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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

JASMINE GAMEZ, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

LILY'S SWEETS, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company, and DOES 1 through 25, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. 5:22-cv-1665

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

1. VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE § 17200, *et seq.*
2. FALSE AND MISLEADING ADVERTISING IN VIOLATION OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONS CODE § 17500, *et seq.*
3. VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA CONSUMERS LEGAL REMEDIES ACT, CIVIL CODE § 1750, *et. seq.*
4. UNJUST ENRICHMENT
5. COMMON LAW FRAUD
6. INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION
7. NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION

**INTRODUCTION**

1  
2 1. Defendant Lily’s Sweets, LLC (“Defendant”) manufactures and sells a  
3 popular line of chocolate covered almond products throughout the United States. To  
4 increase profits at the expense of consumers and fair competition, Defendant  
5 deceptively sells its products in oversized packaging that does not reasonably inform  
6 consumers that they are nearly half empty. Defendant’s slack-fill scam extends to all  
7 sizes and varieties of its “Milk Chocolate Style Covered Almonds” products sold in  
8 opaque containers (the “Product”). Defendant dupes unsuspecting consumers across  
9 America to pay premium prices for empty space. In one version of the Product, the  
10 opaque container below is a true and correct image of the Product, evidencing the  
11 deception. The first photograph shows the Product as it appears to the purchaser, and  
12 the second photograph shows that the Product packaging is more than 60% empty.





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18       2.     Defendant markets the Product in a systematically misleading manner by  
19 representing it as adequately filled when, in fact, it contain an unlawful amount of  
20 empty space or “slack-fill.” Defendant underfills the Product for no lawful reason. The  
21 front of the Product’s packaging does not include any information that would  
22 reasonably apprise Plaintiffs of the quantity of product relative to the size of the  
23 container, such as a fill line.

24       3.     Defendant underfills the Product to save money (by not filling the  
25 containers) and to deceive consumers into purchasing the Product over its competitors’  
26 products. Defendant’s slack-fill scheme not only harms consumers, but it also harms its  
27 competitors who have implemented labeling changes designed to alert consumers to the  
28 true amount of product in each container.

1           4.       Accordingly, Defendant has violated the California Consumers Legal  
2 Remedies Act, particularly California Civil Code sections 1770(a)(2), 1770(a)(5),  
3 1770(a)(7), and 1770(a)(9). As such, Defendant has committed per se violations of  
4 Business & Professions Code section 17200, et seq. and Business & Professions Code  
5 section 17500, et seq.

6           5.       Plaintiff and consumers have, accordingly, suffered injury in fact caused  
7 by the false, fraudulent, unfair, deceptive, unlawful, and misleading practices set forth  
8 herein, and seek injunctive relief, as well as, inter alia, compensatory damages, statutory  
9 damages, restitution, and attorneys' fees.

10          6.       Several state and federal courts have found that cases involving nearly  
11 identical claims are meritorious and appropriate for class treatment. *See, e.g.,*  
12 *Winkelbauer v. Orgain Mgmt. et. al*, Case No. 20STCV44583 (L.A.S.C. May 20, 2021)  
13 (defendant's demurrer to claims involving slack-filled protein powder products  
14 overruled); *Barrett v. Optimum Nutrition*, Case No. 2:21-cv-04398-DMG-SK (C.D. Cal.  
15 Jan. 12, 2022) (defendant's FRCP 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss slack-filled protein  
16 powder claims denied); *Padilla v. The Whitewave Foods Co., et. al.*, Case No. 2:18-cv-  
17 09327-JAK-JC (C.D. Cal. July 26, 2019) (defendant's FRCP 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss  
18 slack-filled supplement container claims denied); *Matic v. United States Nutrition, Inc.*,  
19 Case No. 2:18-cv-09592-PSG-AFM (C.D. Cal. Mar. 27, 2019) (defendant's FRCP  
20 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss slack-filled supplement container claims denied); *Merry, et*  
21 *al. v. International Coffee & Tea, LLC dba The Coffee Bean*, Case No. CIVDS1920749  
22 (San Bernardino Superior Court Jan. 27, 2020) (defendant's demurrer to slack-filled  
23 powder container claims overruled); *Coleman v. Mondelez Int'l Inc.*, Case No. 2:20-cv-  
24 08100-FMO-AFM (C.D. Cal. July 26, 2021) (defendant's FRCP 12(b)(6) motion to  
25 dismiss slack-filled Swedish Fish® candy box claims denied); *Iglesias v. Ferrara*  
26 *Candy Co.*, Case No. 3:17-cv-00849-VC (N.D. Cal. July 25, 2017) (defendant's FRCP  
27 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss slack-filled Jujufruits® and Lemonhead® candy box claims  
28 denied and nationwide settlement class certified) (cert. granted Oct. 31, 2018);

1 *Tsuchiyama v. Taste of Nature, Inc.*, Case No. BC651252 (L.A.S.C. Feb. 28, 2018)  
2 (defendant's motion for judgment on the pleadings involving slack-filled Cookie Dough  
3 Bites® candy box claims denied and nationwide settlement subsequently certified  
4 through Missouri court); *Gordon v. Tootsie Roll Industries, Inc.*, Case No. 2:17-cv-  
5 02664-DSF-MRW (C.D. Cal. Oct. 4, 2017) (defendant's FRCP 12(b)(6) motions to  
6 dismiss slack-filled Junior Mints® and Sugar Babies® candy box claims denied);  
7 *Escobar v. Just Born, Inc.*, Case No. 2:17-cv-01826-BRO-PJW (C.D. Cal. June 12,  
8 2017) (defendant's FRCP 12(b)(6) motion to dismiss slack-filled Mike N' Ike® and Hot  
9 Tamales® candy box claims denied, and California class action certified over  
10 opposition) (cert. granted June 19, 2019); *Thomas v. Nestle USA, Inc.*, Cal. Sup. Case  
11 No. BC649863 (April 29, 2020) (certifying as a class action, over opposition, slack-fill  
12 claims brought under California consumer protection laws).

### 13 **PARTIES**

14 7. Plaintiff Jasmine Gamez is a Citizen and resident of California. Plaintiff  
15 purchased Defendant's Milk Chocolate Style Covered Almonds Product for personal  
16 use during the Class Period. In making her purchase, Plaintiff relied upon the opaque  
17 packaging, including the size of the container and product label, which was prepared  
18 and approved by Defendant and its agents and disseminated statewide and nationwide,  
19 as well as designed to encourage consumers like Plaintiff to purchase the Product.  
20 Plaintiff understood the size of the container and product label to indicate that the  
21 amount of almonds contained therein was commensurate with the size of the container,  
22 and she would not have purchased the Product, or would not have paid a price premium  
23 for the Product, had she known that the size of the container and product label were  
24 false and misleading. If the Product's packaging and labels were not misleading, then  
25 Plaintiff would purchase the Product in the future.

26 8. Defendant, Lily's Sweets, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company  
27 with its principal place of business located in Boulder, Colorado. Defendant, directly  
28 and through its agents, conducts business nationwide. Defendant has substantial

1 contacts with and receives substantial benefits and income from and through the State  
2 of California. Defendant is the owner, manufacturer, and distributor of the Product, and  
3 is the company that created and/or authorized the false, misleading, and deceptive  
4 packaging for the Product.

5 9. At all relevant times, each and every Defendant was acting as an agent  
6 and/or employee of each of the other Defendants and was acting within the course  
7 and/or scope of said agency and/or employment with the full knowledge and consent of  
8 each of the Defendants. Each of the acts and/or omissions complained of herein were  
9 alleged and made known to, and ratified by, each of the other Defendants (Lily's  
10 Sweets, LLC and DOE Defendants will hereafter collectively be referred to as  
11 "Defendants").

12 10. The true names and capacities of the Defendants sued herein as DOES 1  
13 through 25, inclusive, are currently unknown to Plaintiff, who therefore sue such  
14 Defendants by fictitious names. Each of the Defendants designated herein as a DOE is  
15 legally responsible for the unlawful acts alleged herein. Plaintiff will seek leave of  
16 Court to amend this Complaint to reflect the true names and capacities of the DOE  
17 Defendants when such identities become known.

18 11. In committing the wrongful acts alleged herein, Defendant planned and  
19 participated in and furthered a common scheme by means of false, misleading,  
20 deceptive, and fraudulent representations to induce members of the public to purchase  
21 the Product. Defendant participated in the making of such representations in that it did  
22 disseminate or cause to be disseminated said misrepresentations.

23 12. Defendant, upon becoming involved with the manufacture, advertising, and  
24 sale of the Product, knew or should have known that its advertising of the Product's  
25 packaging, specifically by representing that they were full, was false, deceptive, and  
26 misleading. Defendant affirmatively misrepresented the amount of almonds contained  
27 in the Product's packaging in order to convince the public and consumers of the Product  
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1 to purchase the Product, resulting in profits of millions of dollars or more to Defendant,  
2 all to the damage and detriment of the consuming public.

3 13. Defendant has created and still perpetuates a falsehood that Product's  
4 packaging contains an amount of almonds commensurate with the size of the package,  
5 though they actually contain nonfunctional, unlawful slack-fill. As a result, Defendant's  
6 consistent and uniform advertising claims about the Product are false, misleading,  
7 and/or likely to deceive in violation of California and federal packaging and advertising  
8 laws.

9 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

10 14. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction of this action pursuant to 28  
11 U.S.C. Section 1332 of the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 because: (i) there are 100  
12 or more class members, (ii) there is an aggregate amount in controversy exceeding  
13 \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and (iii) there is minimal diversity because  
14 at least one Plaintiff and Defendant are citizens of different states. The Court has  
15 supplemental jurisdiction over any state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1367.

16 15. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1391, this Court is the proper venue for this  
17 action because a substantial part of the events, omissions, and acts giving rise to the  
18 claims herein occurred in this District: Plaintiff is a citizen of California who resides in  
19 this District; Defendant made the challenged false representations to Plaintiff in this  
20 District; and Plaintiff purchased the Product in this District. Moreover, Defendant  
21 receives substantial compensation from sales in this District, actively advertises and  
22 sells the Products in this District, and made numerous misrepresentations through its  
23 advertising and labeling of Products, which had a substantial effect in this District.

24 16. Defendant is subject to personal jurisdiction in California based upon  
25 sufficient minimum contacts which exist between Defendant and California. Defendant  
26 is authorized to do and is doing business in California.

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**FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

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17. The amount of product inside any product packaging is material to any consumer seeking to purchase that product. The average consumer spends only 13 seconds deciding whether to make an in-store purchase;<sup>1</sup> this decision is heavily dependent on a product’s packaging, including the package dimensions. Research has demonstrated that packages that seem larger are more likely to be purchased because consumers expect package size to accurately represent the quantity of the good being purchased<sup>2</sup>.

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18. Accordingly, Defendant chose a certain size container for its Product to convey to consumers that they are receiving a certain and substantial amount of almond product commensurate with the size of the container. Such representations constitute an express warranty regarding the Product’s content.

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19. 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 illegitimate or unlawful reasons.

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20. Defendant falsely represents the quantity of product in each of the Product’s opaque containers through its packaging. The size of each container leads the reasonable consumer to believe he or she is purchasing a container full of chocolate covered almond product when, in reality, what he or she actually receives is significantly less than what is represented by the size of the container.

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21. Even if Plaintiff and other reasonable consumers of the Product had a reasonable opportunity to review, prior to the point of sale, other representations of quantity, such as net weight or serving disclosures, they did not and would not have reasonably understood or expected such representations to translate to a quantity of

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<sup>1</sup> Randall Beard, *Make the Most of Your Brand’s 20-Second Window*, NIELSEN, Jan. 13, 2015, <https://www.nielsen.com/us/en/insights/article/2015/make-the-most-of-your-brands-20-secondwindow/>.

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<sup>2</sup> P. Raghurir & A. Krishna, *Vital Dimensions in Volume Perception: Can the Eye Fool the Stomach?*, 36 J. MARKETING RESEARCH 313-326 (1999).



1 almond product meaningfully different from their expectation of an amount of almonds  
2 commensurate with the size of the container.

3 22. Prior to the point of sale, the Product's packaging does not allow for a  
4 visual or audial confirmation of the contents of the Product. The Product's opaque  
5 packaging prevents a consumer from observing the contents before opening. Even if a  
6 reasonable consumer were to "shake" the Product before opening the container, the  
7 reasonable consumer would not be able to discern the presence of any nonfunctional  
8 slack-fill, let alone the significant amount of nonfunctional slack-fill that is present in  
9 the Product.

10 23. The other information that Defendant provides about the quantity of  
11 almonds on the front and back labels of the Product does not enable reasonable  
12 consumers to form any meaningful understanding about how to gauge the quantity of  
13 contents of the Product as compared to the size of the container itself. For instance, the  
14 front of the Product's packaging does not have any labels that would provide Plaintiff  
15 with any meaningful insight as to the amount of chocolate covered almonds to be  
16 expected, such as a fill line.

17 24. Disclosures of net weight and serving sizes in ounces, pounds, or grams do  
18 not allow the reasonable consumer to make any meaningful conclusions about the  
19 quantity of chocolate covered almonds contained in the Products' containers that would  
20 be different from their expectation that the quantity of chocolate covered almonds is  
21 commensurate with the size of the container.

22 25. Plaintiff would not have purchased the Product had she known that the  
23 Product contained slack-fill that serves no functional or lawful purpose.

24 **None of the Slack-Fill Statutory Exceptions Apply to the Product**

25 26. Pursuant to 21 C.F.R. § 100.100, "a food shall be deemed to be misbranded  
26 if its container is so made, formed, or filled as to be misleading." An opaque container  
27 "shall be considered to be filled as to be misleading if it contains nonfunctional slack-  
28 fill." *Id.* Nonfunctional slack-fill is empty space within packaging that is filled to less

1 than its capacity for reasons other than provided for in the enumerated slack fill  
2 exceptions.

3 **A. 21 C.F.R. 100.10(a)(1) – Protection of the Contents**

4 27. The slack-fill in the Product’s containers does not protect the contents of  
5 the packages. In fact, because the Product is chocolate covered almonds, there is no  
6 need to protect the Product with the slack-fill present.

7 **B. 21 C.F.R. 100.100(a)(2) – Requirements of the Machines**

8 28. The machines used to package the Products would not be affected if there  
9 were more almonds added. At most, a simple recalibration of the machines would be  
10 required. Upon information and belief, adjusting these machines is rather simple.

11 29. Because the packages are filled to less than half of their capacity,  
12 Defendant can increase the Product’s fill level significantly without affecting how the  
13 containers are sealed, or it can disclose the fill-level on the outside labeling to inform  
14 consumers of the amount of almond product actually in the container, consistent with  
15 the law.

16 **C. 21 C.F.R. 100.100(a)(3) – Settling During Shipping and Handling**

17 30. The slack-fill present in the Product’s containers is not a result of the  
18 almonds settling during shipping and handling. Given the Product’s density, shape, and  
19 composition, any settling occurs immediately at the point of fill. No measurable product  
20 settling occurs during subsequent shipping and handling.

21 31. Even if *some* product settling may occur, there is no reason why the  
22 Product’s containers are nearly half empty.

23 **D. 21 C.F.R. 100.100(a)(4) – Specific Function of Package**

24 32. The packages do not perform a specific function that necessitates the slack-  
25 fill. This safe harbor would only apply if a specific function were “inherent to the nature  
26 of the food and [] clearly communicated to consumers.” The packages do not perform a  
27 function that is inherent to the nature of the food. Defendant did not communicate a  
28 specific function to consumers, making this provision inapplicable.

1 **E. 21 C.F.R. 100.100(a)(5) – Reusable Container**

2 33. The Product’s packaging is not reusable or of any significant value to the  
3 Product independent of its function to hold the almonds. The Product’s containers are  
4 intended to be discarded immediately after the almond product is used.

5 **F. 21 C.F.R. 100.100(a)(6) – Inability to Increase Fill or Decrease Container**  
6 **Size**

7 34. The slack-fill present in the Product’s containers does not accommodate  
8 required labeling, discourage pilfering, facilitate handling, or prevent tampering.

9 35. Defendant can easily increase the quantity of almonds in each container  
10 (or, alternatively, decrease the size of the containers) significantly.

11 36. Because none of the safe harbor provisions apply to the Product’s  
12 packaging, the packages contain nonfunctional slack-fill in violation of 21 C.F.R.  
13 100.100 and are, therefore, filled as to be misleading. Plaintiff shall proffer expert  
14 testimony to establish these facts once this case reaches the merits more definitively.

15 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

16 37. Plaintiff bring this action on her own behalf and on behalf of all other  
17 persons similarly situated. The Class which Plaintiff seeks to represent comprises:

18 All persons who purchased the Product in the United States for personal use and  
19 not for resale during the time period of four years prior to the filing of this  
20 Complaint to the present.

21 Excluded from the Class are Defendant’s officers, directors, and employees, and any  
22 individual who received remuneration from Defendant in connection with that  
23 individual’s use or endorsement of the Product. Said definition may be further defined  
24 or amended by additional pleadings, evidentiary hearings, a class certification hearing,  
25 and orders of this Court.

26 38. The Class is comprised of many thousands of persons. The Class is so  
27 numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable and the disposition of their  
28 claims in a class action will benefit the parties and the Court.

1           39. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all Class members and  
2 predominate over questions affecting only individual Class members. Common  
3 questions of law and fact include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 4           a. The true nature and amount of product contained in each Product's  
5 packaging;
- 6           b. Whether the marketing, advertising, packaging, labeling, and other  
7 promotional materials for the Product are deceptive;
- 8           c. Whether Defendant misrepresented the approval of the FDA, United States  
9 Congress, and California Legislature that the Product's packaging  
10 complied with federal and California slack-fill regulations and statutes;
- 11           d. Whether the Product contains nonfunctional slack-fill in violation of 21  
12 C.F.R. Section 100.100, *et seq.*;
- 13           e. Whether Defendant's conduct is an unlawful business act or practice  
14 within the meaning of Business and Professions Code section 17200, *et*  
15 *seq.*;
- 16           f. Whether Defendant's conduct is a fraudulent business act or practice  
17 within the meaning of Business and Professions Code section 17200, *et*  
18 *seq.*;
- 19           g. Whether Defendant's conduct is an unfair business act or practice within  
20 the meaning of Business and Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.*;
- 21           h. Whether Defendant's advertising is untrue or misleading within the  
22 meaning of Business and Professions Code section 17500, *et seq.*;
- 23           i. Whether Defendant made false and misleading representations in its  
24 advertising and labeling of the Product;
- 25           j. Whether Defendant knew or should have known that the  
26 misrepresentations were false;
- 27           k. Whether Plaintiff and the Class paid more money for the Product than they  
28 actually received;

- 1           l. How much more money Plaintiff and the Class paid for the Product than  
2           they actually received;
- 3           m. Whether Defendant's conduct alleged herein is fraudulent;
- 4           n. Whether Defendant was unjustly enriched at the expense of Plaintiff and  
5           the Class members;
- 6           o. Whether Defendant intentionally misrepresented the amount of chocolate  
7           covered almonds contained in the Product's packaging; and
- 8           p. Whether Defendant negligently misrepresented the amount of chocolate  
9           covered almonds contained in the Product's packaging.

10           40. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the proposed Class, as the  
11 representations and omissions made by Defendant are uniform and consistent and are  
12 contained on packaging and labeling that was seen and relied on by Plaintiff and  
13 members of the Class.

14           41. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the  
15 proposed Class. Plaintiff has retained competent and experienced counsel in class action  
16 and other complex litigation.

17           42. Plaintiff and the Class have suffered injury in fact and have lost money as a  
18 result of Defendant's false, deceptive, and misleading representations. Plaintiff  
19 purchased the Product because of the size of the containers and the product labels,  
20 which she believed to be indicative of the amount of chocolate covered almonds  
21 contained therein as commensurate with the size of the container. Plaintiff relied on  
22 Defendant's representations and would not have purchased the Product if she had  
23 known that the packaging, labeling, and advertising as described herein was false and  
24 misleading.

25           43. The Class is identifiable and readily ascertainable. Notice can be provided  
26 to such purchasers using techniques and a form of notice similar to those customarily  
27 used in class actions and by Internet publication, radio, newspapers, and magazines.

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1 44. A class action is superior to other available methods for fair and efficient  
2 adjudication of this controversy. The expense and burden of individual litigation would  
3 make it impracticable or impossible for the Class to prosecute their claims individually.  
4 The trial and the litigation of Plaintiff's claims are manageable. Individual litigation of  
5 the legal and factual issues raised by Defendant's conduct would increase delay and  
6 expense to all parties and the court system. The class action device presents far fewer  
7 management difficulties and provides the benefits of a single, uniform adjudication,  
8 economies of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court.

9 45. Defendant has acted on grounds generally applicable to the entire Class,  
10 thereby making final injunctive relief and/or corresponding declaratory relief  
11 appropriate with respect to the Class as a whole. The prosecution of separate actions by  
12 individual Class members would create the risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications  
13 with respect to individual members of the Class that would establish incompatible  
14 standards of conduct for Defendant.

15 46. Absent a class action, Defendant will likely retain the benefits of its  
16 wrongdoing. Because of the small size of the individual Class members' claims, few, if  
17 any, Class members could afford to seek legal redress for the wrongs complained of  
18 herein. Absent a representative action, the Class members will continue to suffer losses  
19 and Defendant will be allowed to continue these violations of law and to retain the  
20 proceeds of its ill-gotten gains.

21 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

22 **VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW**

23 **BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS CODE § 17200, *et seq.***

24 47. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations set forth in the preceding  
25 paragraphs and incorporate the same as if set forth herein at length.

26 48. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the Class.

27 49. Congress passed the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act ("FDCA"),  
28 and in so doing established the Federal Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") to

1 “promote the public health” by ensuring that “foods are safe, wholesome, sanitary, and  
2 properly labeled.” 21 U.S.C. §393.

3 50. The FDA has implemented regulations to achieve this objective. *See, e.g.,*  
4 21 C.F.R. § 101.1 *et seq.*

5 51. The legislature of California has incorporated 21 C.F.R. Section 100.100,  
6 which prohibits nonfunctional slack-fill, into the State’s Business and Professions Code  
7 Section 12606.2 *et seq.*

8 52. The FDA enforces the FDCA and accompanying regulations; “[t]here is no  
9 private right of action under the FDCA.” *Ivie v. Kraft Foods Global, Inc.*, 2013 U.S.  
10 Dist. LEXIS 25615, 2013 WL 685372, at \*1 (internal citations omitted).

11 53. In 1990, Congress passed an amendment to the FDCA, the Nutrition  
12 Labeling and Education Act (“NLEA”), which imposed a number of requirements  
13 specifically governing food nutritional content labeling. *See, e.g.,* 21 U.S.C. § 343 *et*  
14 *seq.*

15 54. Plaintiff is not suing under the FDCA, but under California state law.

16 55. The California Sherman Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (“Sherman Law”),  
17 Cal. Health & Safety Code Section 109875 *et seq.*, has adopted wholesale the food  
18 labeling requirements of the FDCA and NLEA as the food regulations of California.  
19 Cal. Health & Safety Code Section 110100.

20 56. The Sherman Law declares any food to be misbranded if it is false or  
21 misleading in any particular or if the labeling does not conform with the requirements  
22 for nutrition labeling set forth in certain provisions of the NLEA. Cal. Health & Safety  
23 Code Sections 110660, 110665, 110670.

24 57. The UCL prohibits “any unlawful, unfair... or fraudulent business act or  
25 practice.” Cal. Bus & Prof. Code § 17200.

26 **A. “Unfair Prong”**

27 58. Under California’s Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code  
28 Section 17200, *et seq.*, a challenged activity is “unfair” when “any injury it causes

1 outweighs any benefits provided to consumers and the injury is one that the consumers  
2 themselves could not reasonably avoid.” *Camacho v. Auto Club of Southern California*,  
3 142 Cal. App. 4th 1394, 1403 (2006).

4 59. Defendant’s actions alleged herein do not confer any benefit to consumers.

5 60. Defendant’s actions alleged herein cause injuries to consumers, who do not  
6 receive a quantity of Product commensurate with their reasonable expectations.

7 61. Defendant’s actions alleged herein cause injuries to consumers, who do not  
8 receive a level of chocolate covered almonds commensurate with their reasonable  
9 expectations.

10 62. Defendant’s actions alleged herein cause injuries to consumers, who end  
11 up overpaying for the Product and receiving a quantity of almonds less than what they  
12 expected to receive.

13 63. Consumers cannot avoid any of the injuries caused by Defendant’s actions  
14 as alleged herein.

15 64. Accordingly, the injuries caused by Defendant’s conduct alleged herein  
16 outweigh any benefits.

17 65. Some courts conduct a balancing test to decide if a challenged activity  
18 amounts to unfair conduct under California Business and Professions Code Section  
19 17200. They “weigh the utility of the defendant’s conduct against the gravity of the  
20 harm to the alleged victim.” *Davis v. HSBC Bank Nevada, N.A.*, 691 F.3d 1152, 1169  
21 (9th Cir. 2012).

22 66. Here, Defendant’s challenged conduct of has no utility and financially  
23 harms purchasers. Thus, the utility of Defendant’s conduct is vastly outweighed by the  
24 gravity of harm.

25 67. Some courts require that “unfairness must be tethered to some legislative  
26 declared policy or proof of some actual or threatened impact on competition.” *Lozano v.*  
27 *AT&T Wireless Servs. Inc.*, 504 F. 3d 718, 735 (9th Cir. 2007).

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1 68. The California legislature maintains a declared policy of prohibiting  
2 nonfunctional slack-fill in consumer goods, as reflected in California Business and  
3 Professions Code Section 12606.2 and California Health and Safety Code Section  
4 110100.

5 69. The significant nonfunctional slack-fill contained in the Product is tethered  
6 to a legislative policy declared in California according to Cal. Business and Professions  
7 Code Section 12606.2 and Cal. Health & Safety Code Section 110100.

8 70. Defendant's packaging of the Product, as alleged herein, is false,  
9 deceptive, misleading, and unreasonable, and constitutes unfair conduct.

10 71. Defendant knew or should have known of its unfair conduct.

11 72. As alleged in the preceding paragraphs, the misrepresentations by  
12 Defendant detailed above constitute an unfair business practice within the meaning of  
13 California Business and Professions Code Section 17200.

14 73. There existed reasonably available alternatives to further Defendant's  
15 legitimate business interests, other than the conduct described herein. Defendant could  
16 have used packaging appropriate for the amount of almonds contained within the  
17 Product.

18 74. All of the conduct alleged herein occurs and continues to occur in  
19 Defendant's business. Defendant's unfair conduct is part of a pattern or generalized  
20 course of conduct repeated on thousands of occasions daily.

21 75. Plaintiff and the Class have suffered injury in fact and have lost money as a  
22 result of Defendant's unfair conduct. Plaintiff paid an unwarranted premium for this  
23 Product. Specifically, Plaintiff paid for chocolate covered almonds she never received.  
24 Plaintiff would not have purchased the Product if she had known that the Product's  
25 packaging contained nonfunctional slack-fill.

26 **B. "Fraudulent" Prong**

1 76. California Business and Professions Code Section 17200, et seq., considers  
2 conduct fraudulent and prohibits said conduct if it is likely to deceive members of the  
3 public. *Bank of the West v. Superior Court*, 2 Cal. 4th 1254, 1267 (1992).

4 77. Defendant’s conduct alleged herein is likely to deceive members of the  
5 public.

6 78. Defendant’s packaging of the Product, as alleged herein, is false,  
7 deceptive, misleading, and unreasonable, and constitutes fraudulent conduct.

8 79. Defendant knew or should have known of its fraudulent conduct.

9 80. As alleged herein, the misrepresentations by Defendant detailed above  
10 constitute a fraudulent business practice in violation of California Business &  
11 Professions Code Section 17200.

12 81. Defendant had reasonably available alternatives to further its legitimate  
13 business interests, other than the fraudulent conduct described herein. Defendant could  
14 have used packaging appropriate for the proportion of product contained therein.

15 82. All of the conduct alleged herein occurred and continues to occur in  
16 Defendant’s business. Defendant’s wrongful conduct is part of a pattern or generalized  
17 course of conduct repeated on thousands of occasions daily.

18 83. Plaintiff and the Class have suffered injury in fact and have lost money as a  
19 result of Defendant’s fraudulent conduct. Plaintiff paid an unwarranted premium for this  
20 Product. Specifically, Plaintiff paid for chocolate covered almonds she never received.  
21 Plaintiff would not have purchased the Products if she had known that the packaging  
22 contained nonfunctional slack-fill.

23 **C. “Unlawful” Prong**

24 84. California Business and Professions Code Section 17200, et seq., identifies  
25 violations of other laws as “unlawful practices that the unfair competition law makes  
26 independently actionable.” *Velazquez v. GMAC Mortg. Corp.*, 605 F. Supp. 2d 1049,  
27 1068 (C.D. Cal. 2008).

28

1 85. Defendant's packaging of the Product, as alleged in the preceding  
2 paragraphs, violates California Civil Code Section 1750, *et. seq.*, California Business  
3 and Professions Code Section 17500, *et. seq.*, and 21 C.F.R Section 100.100.

4 86. Defendant's packaging of the Product, as alleged herein, is false,  
5 deceptive, misleading, and unreasonable, and constitutes unlawful conduct.

6 87. Defendant knew or should have known of its unlawful conduct.

7 88. As alleged herein, the misrepresentations by Defendant detailed above  
8 constitute an unlawful business practice within the meaning of California Business and  
9 Professions Code Section 17200.

10 89. There were reasonably available alternatives to further Defendant's  
11 legitimate business interests, other than the conduct described herein. Defendant could  
12 have either used packaging appropriate for the amount of chocolate covered almonds  
13 contained therein or indicated how much almond product the Product contained with a  
14 clear and conspicuous fill line.

15 90. All of the conduct alleged herein occurred and continues to occur in  
16 Defendant's business. Defendant's unlawful conduct is part of a pattern or generalized  
17 course of conduct repeated on thousands of occasions daily.

18 91. Plaintiff and the Class have suffered injury in fact and have lost money as a  
19 result of Defendant's unlawful conduct. Plaintiff paid an unwarranted premium for this  
20 product. Specifically, Plaintiff paid for chocolate covered almonds she never received.  
21 Plaintiff would not have purchased the Product if she had known that the packaging  
22 contained nonfunctional slack-fill.

23 92. As a result of the conduct described herein, Plaintiff and members of the  
24 Class, pursuant to § 17203, are entitled to an order enjoining such future wrongful  
25 conduct on the part of Defendant and such other orders and judgments that may be  
26 necessary to disgorge Defendant's ill-gotten gains and to restore to any person in  
27 interest any money paid for the Product as a result of the wrongful conduct of  
28 Defendant.

1 a. Plaintiff and members of the Class are entitled to equitable relief as no  
2 adequate remedy at law exists.

3 (1) The applicable limitations period is four years for claims brought under  
4 the UCL, which is one year longer than the applicable statute of  
5 limitations under the FAL and CLRA. Thus, class members who  
6 purchased the Product between 3 and 4 years prior to the filing of the  
7 complaint will be barred from the Class if equitable relief were not  
8 granted under the UCL.

9 (2) The scope of actionable misconduct under the unfair prong of the UCL  
10 is broader than the other causes of action asserted herein to include, for  
11 example, the overall unfair marketing scheme of underfilling the  
12 Product's packaging. Thus, Plaintiff and class members may be entitled  
13 to restitution under the UCL, while not entitled to damages under other  
14 causes of action asserted herein (e.g., the FAL requires actual or  
15 constructive knowledge of the falsity; the CLRA is limited to certain  
16 types of plaintiffs (an individual who seeks or acquires, by purchase or  
17 lease, any goods or services for personal, family, or household  
18 purposes) and certain statutorily enumerated conduct).

19 (3) Injunctive relief is appropriate on behalf of Plaintiff and members of  
20 the Class because Defendant continues to deceptively underfill the  
21 Product's packaging. Injunctive relief is necessary to prevent  
22 Defendant from continuing to engage in this unfair, fraudulent, and/or  
23 unlawful conduct described herein and to prevent future harm—none of  
24 which can be achieved through available legal remedies. Further,  
25 injunctive relief, in the form of packaging or label modifications, is  
26 necessary to dispel public misperception about the Products that has  
27 resulted from years of Defendant's unlawful marketing efforts. Such  
28 modifications could include, but are not limited to, shrinking the

1 packaging, adding more almond product to the packaging, or adding a  
2 fill line on the front label. Such relief is not available through a legal  
3 remedy, as monetary damages may be awarded to remedy past harm  
4 (i.e., purchasers who have been misled), while injunctive relief is  
5 necessary to remedy future harm (i.e., prevent future purchasers from  
6 being misled), under the current circumstances where the dollar amount  
7 of future damages is not reasonably ascertainable at this time. Plaintiff  
8 is, currently, unable to accurately quantify the damages caused by  
9 Defendant's future harm (e.g., the dollar amount that Plaintiff and Class  
10 members will pay for the underfilled Products), rendering injunctive  
11 relief a necessary remedy.

12 93. Pursuant to Civil Code § 3287(a), Plaintiff and the Class are further  
13 entitled to prejudgment interest as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unfair,  
14 fraudulent, and unlawful business conduct. The amount on which interest is to be  
15 calculated is a sum certain and capable of calculation, and Plaintiffs and the Class are  
16 entitled to interest in an amount according to proof.

## 17 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

### 18 **FALSE AND MISLEADING ADVERTISING IN VIOLATION OF** 19 **BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS CODE § 17500, *et seq.***

20 94. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations set forth in the preceding  
21 paragraphs and incorporate the same as if set forth herein at length.

22 95. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the Class.

23 96. California's False Advertising Law, California Business and Professions  
24 Code Section 17500, *et seq.*, makes it "unlawful for any person to make or disseminate  
25 or cause to be made or disseminated before the public in this state, in any advertising  
26 device or in any other manner or means whatever, including over the Internet, any  
27 statement, concerning personal property or services, professional or otherwise, or  
28 performance or disposition thereof, which is untrue or misleading and which is known,

1 or which by the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to be untrue or  
2 misleading.”

3 97. Defendant knowingly manipulated the physical dimensions of the  
4 Product’s containers, or stated another way, under-filled the amount of almonds in the  
5 Product, as a means to mislead the public about the amount of almonds contained in  
6 each package.

7 98. Defendant controlled the packaging of the Product. It knew or should have  
8 known, through the exercise of reasonable care, that its representations about the  
9 quantity of almonds contained in the Product were untrue and misleading.

10 99. Defendant’s action of packaging the Product with nonfunctional slack-fill,  
11 instead of including more almonds in the container or decreasing the size of the  
12 container, is likely to deceive the general public.

13 100. Defendant’s actions were false and misleading, such that the general  
14 public is and was likely to be deceived, in violation of Section 17500.

15 101. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant’s conduct alleged herein in  
16 violation of the FAL, Plaintiff and members of the Class, pursuant to Section 17535, are  
17 entitled to an order of this Court enjoining such future wrongful conduct on the part of  
18 Defendant and requiring Defendant to disclose the true nature of its misrepresentations.

19 a. Plaintiff and members of the Class are entitled to equitable relief as no  
20 adequate remedy at law exists.

21 (1) The scope of permissible plaintiffs under the FAL is broader than the  
22 CLRA to include, for example, individuals or entities who purchased  
23 the Product for nonpersonal, non-family, and non-household purposes.  
24 Thus, Plaintiff and class members may be entitled to restitution under  
25 the FAL, while not entitled to damages under the CLRA

26 (2) Injunctive relief is appropriate on behalf of Plaintiff and members of the  
27 Class because Defendant continues to deceptively underfill the  
28 Product’s packaging. Injunctive relief is necessary to prevent Defendant

1 from continuing to engage in the unlawful conduct described herein and  
2 to prevent future harm—none of which can be achieved through  
3 available legal remedies. Further, injunctive relief, in the form of  
4 packaging or label modifications, is necessary to dispel public  
5 misperception about the Product that has resulted from years of  
6 Defendant’s unfair, fraudulent, and unlawful marketing efforts. Such  
7 modifications would include, but are not limited to, shrinking the  
8 packaging, adding more almonds to the packaging, or adding a fill line  
9 the front label. Such relief is also not available through a legal remedy  
10 as monetary damages may be awarded to remedy past harm (i.e.,  
11 purchasers who have been misled), while injunctive relief is necessary  
12 to remedy future harm (i.e., prevent future purchasers from being  
13 misled), under the current circumstances where the dollar amount of  
14 future damages is not reasonably ascertainable at this time. Plaintiff is,  
15 currently, unable to accurately quantify the damages caused by  
16 Defendant’s future harm (e.g., the dollar amount that Plaintiff and Class  
17 members overpay for the underfilled Products), rendering injunctive  
18 relief a necessary remedy.

19 102. Plaintiff and the Class have suffered injury in fact and have lost money as a  
20 result of Defendant’s false representations. Plaintiff purchased the Product in reliance  
21 upon the claims by Defendant that the Product was of the quantity represented by  
22 Defendant’s packaging and advertising. Plaintiff would not have purchased the Product  
23 if she had known that the packaging and labeling as alleged herein were false.

24 103. Plaintiff and members of the Class also request an order requiring  
25 Defendant disgorge its ill-gotten gains and/or award full restitution of all monies  
26 wrongfully acquired by Defendant by means of such acts of false advertising, plus  
27 interests and attorneys’ fees.

28 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

1 **VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA CONSUMERS LEGAL REMEDIES ACT,**  
2 **CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE § 1750, *et seq.***

3 104. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations set forth in the preceding  
4 paragraphs and incorporate the same as if set forth herein at length.

5 105. The CLRA prohibits certain “unfair methods of competition and unfair or  
6 deceptive acts or practices” in connection with a sale of goods.

7 106. The practices described herein, specifically Defendant’s packaging,  
8 advertising, and sale of the Product, were intended to result and did result in the sale of  
9 the Product to the consuming public and violated and continue to violate sections  
10 1770(a)(2), 1770(a)(5), 1770(a)(7), and 1770(a)(9) of the CLRA by: (1) misrepresenting  
11 the approval of the Product as compliant with 21 C.F.R Section 100.100 and the  
12 Sherman Law; (2) representing the Product have characteristics and quantities that they  
13 do not have; (3) advertising and packaging the Product with intent not to sell them as  
14 advertised and packaged; and (4) representing that the Product have been supplied in  
15 accordance with a previous representation as to the quantity of almonds contained  
16 within each container, when they have not.

17 107. Defendant fraudulently deceive, and continues to deceive, Plaintiff and the  
18 Class by representing that the Product’s packaging, which includes significant  
19 nonfunctional slack-fill, actually conforms to federal and California slack-fill  
20 regulations and statutes including the Sherman Law and 21 C.F.R. 100.100.

21 108. Defendant packaged the Product in containers that contain significant  
22 nonfunctional slack-fill and made material misrepresentations to fraudulently deceive  
23 Plaintiff and the Class.

24 109. Defendant fraudulently deceived Plaintiff and the Class by misrepresenting  
25 the Product as having characteristics and quantities which they do not have, e.g., that  
26 the Product is free of nonfunctional slack-fill when it is not. In doing so, Defendant  
27 intentionally misrepresented and concealed material facts from Plaintiff and the Class.

28



1 Said misrepresentations and concealment were done with the intention of deceiving  
2 Plaintiff and the Class and depriving them of their legal rights and money.

3 110. Defendant fraudulently deceived Plaintiff and the Class by packaging and  
4 advertising the Product with intent not to sell them as advertised and by intentionally  
5 underfilling the Product's containers and replacing almonds with nonfunctional slack-  
6 fill. In doing so, Defendant intentionally misrepresented and concealed material facts  
7 from Plaintiff and the Class. Said misrepresentations and concealment were done with  
8 the intention of deceiving Plaintiff and the Class and depriving them of their legal rights  
9 and money.

10 111. Defendant fraudulently deceived Plaintiff and the Class by representing  
11 that the Product was supplied in accordance with an accurate representation as to the  
12 quantity of almonds contained therein when they were not. Defendant presented the  
13 physical dimensions of the Product's packaging to Plaintiff and the Class before the  
14 point of purchase and gave Plaintiff and the Class a reasonable expectation that the  
15 quantity of product contained therein would be commensurate with the size of the  
16 packaging. In doing so, Defendant intentionally misrepresented and concealed material  
17 facts from Plaintiff and the Class. Said misrepresentations and concealment were done  
18 with the intention of deceiving Plaintiff and the Class and depriving them of their legal  
19 rights and money.

20 112. Defendant knew or should have known, through the exercise of reasonable  
21 care, that the Product's packaging was misleading.

22 113. Defendant's actions as described herein were done with conscious  
23 disregard of Plaintiff's rights, and Defendant was wanton and malicious in its  
24 concealment of the same.

25 114. Defendant's packaging of the Product was a material factor in Plaintiff's  
26 and the Class's decisions to purchase the Product. Based on Defendant's packaging of  
27 the Product, Plaintiff and the Class reasonably believed that they were getting more  
28

1 product than they actually received. Had they known the truth of the matter, Plaintiff  
2 and the Class would not have purchased the Product.

3 115. Plaintiff and the Class have suffered injury in fact and have lost money as a  
4 result of Defendant's unfair, unlawful, and fraudulent conduct. Specifically, Plaintiff  
5 paid for almonds she never received. Plaintiff would not have purchased the Product  
6 had she known the container contained nonfunctional slack-fill.

7 116. Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court enjoin Defendant from  
8 continuing to employ the unlawful methods, acts, and practices alleged herein pursuant  
9 to § 1780(a)(2). In addition, Defendant should be compelled to provide restitution and  
10 damages to consumers who paid for Product that are not what they expected to receive  
11 due to Defendant's misrepresentations.

12 a. Plaintiff and members of the Class are entitled to equitable relief as no  
13 adequate remedy at law exists.

14 (1) Injunctive relief is appropriate on behalf of Plaintiff and members of the  
15 Class because Defendant continues to deceptively underfill the  
16 Product's packaging. Injunctive relief is necessary to prevent Defendant  
17 from continuing to engage in the unlawful conduct described herein and  
18 to prevent future harm – none of which can be achieved through  
19 available legal remedies. Further, injunctive relief, in the form of  
20 packaging or label modifications, is necessary to dispel public  
21 misperception about the Product that has resulted from years of  
22 Defendant's unfair, fraudulent, and unlawful marketing efforts. Such  
23 modifications would include, but are not limited to, shrinking the  
24 packaging, adding more almonds to the packaging, or adding a fill line  
25 on the front label. Such relief is also not available through a legal  
26 remedy as monetary damages may be awarded to remedy past harm  
27 (i.e., purchasers who have been misled), while injunctive relief is  
28 necessary to remedy future harm (i.e., prevent future purchasers from

1 being misled), under the current circumstances where the dollar amount  
2 of future damages is not reasonably ascertainable at this time. Plaintiff  
3 is, currently, unable to accurately quantify the damages caused by  
4 Defendant's future harm (e.g., the dollar amount that Plaintiff and Class  
5 members overpay for the underfilled Product), rendering injunctive  
6 relief a necessary remedy.

7 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **Restitution Based on Quasi-Contract/Unjust Enrichment**

9 117. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations set forth above and  
10 incorporate the same as if set forth herein at length.

11 118. Plaintiff brings this cause of action individually and on behalf of all  
12 members of the Class against Defendant.

13 119. By means of Defendant's wrongful conduct alleged herein, Defendant  
14 knowingly sold the Product to Plaintiff and the Class in a manner that was unfair,  
15 unconscionable, and oppressive.

16 120. Defendant knowingly received and retained wrongful benefits and funds  
17 from Plaintiff and members of the Class. In so doing, Defendant acted with conscious  
18 disregard for the rights of Plaintiff and the Class.

19 121. As a result of Defendant's wrongful conduct as alleged herein, Defendant  
20 has been unjustly enriched at the expense of, and to the detriment of, Plaintiff and  
21 members of the Class.

22 122. Defendant's unjust enrichment is traceable to, and resulted directly and  
23 proximately from, the conduct alleged herein.

24 123. Under the common law doctrine of unjust enrichment, it is inequitable for  
25 Defendant to be permitted to retain the benefits it received, without justification, from  
26 selling the Product to Plaintiff and members of the Class in an unfair, unconscionable,  
27 and oppressive manner. Defendant's retention of such funds under such circumstances  
28 constitutes unjust enrichment.

1 124. The financial benefits derived by Defendant rightfully belong to Plaintiff  
2 and members of the Class. Defendant should be compelled to return in a common fund  
3 for the benefit of Plaintiff and members of the Class all wrongful or inequitable  
4 proceeds received by Defendant.

5 125. Plaintiff and members of the Class have no adequate remedy at law.

6 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

7 **Common Law Fraud**

8 126. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all of the allegations contained in the  
9 preceding paragraphs and incorporate the same as if set forth herein at length.

10 127. Plaintiff brings this cause of action individually and on behalf of the Class  
11 against Defendant.

12 128. Defendant has willfully, falsely, and knowingly filled and packaged the  
13 Product in a manner indicating that the Product is sufficiently filled with an amount of  
14 almonds commensurate with the size of the container. However, the Product contains  
15 significantly less almond product than advertised and instead contain a substantial  
16 amount of nonfunctional and unlawful slack-fill. Defendant has misrepresented the  
17 quantity of almonds contained in the Product.

18 129. Defendant's misrepresentations are and were material (i.e., the type of  
19 misrepresentations to which a reasonable person would attach importance and would be  
20 induced to act thereon in making his or her purchase decision), because they relate to  
21 the quantity of almond product contained in the Product.

22 130. Defendant knew of, or showed reckless disregard for, the fact that the  
23 Product contained a substantial amount of nonfunctional slack-fill.

24 131. Defendant intended for Plaintiff and the Class to rely on these  
25 representations, as evidenced by Defendant's intentional manufacturing of packaging  
26 that is substantially larger than necessary to hold the volume of the contents contained  
27 therein.

28

1 132. Plaintiff and the Class have reasonably and detrimentally relied on  
2 Defendant's misrepresentations when purchasing the Product and, had they known the  
3 truth, they would not have purchased the Product or would have paid significantly less  
4 for the Product.

5 133. Therefore, as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's fraud, Plaintiff  
6 and members of the Class have suffered injury in fact.

7 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **Intentional Misrepresentation**

9 134. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all of the allegations contained above and  
10 incorporate the same as if set forth herein at length.

11 135. Plaintiff brings this cause of action individually and on behalf of all  
12 members of the Class against Defendant.

13 136. Defendant has filled and packaged the Product in a manner indicating that  
14 the Product is adequately filled with almonds. However, the Product contains  
15 significantly less almond product than advertised and instead contain a substantial  
16 amount of nonfunctional slack-fill. Defendant misrepresents the quantity of almonds  
17 contained within the Product's packaging.

18 137. Defendant's misrepresentations regarding the Product are material to a  
19 reasonable consumer, as they relate to the quantity of product received by consumers. A  
20 reasonable consumer would attach importance to such representations and would be  
21 induced to act thereon in making his or her purchase decision.

22 138. At all relevant times when such misrepresentations were made, Defendant  
23 knew or should have known that the representations were misleading.

24 139. Defendant intended for Plaintiff and the Class to rely on the size and style  
25 of the Product's packaging, as evidenced by Defendant's intentional manufacturing,  
26 marketing, and selling of packaging that is significantly larger than is necessary to  
27 contain the volume of the contents within them.

28

1 140. Plaintiff and the Class reasonably and justifiably relied on Defendant's  
2 intentional misrepresentations when purchasing the Product, and had they known the  
3 truth, they would not have purchased the Product or would have purchased them at  
4 significantly lower prices.

5 141. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's intentional  
6 misrepresentations, Plaintiff and the Class have suffered injury in fact.

7 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 **Negligent Misrepresentation**

9 142. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all of the allegations contained above and  
10 incorporate the same as if set forth herein at length.

11 143. Plaintiff brings this cause of action individually and on behalf of the Class  
12 against Defendant.

13 144. Defendant has filled and packaged the Product in a manner indicating that  
14 the Product is adequately filled with almonds. However, the Product contains  
15 significantly less almond product than advertised and instead contain a substantial  
16 amount of nonfunctional slack-fill. Defendant misrepresents the quantity of almonds  
17 contained within the Product's packaging.

18 145. Defendant's misrepresentations regarding the Product are material to a  
19 reasonable consumer, as they relate to the quantity of product received by the consumer.  
20 A reasonable consumer would attach importance to such representations and would be  
21 induced to act thereon in making his or her purchase decision.

22 146. At all relevant times when such misrepresentations were made, Defendant  
23 knew or should have known that the Product was not adequately filled with almonds but  
24 instead contained a substantial amount of nonfunctional slack-fill.

25 147. Defendant intended for Plaintiff and the Class to rely on the size and style  
26 of the Product's packaging, as evidenced by Defendant's packaging that is significantly  
27 larger than is necessary to contain the volume of the almond product therein.

28 ///

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, prays for judgment and relief on all causes of action as follows:

- A. An Order certifying the Class, appointing Plaintiff as class representative, and designating Plaintiff’s counsel as counsel for the Class;
- B. An order enjoining Defendant from continuing to package and/or label the as challenged herein;
- C. Damages against Defendant in an amount to be determined at trial, together with pre- and post- judgement interest at the maximum rate allowable by law on any amounts awarded;
- D. Restitution and/or disgorgement in an amount to be determined at trial;
- E. Reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs; and
- F. Granting such other and further as may be just and proper.

Dated: September 21, 2022

PACIFIC TRIAL ATTORNEYS, APC

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Scott. J. Ferrell  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

# ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: [‘Slack-Fill Scam’: Class Action Claims Packages of Lily’s Chocolate Covered Almonds Are Underfilled](#)

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