UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

Mitchell Bazzano, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

1:21-cv-01849

1 1411111

- against -

Class Action Complaint

Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.,

Defendant

Jury Trial Demanded

Plaintiff alleges upon information and belief, except for allegations pertaining to plaintiff, which are based on personal knowledge:

1. Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. ("defendant" or "Toyota") manufactures, markets, and sells the Supra sports coupe ("Product").

2. The Supra was first produced from 1978 to 2002.

3. In 2019, Toyota reintroduced the Supra, but with a chassis, transmission, and engine made by BMW.

4. There have been numerous recalls of the Supra, for reasons relating to radio, seatbelt and rear camera failures, headlight malfunctions and steering problems.

5. While these issues are significant in themselves, they are compounded by the wait times experienced by Supra owners, unable to have their cars serviced within reasonable amounts of time.

6. The Toyota dealerships who sold or leased the vehicles presently lack the parts, equipment, and general familiarity with non-Toyota engines and transmissions, which are necessary to address the issues related to this vehicle and for general issues related to the vehicle.

7. The result is that when Supra owners require service or repair, they are subjected to

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excessive delays.

8. Supra users are deprived of the full use of their purchases when their vehicles are unable to be serviced within a reasonable time after their requests.

9. Reasonable consumers must and do rely on a company to honestly identify and describe the components and features of their products.

10. Defendant assures purchasers and lessees that it will address and repair issues with the Supra, within a reasonable amount of time, when this is false and misleading.

11. The value of the Product that plaintiff purchased was materially less than its value as represented by defendant.

12. Defendant sold more of the Product and at higher prices than it would have in the absence of this misconduct, resulting in additional profits at the expense of consumers.

13. Had Plaintiff and proposed class members known the truth, they would not have bought the Product or would have paid less for it.

14. The Product is sold for a price premium compared to other similar products, approximately \$50,000, a higher price than it would otherwise be sold for, absent the misleading representations and omissions.

Jurisdiction and Venue

15. Jurisdiction is proper pursuant to Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 ("CAFA"). 28U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2).

16. Upon information and belief, the aggregate amount in controversy exceeds \$5 million, including any statutory damages, exclusive of interest and costs.

17. Plaintiff Mitchell Bazzano is a citizen of Maryland.

18. Defendant Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. is a California corporation with a

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principal place of business in Plano, Collin County, Texas.

19. The parties are citizens of different states.

20. Venue is proper because plaintiff resides in this district and a substantial portion of the events giving rise to the claims occurred in this district.

Parties **Parties**

21. Plaintiff Mitchell Bazzano is a citizen of Edgewater, Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

22. Defendant Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc., is a California corporation with a principal place of business in Plano, Texas, Collin County.

23. Defendant is a subsidiary of the largest manufacturer of automobiles in the world.

24. The Supra appeals to car enthusiasts who value performance and comfort.

25. There have been numerous recalls on the Supra since its reintroduction in 2019.

26. Upon information and belief, there exist other issues with the vehicle which have not resulted in recalls but reasonably should have.

27. Regardless of the issue, the outcome is the same – Supra owners are unable to have their vehicles serviced and repaired.

28. Plaintiff bought the Product because he valued attributes of performance, comfort, and reliability.

29. When Plaintiff brought, or inquired about bringing, his Supra to the dealership for servicing and/or repairs, he was told of and/or experienced delays of over six months to return it to him.

30. Plaintiff had to refrain from the full usage of his vehicle during the time in which the Supra was not serviced or repaired.

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31. These delays existed prior to the Coronavirus pandemic and are not related to any disruption caused by it.

32. Instead, they are caused by Defendant's sale of a Product without necessary support system in place to account for customary issues faced by owners of any model of car.

33. Plaintiff bought or leased the Product for no less than the above-referenced price or a proportional lease price.

34. Plaintiff knows that all cars may have issues, due to the thousands of unique parts which must flawlessly work together.

35. However, Plaintiff expected that a company which sells cars can promptly and efficiently service and repair them.

36. Plaintiff would not have purchased or leased the Product, or would have paid less for it, if he knew of these issues.

37. Plaintiff chose between Defendant's Product and other similar products which were represented similarly, but which did not have the extensive list of quality-control issues, coupled with the inability to have the car repaired in a timely manner.

38. The Product was worth less than what Plaintiff paid and he would not have paid as much absent Defendant's false and misleading statements and omissions.

39. Plaintiff intends to, seeks to, and will purchase the Product again when he can do so with the assurance that Product's representations are consistent with its composition.

Class Allegations

40. The class will consist of all Maryland residents who purchased the Product during the statutes of limitations for each cause of action alleged.

41. Common questions of law or fact predominate and include whether defendant's

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representations were and are misleading and if plaintiff and class members are entitled to damages.

42. Plaintiff's claims and basis for relief are typical to other members because all were subjected to the same unfair and deceptive representations and actions.

43. Plaintiff is an adequate representative because his interests do not conflict with other members.

44. No individual inquiry is necessary since the focus is only on defendant's practices and the class is definable and ascertainable.

45. Individual actions would risk inconsistent results, be repetitive and are impractical to justify, as the claims are modest relative to the scope of the harm.

46. Plaintiff's counsel is competent and experienced in complex class action litigation and intends to protect class members' interests adequately and fairly.

47. Plaintiff seeks class-wide injunctive relief because the practices continue.

Maryland Consumer Protection Act ("MCPA"), Commercial Law Art., Md. Ann. Code, §§ 13-101 et seq.

(Consumer Protection Statute)

48. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all preceding paragraphs.

49. Plaintiff and class members desired to purchase a Product was reliable and that repairs or servicing would occur within a reasonable period of time.

50. Defendant's false and deceptive representations and omissions are material in that they are likely to influence consumer purchasing decisions.

51. Defendant misrepresented the Product through statements, omissions, ambiguities, half-truths and/or actions.

52. Plaintiff relied on the representations.

53. Plaintiff and class members would not have purchased the Product or paid as much

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if the true facts had been known, suffering damages.

Breach of Contract

54. Plaintiff and Defendant formed a contract where in return for Plaintiff's purchase or lease of the vehicle, Defendant agreed to repair or service the vehicle within a reasonable amount of time should any issues arise.

55. Defendant was unable to satisfy the contract because it lacked the parts, equipment and on-site familiarity with engines and transmissions made by companies other than Toyota.

56. Plaintiff was damaged by Defendant's breach through the inability to use his vehicle in its fully functioning form.

Breaches of Express Warranty, Implied Warranty of Merchantability and Magnuson Moss Warranty Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2301, *et seq.*

57. The Product was manufactured, marketed, and sold by defendant and expressly and impliedly warranted to plaintiff and class members that it was reliable and that repairs or servicing would occur within a reasonable period of time.

58. Defendant had a duty to disclose and/or provide non-deceptive descriptions, expectations, and marketing of the Product.

59. This duty is based on Defendant's outsized role in the market for this type of Product.

60. Plaintiff provided or will provide notice to defendant, its agents, representatives, retailers, and their employees.

61. Defendant received notice and should have been aware of these issues due to complaints by regulators, competitors, and consumers, to its main offices.

62. The Product did not conform to its affirmations of fact and promises due to defendant's actions and were not merchantable because they were not fit to pass in the trade as advertised.

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63. Plaintiff and class members would not have purchased the Product or paid as much if the true facts had been known, suffering damages.

Negligent Misrepresentation

64. Defendant had a duty to truthfully represent the Product, which it breached.

65. This duty is based on defendant's position, holding itself out as having special knowledge and experience this area.

66. The representations took advantage of consumers' cognitive shortcuts made at the point-of-sale and their trust in defendant.

67. Plaintiff and class members reasonably and justifiably relied on these negligent misrepresentations and omissions, which served to induce and did induce, their purchase of the Product.

68. Plaintiff and class members would not have purchased the Product or paid as much if the true facts had been known, suffering damages.

<u>Fraud</u>

69. Defendant misrepresented and/or omitted the attributes and qualities of the Product, that it was reliable and that repairs or servicing would occur within a reasonable period of time.

70. Defendant's fraudulent intent is evinced by its knowledge that the Product was not consistent with its representations.

Unjust Enrichment

71. Defendant obtained benefits and monies because the Product was not as represented and expected, to the detriment and impoverishment of plaintiff and class members, who seek restitution and disgorgement of inequitably obtained profits.

Jury Demand and Prayer for Relief

Plaintiff demands a jury trial on all issues.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment:

- 1. Declaring this a proper class action, certifying plaintiff as representative and the undersigned as counsel for the class;
- 2. Entering preliminary and permanent injunctive relief by directing defendant to correct the challenged practices to comply with the law;
- Injunctive relief to remove, correct and/or refrain from the challenged practices and representations, and restitution and disgorgement for members of the class pursuant to the applicable laws;
- 4. Awarding monetary damages, statutory damages pursuant to any statutory claims and interest pursuant to the common law and other statutory claims;
- 5. Awarding costs and expenses, including reasonable fees for plaintiff's attorneys and experts; and
- 6. Other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: July 23, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Sheehan & Associates, P.C. /s/Spencer Sheehan 60 Cuttermill Rd Ste 409 Great Neck NY 11021-3104 Tel: (516) 268-7080 Fax: (516) 234-7800 spencer@spencersheehan.com

JS 44 (Rev. 04/21) Case 1:21-cv-01849**GKBIDGONER SHEEC** 07/23/21 Page 1 of 1 The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as JS 44 (Rev. 04/21) provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.) I. (a) PLAINTIFFS DEFENDANTS Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. Mitchell Bazzano, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Anne Arundel (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED. NOTE (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Attorneys (If Known) Sheehan & Associates, P.C., 60 Cuttermill Rd Ste 409 Great Neck NY 11021-3104 (516) 268-7080 II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only) III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff (For Diversity Cases Only) and One Box for Defendant) □ 1 U.S. Government □ 3 Federal Ouestion PTF DEF PTF DEF Plaintiff Citizen of This State **☑** 1 \Box 1 Incorporated or Principal Place □ 4 Δ4 (U.S. Government Not a Party) of Business In This State □ 2 U.S. Government ☑ 4 Diversity Citizen of Another State $\square 2$ □ 2 Incorporated and Principal Place □ 5 ☑ 5 of Business In Another State Defendant (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III) Citizen or Subject of a □ 3 Foreign Nation \square 6 □ 6 \square 3 Foreign Country IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions CONTRACT FORFEITURE/PENALTY OTHER STATUTES TORTS BANKRUPTCY 375 False Claims Act □ 110 Insurance PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJURY □ 625 Drug Related Seizure □ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 п □ 120 Marine □ 310 Airplane □ 365 Personal Injury of Property 21 USC 881 423 Withdrawal П 376 Qui Tam (31 USC □ 130 Miller Act □ 315 Airplane Product Product Liability □ 690 Other 28 USC 157 3729(a)) □ 367 Health Care/ 400 State Reapportionment □ 140 Negotiable Instrument Liability INTELLECTUAL □ 320 Assault, Libel & 150 Recovery of Overpayment Pharmaceutical 410 Antitrust PROPERTY RIGHTS 430 Banks and Banking & Enforcement of Judgmen Slander Personal Injury 820 Copyrights □ 330 Federal Employers' Product Liability 450 Commerce □ 151 Medicare Act П 830 Patent □ 152 Recovery of Defaulted 368 Asbestos Personal 460 Deportation Liability 835 Patent-Abbreviated □ 340 Marine Student Loans Injury Product 470 Racketeer Influenced and New Drug Application (Excludes Veterans) □ 345 Marine Product Liability Corrupt Organizations 840 Trademark PERSONAL PROPERTY LABOR □ 153 Recovery of Overpayment Liability 480 Consumer Credit 880 Defend Trade Secrets (15 USC 1681 or 1692) 350 Motor Vehicle ☑ 370 Other Fraud 710 Fair Labor Standards of Veteran's Benefits Act of 2016 □ 485 Telephone Consumer □ 160 Stockholders' Suits □ 355 Motor Vehicle □ 371 Truth in Lending Act □ 190 Other Contract Product Liability □ 380 Other Personal □ 720 Labor/Management Protection Act SOCIAL SECURITY □ 195 Contract Product Liability □ 360 Other Personal Property Damage Relations 490 Cable/Sat TV 861 HIA (1395ff) □ 196 Franchise □ 385 Property Damage 850 Securities/Commodities/ □ 740 Railway Labor Act Iniurv 862 Black Lung (923) □ 362 Personal Injury -Product Liability □ 751 Family and Medical Exchange п 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) 890 Other Statutory Actions Medical Malpractice Leave Act 864 SSID Title XVI REAL PROPERTY CIVIL RIGHTS PRISONER PETITIONS 790 Other Labor Litigation 891 Agricultural Acts 865 RSI (405(g)) 893 Environmental Matters □ 791 Employee Retirement 210 Land Condemnation 440 Other Civil Rights Habeas Corpus: □ 895 Freedom of Information □ 441 Voting Income Security Act □ 220 Foreclosure 463 Alien Detainee FEDERAL TAX S UITS Act □ 510 Motions to Vacate 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment □ 442 Employment 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff 896 Arbitration □ 240 Torts to Land 443 Housing/ Sentence or Defendant) □ 899 Administrative Procedure □ 530 General □ 245 Tort Product Liability Accommodations 871 IRS—Third Party Act/Review or Appeal of IMMIGRATION □ 290 All Other Real Property □ 445 Amer_w/Disabilities □ 535 Death Penalty 26 USC 7609 Agency Decision Other: 462 Naturalization Application Employment 950 Constitutionality of 540 Mandamus & Other 446 Amer. w/Disabilities 465 Other Immigration State Statutes □ 550 Civil Rights Other Actions 555 Prison Condition □ 448 Education D 560 Civil Detainee -Conditions of Confinement V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only) Original \Box 2 Removed from □ 3 Remanded from □ 4 Reinstated or □ 5 Transferred from □ 6 Multidistrict □ 8 Multidistrict M 1 Proceeding State Court Appellate Court Reopened Another District Litigation -Litigation -(specify) Transfer Direct File Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 28 U.S.C. § 1332 VI. CAUSE OF ACTION Brief description of cause: false advertising VII. REQUESTED IN CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION **DEMAND \$** CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: $\mathbf{\nabla}$ **COMPLAINT:** UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. 5,000,000 JURY DEMAND: 🗹 Yes 🗆 No VIII. RELATED CASE(S) (See instructions): IF ANY JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER DATE SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD July 23, 2021 /s/Spencer Sheehan FOR OFFICE USE ONLY RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

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for the District of Maryland

Mitchell Bazzano, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff(s) V.

Civil Action No. 1:21-cv-01849

Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.,

Defendant(s)

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc.

c/o C T Corporation System 330 N Brand Blvd Ste 700 Glendale CA 91203-2336

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are: Sheehan & Associates, P.C., 60 Cuttermill Rd Ste 409 Great Neck NY 11021-3104 (516) 268-7080

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

CLERK OF COURT

Date:

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No. 1:21-cv-01849

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

	This summons for (name	e of individual and title, if any)			
was rec	eived by me on (<i>date</i>)	· · ·			
	□ I personally served the summons on the individual at (<i>place</i>)				
			on (date)	; or	
	\Box I left the summons at	t the individual's residence o	r usual place of abode with (name)		
	, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,				
	on (date), and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or				
	\Box I served the summon	s on (name of individual)			, who is
	designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of (name of organization)				
			on (date)	; or	
	□ I returned the summons unexecuted because				; or
	□ Other (<i>specify</i>):				
	My fees are \$	for travel and \$	for services, for a total of \$		
	I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.				
Date:					
<u>-</u>			Server's signature		
			Printed name and title		

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Lawsuit Claims Toyota Supra Drivers Not</u> <u>Warned of 'Excessive Delays' for Repairs</u>