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Counsel for Plaintiff and the Proposed Class

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

John Forrett, individually, and on behalf
of those similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

Gourmet Nut, Inc.,

Defendant.

CASE NO.
CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
Demand for Jury Trial

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

1
2 Plaintiff John Forrett (“Plaintiff”) brings this action, individually and on behalf
3 of all others similarly situated, against Defendant Gourmet Nut, Inc. (“Defendant”).
4 Plaintiff makes the following allegations pursuant to the investigation of counsel and
5 based upon information and belief, except as to the allegations specifically pertaining
6 to himself, which are based on personal knowledge.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

7
8 1. This case arises out of Defendant’s deceptive, misleading, and unlawful
9 practices with respect to its marketing and sale of its Protein Packed Trail Mix (the
10 “Product” or “Products”).

11 2. Defendant manufactures and sells its Products throughout the United
12 States in a variety of physical and e-commerce stores.

13 3. Defendant’s marketing stresses the importance of protein consumption,
14 the health benefits of its Products, and the high-protein nature of its Products.

15 4. Notably, all Products are labeled as “PROTEIN PACKED” despite not
16 being high in protein.

17 5. Moreover, in violation of federal regulations, Defendant attempts to
18 perpetuate this deception by prominently making protein claims on the Principal
19 Display Panel and the back of the packaging while also omitting the Percent Daily
20 Value for protein in the Nutrition Facts panel on the Products’ labels.

21 6. Plaintiff and other reasonable consumers purchased the Products
22 believing that they were accurately represented. Specifically, Plaintiff and reasonable
23 consumers believed that the Products contained accurate label information and
24 representations. Plaintiff and other reasonable consumers would not have purchased
25 the Products if they had known about the misrepresentations and omissions, or would
26 have purchased them on different terms.

27 7. Plaintiff brings this action individually and on behalf of those similarly
28 situated and seeks to represent a California Class and a Nationwide Class. Plaintiff

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1 seeks damages, interest thereon, reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs, restitution,
2 other equitable relief, and disgorgement of all benefits Defendant has enjoyed from
3 its unlawful and deceptive business practices, as detailed herein. In addition,
4 Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief to stop Defendant’s unlawful conduct in the labeling
5 and marketing of the Products.

6 **PARTIES**

7 8. Plaintiff is a citizen of California, who purchased the Products during
8 the class period, as described herein. The advertising and labeling on the package of
9 the Products purchased by Plaintiff, including the high-protein representations, is
10 typical of the advertising and labeling of the Products purchased by members of the
11 Class. In June 2020, Plaintiff purchased the Product and paid approximately \$5 per
12 bag from a Walmart store located in San Jose, CA. In making his purchase, Plaintiff
13 relied upon Defendant’s labeling and advertising claims, namely, the “PROTEIN
14 PACKED” representations made throughout the Product’s packaging.

15 9. Defendant is a New York corporation with its principal place of business
16 in Perth Amboy, New Jersey. Defendant produces, markets and distributes its
17 consumer food products in retail stores across the United States including stores
18 physically located in the State of California and in this district.

19 10. Whenever reference is made in this Complaint to any representation,
20 act, omission, or transaction of a defendant, that allegation shall mean that the
21 defendant did the act, omission, or transaction through its officers, directors,
22 employees, agents, and/or representatives while they were acting within the actual or
23 ostensible scope of their authority.

24 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

25 11. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant. Defendant
26 purposefully avails itself of the California consumer market and distributes the
27 Products to many locations within this District and hundreds of retail locations
28

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1 throughout the State of California, where the Products are purchased by hundreds of
2 consumers every day.

3 12. This Court has original subject-matter jurisdiction over this proposed
4 class action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d), which, under the provisions of the Class
5 Action Fairness Act (“CAFA”), explicitly provides for the original jurisdiction of the
6 federal courts in any class action in which at least 100 members are in the proposed
7 plaintiff class, any member of the plaintiff class is a citizen of a State different from
8 any defendant, and the matter in controversy exceeds the sum of \$5,000,000.00,
9 exclusive of interest and costs. Plaintiff alleges that the total claims of individual
10 members of the proposed Class (as defined herein) are well in excess of \$5,000,000.00
11 in the aggregate, exclusive of interest and costs.

12 13. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a). Plaintiff’s
13 purchases of Defendant’s Products, substantial acts in furtherance of the alleged
14 improper conduct, including the dissemination of false and misleading information
15 regarding the nature, quality, and/or ingredients of the Products, occurred within this
16 District and the Defendant conducts business in this District.

17
18 **DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT**

19 14. Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 3-2(c-d), a substantial part of the events
20 giving rise to the claims arose in Santa Clara County, and this action should be
21 assigned to the San Jose Division.

22
23 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

24 **A. Defendant Manufactures, Labels, and Advertises the Product**

25 15. Defendant manufactures, labels, and advertises the Product.

26 16. Defendant markets and labels the Product with the representations as
27 described herein. Specifically, the Product contains: (1) protein content claims on the
28 front and back of the Products’ labels, (2) the claim that each product is “PROTEIN

1 PACKED,” and (3) the omission of the Percent Daily Value for protein in the
 2 Nutrition Facts panel.

3 17. The following images display the front label, the back label, and an
 4 enlarged Nutrition Facts panel from the back label:

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Nutrition Facts	
10 servings per container	
Serving Size 1/4 cup (40g)	
Amount per serving	
Calories	190
% Daily Value*	
Total Fat 13g	17%
Saturated Fat 2g	10%
Trans Fat 0g	
Cholesterol 0mg	0%
Sodium 0g	0%
Total Carbs. 18g	7%
Dietary Fiber 2g	7%
Total Sugars 11g	
Incl. 2g Added Sugars	4%
Protein 7g	
Vit. D 0mcg 0% • Calcium 26mg 2%	
Iron 2mg 10% • Potas. 177mg 4%	

INGREDIENTS: Roasted Peanuts (Peanuts, Sunflower and/or Canola Oil), Raisins (Raisins, Sunflower Oil), Roasted Almonds (Almonds, Sunflower and/or Canola Oil), Dried Cherries (Cherries, Sugar, Sunflower Oil), Pumpkin Seeds (product of China), Roasted Cashews (Cashews, Sunflower and/or Canola Oil).

CONTAINS: Peanuts, Tree Nuts (Almonds, Cashews).

Manufactured in a facility that processes peanuts/tree nuts. Our products may contain occasional pit, shell pieces, and other naturally occurring objects.

Manufactured by
GourmetNut.
Brooklyn, NY 11218, USA

18. On the front label, as shown above, the Defendant prominently represents that the product is “PROTEIN PACKED.”

19. On the rear label, as shown above, the Defendant prominently represents that the Product is “Protein-packed” and the importance of protein .



1 20. In the Nutrition Facts panel, as shown above, the Defendant notably
2 omits the Percent Daily Value for protein.

3 **B. Defendant Violates Identical Federal and State Regulations**

4 **a. Federal and State Regulations are Identical**

5 21. The FDA oversees the regulation and labeling of food pursuant to the
6 Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act (“FDCA”).

7 22. California’s Sherman Food, Drug and Cosmetic Law, Cal. Heath & Saf.
8 Code § 110765 et seq. (the “Sherman Law”), incorporates all food labeling regulations
9 promulgated by the FDA under the FDCA. *See e.g.*, Cal. Heath & Saf. Code §
10 110100(a) (“All food labeling regulations and any amendments to those regulations
11 adopted pursuant to the federal act, in effect on January 1, 1993, or adopted on or
12 after that date shall be the food labeling regulations of this state.”), § 110380 and §
13 110505.

14 **b. Regulations Governing the Labeling of Food Products**

15 23. 21 U.S.C. § 343 addresses misbranded food and states that a “food shall
16 be deemed to be misbranded – (a) If (1) its labeling is false or misleading in any
17 particular, or (2) in the case of a food to which section 350 of this title applies, its
18 advertising is false or misleading in a material respect or its labeling is in violation of
19 section 350(b)(2) of this title.” *See* 21 U.S.C. § 343(a).

20 24. The Product contains 7 grams of protein per serving.

21 25. The Product makes nutrient content claims concerning protein content.

22 26. Reasonable consumers, including Plaintiff, believe that the term
23 “PROTEIN PACKED” means that the products are “high” in protein or constitute an
24 “excellent source” of protein.

25 27. This consumer belief is consistent with FDA regulations that provide a
26 benchmark for the ability to claim that a food product is “high,” “rich in,” or “excellent
27 source of” a particular nutrient – 10 grams or more per serving for protein. *See* 21
28 C.F.R. § 101.54; 21 C.F.R. § 101.9(c)(7)(iii).

1 28. To make a claim that a food is “high” in protein, the foods must meet a
2 certain level of Reference Daily Intake (RDI) or Daily Reference Value (DRV). For
3 example, 21 C.F.R. § 101.54 requires that the “food contains 20 percent or more of the
4 RDI or the DRV per reference amount customarily consumed.” For protein, the FDA
5 has established that the RDI or DRV for adults and children over 4 years old is 50
6 grams. 21 C.F.R. § 101.9(c)(7)(iii).

7 29. Generally, a manufacturer is not required to include the DRV for
8 protein. However, when a product’s label makes a nutrient content claim related to
9 protein content, the manufacturer is required to include the DRV.¹

10 30. The Products fail to include the Percent Daily Value for protein.

11 31. At most, the Products contain only 70% of the protein content required
12 to substantiate high protein claims.

13 32. By artfully omitting the DRV for protein, the Defendant is able to
14 mislead and deceive consumers that the Products are excellent sources of protein.

15 33. Despite containing only deficient amounts of protein, consumers are
16 misled by Defendant’s marketing, labeling, and advertising to believe that the
17 Products are high in protein.

18 **c. The Products Are Misbranded Under the Regulations Governing**
19 **the Labeling of Food Products**

20 34. The marketing of the Product as “PROTEIN PACKED” in a prominent
21 location on the label of the Product, throughout the Class Period, evidences
22 Defendant’s awareness that high protein claims are material to consumers.

23 35. As described herein, the Products contain deficient amounts of protein to
24 justify these claims.

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26
27 ¹ 21 C.F.R. § 101.9(c)(7) and *see Guidance for Industry: A Food Labeling Guide*, U.S.
28 FOOD & DRUG ADMINISTRATION, <https://www.fda.gov/files/food/published/Food-Labeling-Guide-%28PDF%29.pdf> at N22 (“The percent of the DRV is required if a protein claim is made for the product or if the product is represented or purported to be for use by infants or children under 4 years of age.”) (last visited March 20, 2022).

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1 36. Thus, the Products' labels are false and misleading, and therefore the
2 Products are misbranded.

3 37. To be clear, Plaintiff does not allege any claims pursuant to the FDCA
4 and Sherman Law and relies on these regulations only to the extent they provide a
5 predicate basis for liability under state and common law, as set forth herein.

6 **C. Plaintiff and Consumers Purchased the Products to Their**
7 **Detriment**

8 38. Plaintiff and the Class Members reasonably relied to their detriment on
9 Defendant's misleading representations and omissions.

10 39. Defendant's false, misleading, and deceptive misrepresentations and
11 omissions are likely to continue to deceive and mislead reasonable consumers and the
12 general public, as they have already deceived and misled the Plaintiff and the Class
13 Members.

14 40. In making the false, misleading, and deceptive representations and
15 omissions described herein, Defendant knew and intended that consumers would pay
16 a premium for Products labeled high protein over comparable products not so labeled.

17 41. As an immediate, direct, and proximate result of Defendant's false,
18 misleading, and deceptive representations and omissions, Defendant injured the
19 Plaintiff and the Class Members in that they:

- 20 a. Paid a sum of money for Products that were not what Defendant
21 represented;
- 22 b. Paid a premium price for Products that were not what Defendant
23 represented;
- 24 c. Were deprived of the benefit of the bargain because the Products they
25 purchased were different from what Defendant warranted; and
- 26 d. Were deprived of the benefit of the bargain because the Products they
27 purchased had less value than what Defendant represented.
- 28

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1 42. Had Defendant not made the false, misleading, and deceptive
2 representations and omissions, Plaintiff and the Class Members would not have been
3 willing to pay the same amount for the Products they purchased, and, consequently,
4 Plaintiff and the Class Members would not have been willing to purchase the
5 Products.

6 43. Plaintiff and the Class Members paid for Products that were high in
7 protein but received Products that were not high in protein. The products Plaintiff
8 and the Class Members received were worth less than the Products for which they
9 paid.

10 44. Based on Defendant's misleading and deceptive representations,
11 Defendant was able to, and did, charge a premium price for the Products over the cost
12 of competitive products that are not represented as high in protein.

13 45. Plaintiff and the Class Members all paid money for the Products.
14 However, Plaintiff and the Class Members did not obtain the full value of the
15 advertised Products due to Defendant's misrepresentations and omissions. Plaintiff
16 and the Class Members purchased, purchased more of, and/or paid more for, the
17 Products than they would have had they known the truth about the Products.
18 Consequently, Plaintiff and the Class Members have suffered injury in fact and lost
19 money as a result of Defendant's wrongful conduct.

20 **FACTS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION**

21 46. Consumers are focused on increasing the amount of protein in their
22 diets. This increased demand indicates that consumers are willing to pay a premium
23 for products labeled and marketed as high protein.²
24
25
26

27 ² See Brooks, Robert & Simpson, S.J. & Raubenheimer, David. (2010). *The price of*
28 *protein: Combining evolutionary and economic analysis to understand excessive*
energy consumption. Obesity Reviews : an official journal of the International
Association for the Study of Obesity. 11. 887-94. 10.1111/j.1467-789X.2010.00733.x.

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1 47. Defendant's Products are manufactured, distributed, and marketed by
2 Defendant and sold in drug, grocery, and other online and brick-and-mortar retail
3 stores nationwide.

4 48. Based on the language that appears on each product, Plaintiff
5 reasonably believed that Products were high in protein.

6 49. The phrase "PROTEIN PACKED" is a representation to a reasonable
7 consumer that Defendant's Products are high in protein. The phrase is misleading to
8 a reasonable consumer because Defendant's Products are not high in protein.

9 50. Defendant knows (and knew) that consumers will pay more for a product
10 marketed as high protein, and intended to deceive Plaintiff and putative Class
11 Members by labeling and marketing its Products as purportedly high-protein
12 products.

13 **CLASS DEFINITIONS AND ALLEGATIONS**

14 51. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action pursuant to Federal Rule of
15 Civil Procedure 23 on behalf of himself, on behalf of all others similarly situated, and
16 as a member of the classes defined as follows (collectively, the "Class" or "Classes"):

- 17 1. All citizens of California who, within the relevant statute of
18 limitation periods, purchased Defendants' Products ("California
19 Class");
20 2. All citizens of the United States who, within the relevant statute
21 of limitations periods, purchased Defendants' Products
22 ("Nationwide Class").

23 52. Excluded from the Class are Defendant, its parents, subsidiaries,
24 affiliates, officers, and directors, those who purchased the Products for resale, all
25 persons who make a timely election to be excluded from the Class, the judge to whom
26 the case is assigned and any immediate family members thereof, and those who
27 assert claims for personal injury.
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1 53. The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all Class
2 Members is impracticable. Defendant has sold, at a minimum, tens of thousands of
3 units of the Products to Class Members.

4 54. There is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and
5 fact involved in this case. Questions of law and fact common to the members of the
6 putative classes that predominate over questions that may affect individual Class
7 Members include, but are not limited to the following:

- 8 a. whether Defendant misrepresented material facts concerning the
9 Products on the label of every product;
- 10 b. whether Defendant's conduct was unfair, misleading, and/or deceptive;
- 11 c. whether Defendant has been unjustly enriched as a result of the
12 unlawful, fraudulent, and unfair conduct alleged in this Complaint such
13 that it would be inequitable for Defendant to retain the benefits
14 conferred upon them by Plaintiff and the classes;
- 15 d. whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to equitable and/or
16 injunctive relief;
- 17 e. whether Defendant breached express warranties to Plaintiff and the
18 classes;
- 19 f. whether Plaintiff and the classes have sustained damages with respect
20 to the common-law claims asserted, and if so, the proper measure of
21 their damages.

22 55. Plaintiff's claims are typical of those of other Class Members because
23 Plaintiff, like all members of the classes, purchased Defendant's Products bearing the
24 high protein representations and Plaintiff sustained damages from Defendant's
25 wrongful conduct.

26 56. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the classes
27 and has retained counsel that is experienced in litigating complex class actions.
28 Plaintiff has no interests which conflict with those of the classes.

1 57. A class action is superior to any other available means for the fair and
 2 efficient adjudication of this controversy, and no unusual difficulties are likely to be
 3 encountered in the management of this class action. The damages or other financial
 4 detriment suffered by Plaintiff and the other Class Members are relatively small
 5 compared to the burden and expense that would be required to individually litigate
 6 their claims against Defendant, making it impracticable for Class Members to
 7 individually seek redress for Defendant's wrongful conduct. Even if Class Members
 8 could afford individual litigation, the court system could not. Individualized litigation
 9 creates a potential for inconsistent or contradictory judgments, and increases the
 10 delay and expense to all parties and the court system. By contrast, the class action
 11 device presents far fewer management difficulties, and provides the benefits of single
 12 adjudication, economies of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court.

13 58. The prerequisites to maintaining a class action for equitable relief are
 14 met as Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the
 15 classes, thereby making appropriate equitable relief with respect to the classes as a
 16 whole.

17 59. The prosecution of separate actions by members of the classes would
 18 create a risk of establishing inconsistent rulings and/or incompatible standards of
 19 conduct for Defendant. For example, one court might enjoin Defendant from
 20 performing the challenged acts, whereas another might not. Additionally, individual
 21 actions could be dispositive of the interests of the classes even where certain Class
 22 Members are not parties to such actions.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Violations of the Unfair Competition Law ("UCL"),

Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*

25 60. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every factual allegation
 26 contained in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
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1 61. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of
2 the proposed California Class against the Defendant.

3 62. Defendant’s conduct constitutes an unfair business act and practice
4 pursuant to California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* (the “UCL”). The
5 UCL provides, in pertinent part: “Unfair competition shall mean and include
6 unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business practices and unfair, deceptive, untrue or
7 misleading advertising”

8 63. Defendant’s knowing conduct, as alleged herein, constitutes an “unfair”
9 and/or “fraudulent” business practice, as set forth in California Business &
10 Professions Code §§ 17200-17208.

11 64. Defendant’s conduct was and continues to be unfair and fraudulent
12 because, directly or through its agents and employees, Defendant made materially
13 false representations and omissions.

14 65. As described herein, Defendant made representations that the Products
15 are high in protein when the Products are not high in protein.

16 66. Defendant is aware that the representations and omissions they have
17 made about the Products were and continue to be false and misleading.

18 67. Defendant had an improper motive—to derive financial gain at the
19 expense of accuracy or truthfulness—in its practices related to the labeling and
20 advertising of the Products.

21 68. There were reasonable alternatives available to Defendant to further its
22 legitimate business interests, other than the conduct described herein.

23 69. Defendant’s misrepresentations of material facts, as set forth herein,
24 also constitute an “unlawful” practice because they violate California Civil Code §§
25 1572, 1573, 1709, 1710, 1711, and 1770 and the laws and regulations cited herein, as
26 well as the common law.

27 70. Defendant’s conduct in making the representations and omissions
28 described herein constitutes a knowing failure to adopt policies in accordance with

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1 and adherence to applicable laws, as set forth herein, all of which are binding upon
2 and burdensome to their competitors. This conduct creates an unfair competitive
3 advantage for Defendant, thereby constituting an unfair business practice under
4 California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200-17208.

5 71. In addition, Defendant's conduct was, and continues to be, unfair in that
6 its injury to countless purchasers of the Products is substantial, and is not
7 outweighed by any countervailing benefits to consumers or to competitors.

8 72. Moreover, Plaintiff and members of the California Class could not have
9 reasonably avoided such injury. Defendant's material misrepresentations and
10 omissions regarding the Products were likely to deceive, and Defendant knew or
11 should have known that its misrepresentations and omissions were untrue and
12 misleading. Plaintiff purchased the Products in reliance on the representations made
13 by Defendant, including that the Products' labeling was accurate as alleged herein,
14 and without knowledge of Defendant's misrepresentations and omissions.

15 73. Plaintiff and members of the California Class have been directly and
16 proximately injured by Defendant's conduct in ways including, but not limited to, the
17 monies paid to Defendant for the Products, interest lost on those monies, and
18 consumers' unwitting support of a business enterprise that promotes deception and
19 undue greed to the detriment of consumers, such as Plaintiff and members of the
20 California Class.

21 74. As a result of the business acts and practices described above, Plaintiff
22 and members of the California Class, pursuant to § 17203, are entitled to an Order
23 enjoining such future wrongful conduct on the part of Defendant and such other
24 Orders and judgments that may be necessary to disgorge Defendant's ill-gotten gains
25 and to restore to any person in interest any money paid for the Products as a result of
26 the wrongful conduct of Defendant.

27 75. Pursuant to Civil Code § 3287(a), Plaintiff and the members of the
28 California Class are further entitled to pre-judgment interest as a direct and

1 proximate result of Defendant’s unfair and fraudulent business conduct. The amount
2 on which interest is to be calculated is a sum certain and capable of calculation, and
3 Plaintiff and the class members are entitled to interest in an amount according to
4 proof.

5 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

6 **Violations of the False Advertising Law (“FAL”),**

7 **Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500 *et seq.***

8 76. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every factual allegation
9 contained in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

10 77. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of
11 the proposed California Class against the Defendant.

12 78. California’s False Advertising Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500, *et*
13 *seq.*, makes it “unlawful for any person to make or disseminate or cause to be made or
14 disseminated before the public in this state, ... in any advertising device ... or in any
15 other manner or means whatever, including over the Internet, any statement,
16 concerning ... personal property or services, professional or otherwise, or performance
17 or disposition thereof, which is untrue or misleading and which is known, or which by
18 the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to be untrue or misleading.”

19 79. Defendant committed acts of false advertising, as defined by §§ 17500, *et*
20 *seq.*, by misrepresenting that the Products were high in protein.

21 80. Defendant knew or should have known through the exercise of
22 reasonable care that its “PROTEIN PACKED” representation and other
23 misrepresentations for the Products were false, misleading and/or deceptive.

24 81. Defendant’s actions in violation of § 17500 were false and misleading
25 such that the general public is and was likely to be deceived. Consumers, including
26 Plaintiff and members of the California Class, necessarily and reasonably relied on
27 Defendant’s statements regarding the contents of its products. Consumers, including
28

1 Plaintiff and members of the California Class, were among the intended targets of
2 such representations.

3 82. As a result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff and members of the
4 California Class were harmed and suffered actual damages as a result of Defendant's
5 FAL violations because: (a) they would not have purchased the Products on the same
6 terms if they knew that the Products were not high in protein; (b) they paid a price
7 premium for the Products based on Defendant's misrepresentations and omissions;
8 and (c) the Products do not have the characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or
9 quantities as promised, namely the represented protein content. Additionally,
10 misbranded food products cannot legally be manufactured, held, advertised,
11 distributed or sold. Thus, misbranded food has no economic value and is worthless as
12 a matter of law, and purchasers of misbranded food are entitled to a refund of the
13 purchase price of the misbranded food. Plaintiff and members of the California Class
14 have thus been damaged either in the full amount of the purchase price of the
15 Products or in the difference in value between the Products as warranted and the
16 Products as actually sold. Defendant has further been unjustly enriched at the
17 expense of Plaintiff and the members of the California Class.

18 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

19 **Violations of the Consumer Legal Remedies Act ("CLRA"),**
20 **Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750 *et seq.***

21 83. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every factual allegation
22 contained in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

23 84. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of
24 the proposed California Class against the Defendant.

25 85. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiff and members of the California
26 Class were "consumer[s]," as defined in Civil Code section 1761(d).

27 86. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant constituted a "person," as
28 defined in Civil Code section 1761(c).

1 87. At all times relevant hereto, the Products manufactured, marketed,
2 advertised, and sold by Defendant constituted “goods,” as defined in Civil Code
3 section 1761(a).

4 88. The purchases of the Products by Plaintiff and members of the
5 California Class are “transactions” within the meaning of Civil Code section 1761(e).

6 89. Defendant disseminated, or caused to be disseminated, through its
7 packaging, labeling, marketing and advertising misrepresentations that the Products
8 were and are high in protein.

9 90. Defendant’s representations violate the CLRA in at least the following
10 respects:

- 11 a. In violation of Civil Code § 1770(a)(5), Defendant represented that the
12 Products have characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, and quantities
13 which they do not have;
- 14 b. In violation of Civil Code § 1770(a)(7), Defendant represented that the
15 Products are of a particular standard, quality, or grade, which they are
16 not; and
- 17 c. In violation of Civil Code § 1770(a)(9), Defendant advertised the
18 Products with an intent not to sell the products as advertised.

19
20 91. Pursuant to the provisions of Cal. Civ. Code § 1782(a), Plaintiff provided
21 notice to Defendant of its alleged violations of the CLRA, demanding that Defendant
22 correct such violations, and providing it with the opportunity to correct its business
23 practices. Notice was sent via certified mail, return receipt requested on March 22,
24 2022. As of the date of filing this complaint, Defendant has not responded.
25 Accordingly, if after 30 days no satisfactory response to resolve this litigation on a
26 class-wide basis has been received, Plaintiff will seek leave to amend this request to
27 seek restitution and actual damages as provided by the CLRA.
28

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1 92. Pursuant to California Civil Code § 1780, Plaintiff seeks injunctive
2 relief, reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, and any other relief that the Court deems
3 proper.

4 93. Defendant knew or should have known that its Products did not contain
5 the claimed characteristics because Defendant manufactured, marketed and sold its
6 Products without those characteristics that it claimed. Defendant knew or should
7 have known that its representations about its products as described herein violated
8 consumer protection laws, and that these statements would be relied upon by
9 Plaintiff and members of the California Class.

10 94. Defendant's actions as described herein were done with conscious
11 disregard of Plaintiff's and California Class Members' rights and was wanton and
12 malicious.

13 95. Defendant's wrongful business practices constituted, and constitute, a
14 continuing course of conduct in violation of the CLRA since Defendant is still
15 representing that its Products have characteristics which they do not have.

16 96. Pursuant to § 1780(d) of the CLRA, attached as Exhibit A is an affidavit
17 showing that this action was commenced in a proper forum.

18 **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

19 **Breach of Express Warranties**

20 97. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every factual allegation
21 contained in the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

22 98. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of
23 the proposed Classes against the Defendant.

24 99. As discussed above, Defendant promised and expressly warranted that
25 the Products contained an excellent source of protein.

26 100. Plaintiff and Class Members relied on these representations when
27 purchasing Products.
28

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1 101. These promises and affirmations of fact constitute express warranties
2 that became part of the basis of the bargain between Plaintiff, Class Members, and
3 the Defendant.

4 102. All conditions precedent to Defendant's liability under the contract,
5 including notice, have been performed by Plaintiff and the Class Members.

6 103. Defendant has breached the terms of its express warranties by failing to
7 provide the Products as warranted.

8 104. As a result of Defendant's breach of its warranties, Plaintiff and others
9 similarly situated have been damaged in the amount of the purchase price of the
10 Products.

11 **FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

12 **Unjust Enrichment**

13
14 105. Plaintiff repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in
15 the foregoing paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

16 106. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of
17 the proposed Classes against the Defendant.

18 107. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant deceptively marketed,
19 advertised, and sold merchandise to Plaintiff and the Classes.

20
21 108. Plaintiff and members of the Classes conferred upon Defendant
22 nongratuitous payments for the Products that they would not have if not for
23 Defendant's deceptive advertising and marketing. Defendant accepted or retained the
24 nongratuitous benefits conferred by Plaintiff and members of the Classes, with full
25 knowledge and awareness that, as a result of Defendant's deception, Plaintiff and
26 members of the Classes were not receiving a product of the quality, nature, fitness, or
27
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1 value that had been represented by Defendant and reasonable consumers would have
2 expected.

3 109. Defendant has been unjustly enriched in retaining the revenues derived
4 from Plaintiff's and Class Members' purchases of the Products. Retention of those
5 monies under these circumstances is unjust and inequitable because of Defendant's
6 misrepresentations about the Products, which caused injuries to Plaintiff and Class
7 Members because they would not have purchased the Products if the true facts had
8 been known.

9
10 110. Because Defendant's retention of the non-gratuitous benefits conferred
11 on it by Plaintiff and members of the Classes is unjust and inequitable, Defendant
12 must pay restitution to Plaintiff and members of the Classes for its unjust
13 enrichment, as ordered by the Court.

14
15 **RELIEF DEMANDED**

16 111. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all others
17 similarly situated, seeks judgment against Defendant, as follows:

- 18 a. For an order certifying the Class under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of
19 Civil Procedure and naming Plaintiff as representative of the Classes
20 and Plaintiff's attorneys as Class Counsel to represent the members of
21 the Classes;
- 22 b. For an order declaring the Defendant's conduct violates the statutes and
23 laws referenced herein;
- 24 c. For an order awarding, as appropriate, compensatory and monetary
25 damages, restitution or disgorgement to Plaintiff and the Classes for all
26 causes of action;
- 27 d. For an order requiring Defendant to immediately cease and desist from
28 selling their misbranded Products in violation of law; enjoining

1 Defendant from continuing to label, market, advertise, distribute, and
2 sell the Products in the unlawful manner described herein; and ordering
3 Defendant to engage in corrective action;

- 4 e. For prejudgment and post judgment interest on all amounts awarded;
- 5 f. For an order awarding punitive damages; and
- 6 g. For an order awarding attorneys’ fees and expenses and costs of suit.

7 **JURY DEMAND**

8 Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all causes of action and issues so triable.

9
10 Dated: March 30, 2022

11 Respectfully submitted,

12 By: /s/ Christopher T. Aumais

13 Christopher T. Aumais (SBN 220802)
Good Gustafson Aumais LLP
 2330 Westwood Blvd., No. 103
 Los Angeles, California 90064
 Telephone: (310) 274-4663
 cta@ggallp.com

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15
16
17 By: /s/ Steffan T. Keeton

18 Steffan T. Keeton*
THE KEETON FIRM LLC
 100 S Commons, Suite 102
 Pittsburgh, PA 15212
 Telephone: (888) 412-5291
 stkeeton@keetonfirm.com
 *pro hac vice to be sought

19
20
21 *Counsel for Plaintiff and the Class*

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Exhibit A

CLRA VENUE AFFIDAVIT

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I, John G. Forrett Jr., hereby declare and state as follows:

1. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein and, if necessary, could competently testify thereto.
2. I am a Plaintiff in the above-captioned action.
3. I submit this declaration in support of the Class Action Complaint, which is based in part on violations of the Consumers Legal Remedies Act, California Civil Code §§ 1750 *et seq.*
4. The Class Action Complaint has been filed in the proper place for trial of this action.
5. Defendant conducts substantial business, including the acts and practices at issue in this action, within Santa Clara County.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of California and the United States that the foregoing affidavit is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. Executed on 03 / 20 / 2022 in San Jose, California.

By:  _____

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-CAND 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 provided by local rules of court. This form, approved in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

John Forrett, individually, and on behalf of those similarly situated

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Santa Rosa (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

DEFENDANTS

Gourmet Nut, Inc.

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Middlesex (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party) 2 U.S. Government Defendant 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

Table with columns for Plaintiff (PTF) and Defendant (DEF) citizenship: Citizen of This State, Citizen of Another State, Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country, Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State, Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State, Foreign Nation.

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Large table with categories: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, HABEAS CORPUS, OTHER, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES.

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 Original Proceeding 2 Removed from State Court 3 Remanded from Appellate Court 4 Reinstated or Reopened 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) 6 Multidistrict Litigation-Transfer 8 Multidistrict Litigation-Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 28 U.S.C. Section 1332(d)(2) (Diversity Jurisdiction)

Brief description of cause:

Consumer Fraud - Misleading, Deceptive, and Fraudulent Marketing of Food Products

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, Fed. R. Civ. P. DEMAND \$ 5,000,001.00

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: X Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S), IF ANY (See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT (Civil Local Rule 3-2)

(Place an "X" in One Box Only)

SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND

X SAN JOSE

EUREKA-MCKINLEYVILLE

DATE 03/30/2022

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

/s/Christopher T. Aumais

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable [class action lawsuit database](#)
