significant non-						
functional slack-fill, they would not have bought the Products.						

- 30. Plaintiff did not know, and had no reason to know, that Defendants' misbranded food products were slack-filled and misbranded, given the fact that the containers are not transparent and thus give no indication as to actual quantity. Had Plaintiff known Defendants' packaging was slack-filled she would not have bought the slack-filled Products. Because of Defendants' slack-fill packaging violations these products were misbranded and could not be legally held or sold.
- 31. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that during the course of the deception, Defendants have sold millions of units of the Product based upon the misleading size of the Product container.
- 32. Plaintiff and the Class have suffered injury in fact and have lost money as a result of Defendants' unlawful slack-fill. Indeed, Plaintiff paid an unwarranted premium for these products. Plaintiff would not have purchased the Product if she had known that the containers were not adequately filled.
- 33. Defendants' false and misleading packaging should be enjoined due to the false, misleading, and/or deceptive nature of Defendants' inadequately filled containers. In addition, Defendants should be compelled to provide restitution and damages to consumers who paid a premium price for the Product due to Defendants' representation that it contained an adequate amount of candies for a container of its size.

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#### VI.

## FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

# FALSE AND MISLEADING ADVERTISING IN VIOLATION OF BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS CODE § 17200, et seq.

- 34. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations set forth above, and incorporate the same as if set forth herein at length.
- 35. This cause of action is brought pursuant to <u>Business and Professions Code</u> § 17200, *et seq.*, on behalf of a Class consisting of all persons who purchased the Product in the United States for personal use and not for resale during the time period August 22, 2012, through the present. Excluded from the Class are Defendants' officers, directors, and employees, and any individual who received remuneration from Defendants in connection with that individual's use or endorsement of the Product.
- 36. In the alternative, this cause of action is brought pursuant to <u>Business and Professions Code</u> § 17200, *et seq.*, on behalf of a Class consisting of all persons who purchased the Product in the State of California for personal use and not for resale during the time period August 22, 2012, through the present. Excluded from the Class are Defendants' officers, directors, and employees, and any individual who received remuneration from Defendants in connection with that individual's use or endorsement of the Product.
- 37. Defendants are subject to California's Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code 17200, *et seq*. The UCL provides, in pertinent part: "Unfair competition shall mean and include unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business practices and unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising..."
- 38. Defendants' packaging of the Product, as alleged in the preceding paragraphs, is false, deceptive, misleading, and unreasonable.
  - 39. Defendants are aware that the packaging of the Product is false, deceptive,

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misleading, and unreasonable.

- 40. As alleged in the preceding paragraphs, the misrepresentations by Defendants detailed above constitutes an unfair and fraudulent business practice within the meaning of California Business & Professions Code § 17200.
- 41. There were reasonably available alternatives to further Defendants' legitimate business interests, other than the conduct described herein.
- 42. All of the conduct alleged herein occurs and continues to occur in Defendants' business. Defendants' wrongful conduct is part of a pattern or generalized course of conduct repeated on thousands of occasions daily.
- 43. Pursuant to Business & Professions Code §§ 17203 and 17535, Plaintiff and the members of the Class seek an order of this Court enjoining Defendants from continuing to engage, use, or employ their practice of under filling the Product's containers. Likewise, Plaintiff and the members of the Class seek an order requiring Defendants to disclose such misrepresentations, and additionally request an order awarding Plaintiff restitution of the money wrongfully acquired by Defendants by means of responsibility attached to Defendants' failure to disclose the existence and significance of said misrepresentations in an amount to be determined at trial.
- 44. Plaintiff and the Class have suffered injury in fact and have lost money as a result of Defendants' unlawful slack-fill. Indeed, Plaintiff paid an unwarranted premium for these products. Plaintiff would not have purchased the Product if she had known that the containers were not adequately filled and is therefore entitled to restitution in an amount to be determined at trial.

#### VII.

## SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

# FALSE AND MISLEADING ADVERTISING IN VIOLATION OF BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS CODE § 17500, et seq.

(By Plaintiff against all Defendants)

45. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations set forth in the preceding

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paragraphs, and incorporates the same as if set forth herein at length.

- 46. This cause of action is brought pursuant to Business and Professions Code § 17200, et seq., on behalf of a Class consisting of all persons who purchased the Product in the United States for personal use and not for resale during the time period August 22, 2012, through the present. Excluded from the Class are Defendants' officers, directors, and employees, and any individual who received remuneration from Defendants in connection with that individual's use or endorsement of the Product.
- 47. In the alternative, this cause of action is brought pursuant to <u>Business and</u> Professions Code § 17200, et seq., on behalf of a Class consisting of all persons who purchased the Product in the State of California for personal use and not for resale during the time period August 22, 2012 through the present. Excluded from the Class are Defendants' officers, directors, and employees, and any individual who received remuneration from Defendants in connection with that individual's use or endorsement of the Product.
- California's False Advertising Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code 17500, et 48. seq., makes it "unlawful for any person to make or disseminate or cause to be made or disseminated before the public in this state, in any advertising device or in any other manner or means whatever, including over the Internet, any statement, concerning personal property or services, professional or otherwise, or performance or disposition thereof, which is untrue or misleading and which is known, or which by the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to be untrue or misleading."
- Defendants committed acts of false advertising, as defined by §17500, by 49. misrepresenting that the Product contained an adequate amount of candies for a container of its size and that the Product is legal for sale in the United States.
- 50. Defendants knew or should have known, through the exercise of reasonable care that their representations about the Product were untrue and misleading.

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- Pursuant to Business & Professions Code §§ 17203 and 17535, Plaintiff 52. and the members of the Class seek an order of this Court enjoining Defendants from continuing to engage, use, or employ their practice of under filling the Product's containers. Likewise, Plaintiff and the members of the Class seek an order requiring Defendants to disclose such misrepresentations, and additionally request an order awarding Plaintiff restitution of the money wrongfully acquired by Defendants by means of responsibility attached to Defendants' failure to disclose the existence and significance of said misrepresentations in an amount to be determined at trial.
- 53. Plaintiff and the Class have suffered injury in fact and have lost money as a result of Defendants' false representations. Indeed, Plaintiff purchased the Product in reliance of the claims by Defendants that the Product was of the quality represented by Defendants' packaging and advertising. Plaintiff would not have purchased the Product if she had known that the claims and advertising as described herein were false and is therefore entitled to restitution in an amount to be determined at trial.

#### VIII.

# THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

## VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE § 1750, et seq.

- 54. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations of the previous paragraphs, and incorporates the same as if set forth herein at length.
- 55. This cause of action is brought pursuant to Civil Code § 1750, et seq., the Consumers Legal Remedies Act ("CLRA"), on behalf of a Class consisting of all persons who purchased the Product in the United States for personal use and not for resale during the time period August 22, 2012, through the present. Excluded from the Class are Defendants' officers, directors, and employees, and any individual who received remuneration from Defendants in connection with that individual's use or

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endorsement of the Product.

56. In the alternative, this cause of action is brought pursuant to the CLRA on behalf of a Class consisting of all persons who purchased the Product in the State of California for personal use and not for resale during the time period August 22, 2012, through the present. Excluded from the Class are Defendants' officers, directors, and employees, and any individual who received remuneration from Defendants in connection with that individual's use or endorsement of the Product.

- 57. The Class consists of thousands of persons, the joinder of whom is impracticable.
- 58. There are questions of law and fact common to the class, which questions are substantially similar and predominate over questions affecting the individual members, including but not limited to: (a) Whether Defendants represented that the Product has characteristics, benefits, uses or quantities which it does not have; (b) Whether the existence, extent and significance of the major misrepresentations regarding the purported benefits, characteristics and efficacy of the Product violates the Act; and (c) Whether Defendants knew of the existence of these misrepresentations.
- 59. The policies, acts, and practices heretofore described were intended to result in the sale of the Product to the consuming public and violated and continue to violate § 1770(a)(5) and (9), of the CLRA, respectively, by representing that the Product: (1) has characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, and quantities which it does not have, and (2) advertising the Product with intent not to sell it as advertised.
- Defendants fraudulently deceived Plaintiff and the Class by representing 60. that the Product has certain characteristics, benefits, uses, and quantities which they do not have (e.g., that the Product was adequately filled with candies). In doing so, Defendants intentionally misrepresented and concealed material facts from Plaintiff and the Class. Said misrepresentations and concealment were done with the intention of deceiving Plaintiff and the Class and depriving them of their legal rights and

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- 61. Defendants fraudulently deceived Plaintiff and the Class by advertising the Product with intent not to sell it as advertised (e.g., by intentionally under-filling the Product's containers). In doing so, Defendants intentionally misrepresented and concealed material facts from Plaintiff and the Class. Said misrepresentations and concealment were done with the intention of deceiving Plaintiff and the Class and depriving them of their legal rights and money.
- Defendants knew or should have known, through the exercise of 62. reasonable care that the Product's packaging was misleading.
- 63. Defendants' actions as described hereinabove were done with conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights and Defendants were wanton and malicious in its concealment of the same.
- 64. Plaintiff and the Class have suffered injury in fact and have lost money as a result of Defendants' false representations and is therefore entitled to restitution in an amount to be determined at trial.

#### IX.

## FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

## BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY

- 65. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations of the previous paragraphs, and incorporates the same as if set forth herein at length.
- 66. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the proposed Class against Defendants.
- 67. Defendants, as the designer, manufacturer, marketer, distributor, and/or seller, impliedly warranted that the Product contained an adequate amount of candies for a container of its size and that the Products is legal for sale in the United States.
- 68. Defendants breached the warranty implied in the contract for the sale of the Product because it could not pass without objection in the trade under the contract

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26 27 28 description, the goods were not of fair average quality within the description, and the goods were unfit for their intended and ordinary purpose because the Product does not contain an adequate amount of candies for a container of its size and is illegal for sale in the United States. As a result, Plaintiff and Class members did not receive the goods as impliedly warranted by Defendants to be merchantable.

- 69. Plaintiff and Class members purchased the Product in reliance upon Defendants' skill and judgment and the implied warranties of fitness for the purpose.
- 70. The Product was defectively designed and unfit for its intended purpose, and Plaintiff and Class members did not receive the goods as warranted.
- 71. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' breach of the implied warranty, Plaintiff and the Class have suffered injury in fact and have lost money as a result of Defendants' false representations. Indeed, Plaintiff purchased the Product in reliance of the claims by Defendants that the Product was of the quality represented by Defendants' packaging. Plaintiff would not have purchased the Product if she had known that the claims and advertising as described herein were false.

#### X.

# FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION **UNJUST ENRICHMENT**

- Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all 72. preceding paragraphs of this complaint.
- 73. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the proposed Class against Defendants.
- 74. Plaintiff and Class members conferred benefits on Defendants by purchasing the Product.
- 75. Defendants have been unjustly enriched in retaining the revenues derived from Plaintiff and Class members' purchases of the Product. Retention of those moneys under these circumstances is unjust and inequitable because Defendants

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misrepresented that the Product contained an adequate amount of candies for a container of its size and that the Product is legal for sale in the United States. These misrepresentations caused injuries to Plaintiff and Class members because they would not have purchased the Product if the true facts were known.

Because Defendants' retention of the non-gratuitous benefits conferred 76. on them by Plaintiff and Class members is unjust and inequitable, Defendants must pay restitution to Plaintiff and Class members for its unjust enrichment, as ordered by the Court.

#### XI.

## **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

## **NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION**

- Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all 77. preceding paragraphs of this complaint.
- Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of 78. the proposed Class against Defendants.
- As discussed above, Defendants misrepresented that the Product 79. contained an adequate amount of candies for a container of its size and that the Product is legal for sale in the United States. Defendants had a duty to disclose this information.
- 80. At the time Defendants made these representations, Defendants knew or should have known that these representations were false or made them without knowledge of their truth or veracity.
- 81. At an absolute minimum, Defendants negligently misrepresented and/or negligently omitted material facts about the Product.
- 82. The negligent misrepresentations and omissions made by Defendants, upon which Plaintiff and Class members reasonably and justifiably relied, were intended to induce and actually induced Plaintiff and Class members to purchase the

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- Plaintiff and Class members would not have purchased the Product if the 83. true facts had been known.
- 84. The negligent actions of Defendants caused damage to Plaintiff and Class members, who are entitled to damages and other legal and equitable relief as a result.

#### XII.

#### SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

## **FRAUD**

## (By Plaintiff against all Defendants)

- 85. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.
- Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of 86. the proposed Class against Defendants.
- 87. As discussed above, Defendants provided Plaintiff and Class members with false or misleading material information and failed to disclose material facts about the Product, including but not limited to the fact that it contained an adequate amount of candies for a container of its size and that the Product is legal for sale in the United States. These misrepresentations and omissions were made with knowledge of their falsehood.
- 88. The misrepresentations and omissions made by Defendants, upon which Plaintiff and Class members reasonably and justifiably relied, were intended to induce and actually induced Plaintiff and Class members to purchase the Product.
- 89. The fraudulent actions of Defendants caused damage to Plaintiff and Class members, who are entitled to damages and other legal and equitable relief as a result.

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#### XIII.

## PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and on behalf of the members of the Class defined herein, prays for judgment and relief on all Causes of Action as follows:

- A. An order certifying that the action may be maintained as a Class Action;
- B. An order enjoining Defendants from pursuing the policies, acts, and practices complained of herein and requiring Defendants to pay restitution to Plaintiff and all members of the Class in an amount to be determined at trial:
- C. Actual damages;
- D. Punitive damages;
- E. For pre-judgment interest from the date of filing this suit;
- F. Reasonable attorney fees;
- G. Costs of this suit; and
- H. Such other and further relief as the Court may deem necessary or appropriate.

DATED: August 22, 2016

**CLARKSON LAW FIRM, P.C.** 

Ryan J. Clarkson, Esq.

Shireen M. Clarkson, Esq.

Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Proposed

Plaintiff Class

The Pershing Square Building

CLARKSON LAW FIRM, P.C.

## **JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

Plaintiff demands a jury trial on all triable issues.

**DATED:** August 22, 2016

**CLARKSON LAW FIRM, P.C.** 

Ryan J. Clarkson, Esq.

Shireen M. Clarkson, Esq.

Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Proposed

Plaintiff Class