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## SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

BC 563304

MICHELLE RICHARD, individually, and on behalf of other members of the general public similarly situated,

Plaintiff,
vs.
WHOLE FOODS MARKET CALIFORNIA, INC., a California corporation,

Defendant.

Case No.:

## CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

(1) Violation of Unfair Competition Law (Cal. Business \& Professions Code §§ 17200 et seq.);
(2) Violation of Unfair Competition Law (Cal. Business \& Professions Code §§ 17500 et seq.);
(3) Violation of the Consumers Legal

Remedies Act (Cal. Civil Code $\S \S 1750$ et seq.);
(4) Negligent Misrepresentation; and
(5) Breach of Quasi-Contract.

Jury Trial Demanded

Plaintiff Michelle Richard ("Plaintiff"), individually and on behalf of all other members of the public similarly situated, allege as follows:

## NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. Plaintiff brings this class action Complaint against Defendant WHOLE FOODS MARKET CALIFORNIA, INC. (hereinafter "Defendant" or "Whole Foods") to stop Defendant's practice of selling misbranded products into the stream of commerce and to obtain redress for all nationwide consumers ("Class Members") who purchased, within the applicable statute of limitations period, Blue Diamond Refrigerated Almond Breeze Original Almond Milk and/or Blue Diamond Refrigerated Almond Breeze Vanilla Almond Milk products, bearing the Non-GMO (genetically modified organism) Project Verified label indicating that these products have been verified by the Non-GMO Project as having been produced according to best practices for GMO avoidance (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Class Products").
2. Whole Foods is a California corporation that sells and distributes the Class Products at premium prices throughout the United States. Whole Foods is the world's \#1 natural foods grocery store chain. Whole Foods specializes in natural and organic foods with stores throughout the United States, including approximately 73 locations within the State of California. Whole Foods operates more than 370 stores throughout the United States, Canada and the UK. The stores emphasize organic, holistic and natural products. Founded in 1980, Whole Foods pioneered the supermarket concept in natural and organic foods retailing.
3. Whole Foods knows that a majority of its consumers are health conscious and prefer foods that are natural and non-GMO. Whole Foods recognizes that health claims drive sales, and, as a result, Whole Foods actively promotes the health benefits of non-GMO foods that are sold in its stores.
4. Whole Foods represents that the Class Products have been verified by the NonGMO Project as having been produced according to best practices for GMO avoidance by labeling the Class Products with the Non-GMO Project's Verified label.
5. The Non-GMO Project is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization that is dedicated to educating and building awareness among consumers and the food industry about genetically modified organisms and providing labeling for food products produced in compliance with their non-GMO standard. Part of the Non-GMO Project's mission is to preserve and build sources of non-GMO products, educate consumers, and provide verified non-GMO product choices. The Non-GMO Project is North America's only third party verification and labeling for non-GMO foods. The Non-GMO Project has over 20,000 Non-GMO Project Verified products from 2,200 brands. Non-GMO Project Verified is one of the fastest growing labels in the natural food sector and increasingly is an attribute sought by conventional brands as well.
6. The Non-GMO Project Verified label, as depicted below, indicates that the food bearing the label has been verified by the Non-GMO Project as a non-GMO food, namely, that the food product has been produced according to best practices for GMO avoidance.

7. Whole Foods misbranded the Blue Diamond Refrigerated Almond Breeze Original Almond Milk and Blue Diamond Refrigerated Almond Breeze Vanilla Almond Milk by advertising and selling these products with the Non-GMO Project Verified labels when these products have not been verified by the Non-GMO Project. In so doing, Whole Foods has violated California's Sherman Law and California consumer protection statutes.
8. This action is not pre-empted by federal law. State law claims based on a food product's non-conforming, misleading or deceptive label are expressly permitted where, as here, they impose legal obligations identical to the Food Drug and Cosmetics Act ("FDCA") of 1938 and corresponding FDA regulations, including FDA regulations concerning naming
and labeling.

## NATURE OF THE CASE \& COMMON ALLEGATIONS OF FACT

9. In recent years, Americans have become increasingly heaith conscious, with strong justification. Numerous independent studies have come to the same conclusion: an informed, healthy, and balanced diet is critical to a long and healthy life. ${ }^{1}$ Those same studies have found that poor dietary habits are one of the leading causes of preventable deaths.
10. GMOs, or genetically modified organisms, are plants or animals created through gene splicing techniques of biotechnology, also known as genetic engineering. This technology merges DNA from different species creating unstable combinations of plant, animal, bacterial and viral genes that cannot occur in nature or in traditional crossbreeding. The evidence of risk and actual harm from genetically modified foods and crops to our health and environment is constantly growing. GMOs have been linked to thousands of toxic and allergic reactions, sick, sterile and dead livestock, and damage to almost every organ and system studied in lab animals.
11. Proper dietary habits regarding GMO intake have been found to have a significant correlation to improving overall health while lessening various health risks. Consequently, maintaining a diet free from GMOs has become important to a growing number of consumers.
12. Whole Foods is the largest United States natural foods chain.
13. To profit from the public's increasing focus on dietary health and interest in non-GMO foods, Whole Foods has, at various times during the class period, advertised, marketed, and misbranded the Class Products, by using the Non-GMO Project Verified label for these products when they have not been verified by the Non-GMO Project.
14. The Food Drug and Cosmetics Act of 1938 provides the Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") with the authority to oversee the safety of food, drugs and cosmetics.
${ }^{1}$ See, e.g., "A Statement for Healthcare Professionals From the Nutrition Committee of the American Heart Association" http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/102/18/2284.long

21 U.S.C. §301, et seq. Pursuant to this authority, the FDA has promulgated regulations and issued guidance that spell out, in painstaking detail, how foods are to be labeled.
15. If a seller or distributor of food products makes a claim on a food label, the label must meet certain legal requirements that help consumers make informed choices and ensure that they are not misled. As described more fully below, Defendant has made, and continues to make false and deceptive claims in violation of federal and California laws that govern the types of representations that can be made on food labels. These laws recognize that reasonable consumers are likely to choose products claiming to have a health or nutritional benefit over otherwise similar food products that do not claim such properties it benefits or that disclose certain ingredients. More importantly, these laws recognize that the failure to disclose the presence of risk-increasing ingredients, like GMOs, is deceptive because it conveys to consumers the net impression that a food makes only positive contributions to a diet, or does not contain any ingredients at levels that raise the risk of diet related disease or health-related conditions.
16. Defendant has made and continues to make, unlawful claims on the food labels of its misbranded Class Products that are prohibited under applicable federal and California laws. Under the FDCA section 403(a), food is considered misbranded if "its labeling is false or misleading in any particular," or if it does not contain certain information on it label or its labeling. 21 U.S.C. § 343(a).
17. Under FDCA, the term "false" has its usual meaning of "untruthful," while the term "misleading: is a term of art. Misbranding reaches not only false claims, but those claims that might be technically true, but still misleading. If one representation in the labeling is misleading, the entire food is misbranded. No other statement in the labeling can cure a misleading statement. "Misleading" is judged in reference to "the ignorant, the unthinking and the credulous who, when making a purchase, do not stop to analyze." United States v. El-O-Pathic Pharmacy, 192 F.2d 62, 75 (9th Cir. 1975). Under the FDCA, it is not necessary to prove that anyone was actually misled.
18. Defendant's Class Products are also misbranded under applicable Califormia state law. Specifically, California's Sherman Law incorporates "[a]ll food labeling regulations and any amendments to those regulations adopted pursuant to the FDCA" as "the food labeling regulations of this state." Cal. Health \& Saf. Code § 110100(a). "Any food is misbranded if its labeling does not conform with the requirements for nutrient content or health claims as set forth in Section 403(r) (21 U.S.C. Sec. 343(r)) of the federal act and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto." Cal. Health \& Saf. Code § 110670. State law claims based on a food product's non-conforming, misleading or deceptive label are expressly permitted when they impose legal obligations identical to the FDCA and corresponding FDA regulations, including FDA regulations concerning naming and labeling. In re Farm Raised Salmon Cases, 42 Cal. 4th 1077, 1094-95 (2008). Whole Foods' conduct thus constitutes a violation of California law for which Plaintiff and class members are entitled to seek redress under the UCL, CLRA and other California consumer protection statutes.
19. Defendant has made, and continues to make, false and deceptive claims in its misbranded Class Products in violation of federal and California laws. In particular, Defendant has violated federal and California labeling regulations by labeling the Class Products with the Non-GMO Project Verified labels.
20. Defendant's violations of the law include, but not limited to, the illegal advertising, marketing, distribution, and sale of the misbranded Class Products to consumers in California and throughout the United States. As such, Whole Foods' misbranded Class Products cannot legally be advertised, distributed, held, or sold.
21. On behalf of the class, Plaintiff seeks an injunction requiring Defendant to cease circulation of the misbranded Class Products and an award of damages to the Class Members, together with costs and reasonable attorneys' fees.

## JURISDICTION AND VENUE

22. This class action is brought pursuant to Califomia Code of Civil Procedure section 382. The damages and restitution sought by Plaintiff exceeds the minimal jurisdiction

Iimits of the Superior Court and will be established according to proof at trial.
23. This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to the California Constitution, Article VI, Section 10, which grants the Superior Court "original jurisdiction in all causes except those given by statute to other courts." The statutes under which this action is brought do not specify any other basis for jurisdiction.
24. This Court has jurisdiction over the Defendant because, upon information and belief, Defendant is either a citizen of California, has sufficient minimum contacts in California, or otherwise intentionally avails itself of the California market so as to render the exercise of jurisdiction over it by the California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.
25. Venue is proper in this Court because, upon information and belief, Defendant resides and transacts business in this County and the acts and omissions alleged herein took place in this County.

## THE PARTIES

26. Plaintiff Michelle Richard is a citizen and resident of the State of California, County of Los Angeles.
27. Defendant WHOLE FOODS MARKET CALIFORNIA, INC. is a subsidiary of Whole Foods Market, Inc., a corporation with its headquarters and principal place of business located at 550 Bowie Street, Austin, Texas 78703. Defendant is a California corporation.
28. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that each and all of the acts and omissions alleged herein was performed by, or is attributable to, WHOLE FOODS MARKET CALIFORNIA, INC. and/or its employees, agents, and/or third parties acting on its behalf, each acting as the agent for the other, with legal authority to act on the other's behalf. The acts of any and all of Defendant's employees, agents, and/or third parties acting on its behalf, were in accordance with, and represent, the official policy of Defendant.
29. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges, that said Defendant is in some manner intentionally, negligently, or otherwise responsible for the acts, omissions,
occurrences, and transactions of each and all its employees, agents, and/or third parties acting on its behalf, in proximately causing the damages herein alleged.
30. At all relevant times, Defendant ratified each and every act or omission complained of herein. At all relevant times, Defendant, aided and abetted the acts and omissions as alleged herein.

## PLAINTIFF'S FACTS

31. Plaintiff Michelle Richard is a health-conscious person whose son has been diagnosed with autism. As a result, Ms. Richard routinely purchases and pays a premium for products advertised to be healthy and/or non-GMO foods. Ms. Richard also routinely and consistently purchases food products bearing the Non-GMO Project Verified labels.
32. Plaintiff regularly purchased the Class Products, including, but not limited to, Blue Diamond Refrigerated Almond Breeze Original Almond Milk and Blue Diamond Refrigerated Almond Breeze Vanilla Almond Milk, approximately one to two times per week between January and June of 2014. During this time period Plaintiff purchased the Class Products from various. Whole Foods grocery stores located in Sherman Oaks and Tarzana, California.
33. Plaintiff read and relied upon the Non-GMO Project Verified labels listed on the Class Products at the time of purchase, and selected the Class Products over other less expensive alternatives because she believed the Class Products were verified by the NonGMO Project.
34. Had Whole Foods not marketed, advertised, and labeled the Class Products as being verified by the Non-GMO Project, Plaintiff would not have purchased the products, would have purchased less of the products, and/or would have paid less for the products.

## CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

35. Plaintiff brings this action, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, and thus, seeks class certification under California Code of Civil Procedure section 382.
36. The class Plaintiff seeks to represent (the "Class") is defined as follows:

All persons in the United States who, within the last four years, purchased Defendant's Class Products labeled with the NonGMO Project Verified label. ("Class Members").
37. As used herein, the term "Class Members" shall mean and refer to the members of the Class described above.
38. Excluded from the Class are Whole Foods, its affiliates, employees, agents, and attorneys, and the Court.
39. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend the Class, and to add additional subclasses, if discovery and further investigation reveals such action is warranted.
40. There is a well-defined community of interest in the litigation and the class is readily ascertainable:
(a) Numerosity: Upon information and belief, the members of the Celass (and subclass) are so numerous that joinder of all Class Members would be unfeasible and impractical.
(b) Typicality: Plaintiff is qualified to, and will, fairly and adequately protect the interests of each Class Member with whom she has a welldefined community of interest, because Plaintiff bought Whole Foods' misbranded Class Products during the Class Period. Whole Foods' unlawful, unfair and/or fraudulent actions concems the same business practices described herein irrespective of where they occurred or were experiences. Plaintiff's claims (or defenses, if any) are typical of all Class Members as demonstrated herein.
(c) Adequacy: Plaintiff is qualified to, and will, fairly and adequately, protect the interests of each class member with whom she has a welldefined community of interest and typicality of claims, as demonstrated herein. Plaintiff acknowledges that she has an obligation to make known to the Court any relationship, conflicts or differences with any
class member. Plaintiff's attorneys, the proposed class counsel, are versed in the rules governing class action discovery, certification and settlement. Plaintiff has incurred, and throughout the duration of this action, will continue to incur costs and attorneys' fees that have been, are and will be necessarily expended for the prosecution of this action for the substantial benefit of each class member.
(d) Superiority: The nature of this action makes the use of class action adjudication superior to other methods. A class action will achieve economies of time, effort and expense as compared with separate lawsuits, and will avoid inconsistent outcomes because the same issues can be adjudicated in the same manner and at the same time for the entire class.
41. There are common questions of law and fact as to the class members that predominate over questions affecting only individual members, including but not limited to:
(a) Whether Defendant engaged in unlawful, unfair, or deceptive business practices by misbranding its Class Products it sold to consumers;
(b) Whether the Class Products at issue were misbranded as a matter of law;
(c) Whether Defendant made unlawful and misleading verified by the NonGMO Project claims with respect to the Class Products sold to consumers;
(d) Whether Defendant violated California Bus. \& Prof. Code § 17200, et seq., California Bus. \& Prof. Code § 17500, et seq., and California Civ. Code § 1750, et seq.;
(e) Whether Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to equitable and/or injunctive relief;
(f) Whether Defendant's unlawful, unfair, and/or deceptive practices harmed Plaintiff and Class Members; and
(g) The method of calculation and extent of damages for Plaintiff and Class Members

## FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

 Violation of Unfair Business Practices Act(Cal. Bus. \& Prof. Code $\S \S 17200$ et seq.)
42. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each allegation set forth above.
43. Califormia Business and Professions Code Section 17200, et seq. prohibits "any unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act or practice."
44. As set forth above, under FDA regulations wholly adopted by California's Sherman Act, food labels must not be misleading, but instead, must help consumers make informed choices. Here, Whole Foods misbrands the Class Products by labeling them with the Non-GMO Project Verified labels, falsely suggesting that these food products have been verified by the Non-GMO Project as being produced according to best practices for GMO avoidance, when they have not been verified by the Non-GMO Project, in violation of California Sherman Act's advertising and misbranded food provisions. The declaration that the Class Products are verified by the Non-GMO Project is therefore an "unlawful" business practice or act under Business and Professions Code Section 17200 et seq.
45. Whole Foods' declaration that its Class Products are verified by the Non-GMO Project in its advertising, marketing, and labeling, as set forth herein, also constitutes an "unfair" business act or practice within the meaning of California Business and Professions Code sections 17200 et seq., because any utility for Whole Foods' conduct is outweighed by the gravity of the consequences to Plaintiff and Class Members and because the conduct offends public policy.
46. In addition, Whole Foods' declaration that its Class Products are verified by the Non-GMO Project in its advertising, marketing, and labeling constitutes a "fraudulent" business practice or act within the meaning of Business and Professions Code Section 17200 et seq. The applicable food labeling regulations are carefully crafted to require that the labels
help consumers make informed choices and ensure that they are not misled in order to protect the consuming public from being deceived. Whole Foods' non-compliant advertising, marketing, and labeling declaring that the Class Products are verified by the Non-GMO Project poses the very risk of deception the regulations were promulgated to protect against.
47. Moreover, there were reasonable alternatives available to Whole Foods to further its legitimate business interests, other than the conduct described herein. For example, Whole Foods could have complied with FDA requirements by not using the Non-GMO Project's verified labels on the Class Products.
48. Whole Foods used misbranded advertising, marketing, and labeling to induce Plaintiff and Class Members to purchase the Class Products. Had Whole Foods not misbranded its Class Products as verified by the Non-GMO Project in its advertising, marketing, and labeling, Plaintiff and Class Members would not have purchased the products, would have purchased less of the products and/or would have paid less for the products. Whole Foods' conduct therefore caused and continues to cause economic harm to Plaintiff and Class Members.
49. Whole Foods has thus engaged in unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent business acts entitling Plaintiff and Class Members to judgment and equitable relief against Whole Foods, as set forth in the Prayer for Relief. Additionally, pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 17203, Plaintiff and Class Members seek an order requiring Whole Foods to immediately cease such acts of unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent business practices and requiring Whole Foods to correct its actions.

## SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

## Violation of the California False Advertising Act

(Cal. Bus. \& Prof. Code $\S \S 17500$ et seq.)
50. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each allegation set forth above.
51. Pursuant to California Business and Professions Code section 17500, et seq., it is unlawful to engage in advertising "which is untrue or misleading, and which is known, or
which by the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to be untrue or misleading."
52. As explained above, Whole Foods misbrands the Class Products as being verified by the Non-GMO Project, when they have not, falsely suggesting that the Class Products have been produced according to best practices for GMO avoidance.
53. As also explained above, the applicable food labeling regulations are carefully crafted to protect the consuming public from being deceived. Whole Foods' non-compliant advertising, marketing, and labeling declaring that the Class Products are verified by the NonGMO Project poses the very risk of deception the regulations were promulgated to protect against.
54. Whole Foods is a multi-million dollar company advised by skilled counsel who, on information and belief, are or by the exercise of reasonable care should be aware of the governing regulations and their purpose, and the fact that the labels on the Class Products do not comply with them.
55. Whole Foods' use of the misbranded labels on the Class Products therefore constitutes untrue and/or misleading advertising within the meaning of Business and Professions Code Section 17500 et seq.
56. Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, demands judgment against Whole Foods for restitution, disgorgement, injunctive relief, and all other relief afforded under Business \& Professions Code section 17500, plus interest, attorneys' fees, and costs.

## THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

Violation of the Consumers Legal Remedies Act
(Cal. Civil Code $\S \S 1750$ et seq.)
57. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each allegation set forth above.
58. This cause of action is brought pursuant to the Consumers Legal Remedies Act, California Civil Code Sections 1750 et seq. ("CLRA").
59. The CLRA has adopted a comprehensive statutory scheme prohibiting various
deceptive practices in connection with the conduct of a business providing goods, property, or services to consumers primarily for personal, family or household purposes. The selfdeclared purposes of the act are to protect consumers against unfair and deceptive business practices and to provide efficient and economical procedures to secure such protection.
60. The defendant named herein is a "person" as defined by Civil Code section 1761(c) because it is a corporation and/or company as set forth above.
61. Plaintiff and Class Members are "consumers" within the meaning of Civil Code section 1761 (d) because they are individuals who purchased the products at issue in this complaint for personal and/or household use, i.e. the Class Products.
62. The Class Products are "goods" within the meaning of California Civil Code section 1761 (a) in that they are tangible products bought by Plaintiff and Class Members for personal, family, and/or household use.
63. Plaintiff's and Class Members' payments for the goods of the Class Products are "transaction[s]" as defined by Civil Code section 1761 (e) because Whole Foods entered into an agreement to sell those products in exchange for Plaintiff's and Class Members' monetary compensation.
64. Plaintiff has standing to pursue this claim as she has suffered injury in fact and has lost money as a result of Whole Foods' actions as set forth herein. Specifically, Plaintiff purchased the Class Products on various occasions. Had Whole Foods not marketed, advertised or included the offending labels on its Class Products, Plaintiff would not have purchased the products, would have purchased less of the products and/or would have paid less for the products.
65. Section 1770(a)(2) of the CLRA prohibits anyone from "[m]isrepresenting the source, sponsorship, approval, or certification of goods or services" As discussed above, Whole Foods misbrands the Class Products by labeling them with the Non-GMO Project Verified labels, falsely suggesting that the Class Products have been verified by the NonGMO Project as being produced according to best practices for GMO avoidance, in violation
of California Sherman Act's advertising and misbranded food provisions. As a result, by marketing, advertising, and employing the misbranded labels on its Class Products, Whole Foods effectively misrepresented that the Class products have sponsorship, approval, characteristics, or certification, which they do not have under the governing law.
66. Section 1770(a)(5) of the CLRA prohibits anyone from "[r]epresenting that goods or services have sponsorship, approval, characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities which they do not have . . . ." As discussed above, Whole Foods misbrands the Class Products by labeling them with the Non-GMO verified labels, falsely suggesting that the Class Products have been verified by the Non-GMO Project as being produced according to best practices for GMO avoidance, in violation of Califormia Sherman Act's advertising and misbranded food provisions. As a result, by marketing, advertising, and employing the misbranded labels on its Class Products, Whole Foods effectively represented that the Class products have sponsorship, approval, characteristics, ingredients, uses and benefits which they do not have under the governing law.
67. Section 1770(a)(7) of the CLRA prohibits anyone from " $[\mathrm{r}]$ epresenting that goods or services are of a particular standard, quality, or grade, or that goods are of a particular style or model, if they are of another." By marketing, advertising, and employing the misbrand labels on its Class Products, Whole Foods similarly represented the Class Products to be of a particular standard, quality or grade which they are not under the governing law.
68. Section 1770(a)(9) of the CLRA prohibits anyone from "[a]dvertising goods or services with intent not to sell them as advertised." As noted above, Whole Foods is a multimillion dollar company advised by skilled counsel who, on information and belief, are or by the exercise of reasonable care should be aware of the governing regulations and their purpose, and the fact that the labels on its Class Products, declaring that they have been verified by the Non-GMO Project does not comply with them. By introducing its Class Products with non-compliant labels into the stream of commerce notwithstanding this
knowledge, Whole Foods thus intentionally sold a misbranded product.
69. Section 1770(a)(16) of the CLRA prohibits anyone from "[r]epresenting that the subject of a transaction has been supplied in accordance with a previous representation when it has not." As noted above, by marketing, advertising, and employing the misbrand labels on its Class Products, Whole Foods represented the Class Products were verified by the Non-GMO Project when they have not.
70. Pursuant to section 1782 of the CRLA, on July 11, 2014, Plaintiff notified Whole Foods in writing of the particular violations of sections of the CLRA and demanded that Whole Foods rectify the problems associated with the behavior detailed above, which acts and practices are in violation of Civil Code section 1770.
71. Whole Foods failed to adequately respond to Plaintiff's above-described demands and failed to give notice to all affected consumers, pursuant to Civil Code section 1782.
72. Plaintiff has filed concurrently herewith the declaration of venue required by Civil Code section 1780(d).
73. Plaintiff seeks an order enjoining the act and practices described above, restitution of property, and any other relief that the court deems proper. Plaintiff additionally seeks damages, restitution, punitive damages, attorneys' fees and costs, and any other relief available under section 1780(a) of the CRLA.

## FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

## Negligent Misrepresentation

74. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each allegation set forth above.
75. Whole Foods owed a duty to Plaintiff and Class Members to exercise reasonable care in making representations about its Class Products which it offered for sale to consumers.
76. Whole Foods knew, or should have known by the exercise of reasonable care, that the Class Products were not verified by the Non-GMO Project and thus should not have
been labeled with the Non-GMO Project Verified label. Nevertheless, Whole Foods negligently and/or recklessly included the Non-GMO Project Verified labels, declaring that its Class Products were verified b-y the Non-GMO Project on its widely distributed Class Products that is sold nationwide and consumed by millions of people annually.
77. Plaintiff and Class Members reviewed, believed, and relied upon the misbranded labels on the Class Products when deciding to purchase them, and how much to pay for the Class Products.
78. As a direct and proximate result of Whole Foods' negligent and/or reckless conduct, Plaintiff and Class Members have been damaged in an amount to be proven at trial.

## FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

## Breach of Quasi-Contract

79. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each allegation set forth above.
80. As a direct and proximate result of Whole Foods' acts, as set forth above, Whole Foods has been unjustly enriched.
81. Through unlawful and deceptive conduct in connection with the advertising, marketing, promotion, and sale of its Class Products, Whole Foods has reaped the benefits of Plaintiff's and Class Members' payments for a misbranded product.
82. Whole Foods' conduct created a contract or quasi-contract through which Whole Foods received a benefit of monetary compensation without providing the consideration promised to Plaintiff and Class Members. Accordingly, Whole Foods will be unjustly enriched unless ordered to disgorge those profits for the benefit of Plaintiff and Class Members.
83. Plaintiff and Class Members are entitled to and seek through this action restitution of, disgorgement of, and the imposition of a constructive trust upon all profits, benefits, and compensation obtained by Whole Foods from its improper conduct as alleged herein.

## MISCELLANEOUS

84. Plaintiff and Class Members allege that they have fully complied with all contractual and other legal obligations and fully complied with all conditions precedent to bringing this action or all such obligations or conditions are excused.

## REQUEST FOR JURY TRIAL

85. : Plaintiff requests a trial by jury as to all claims so triable.

## PRAYER FOR RELIEF

86. Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the Class, requests the following relief:
(a) An order certifying the Class and appointing Plaintiff as Representative of the Class;
(b) An order certifying the undersigned counsel as Class Counsel;
(c) A declaratory judgment that Whole Foods' use of the labels on the Class Products is unlawful;
(d) An order requiring Whole Foods, at its own cost, to notify all Class Members of the unlawful and deceptive conduct herein;
(e) An order requiring Whole Foods to change the product labeling for the Class Products such that it complies with all applicable food labeling rules and regulations;
(f) An order requiring Whole Foods to engage in corrective advertising regarding the conduct discussed above;
(g) Actual damages suffered by Plaintiff and Class Members as applicable or full restitution of all funds acquired from Plaintiff and Class Members from the sale of misbranded Class Products during the relevant class period;
(h) Punitive damages, as allowable, in an amount determined by the Court or jury;
(i) Any and all statutory enhanced damages;
(j) All reasonable and necessary attorneys' fees and costs provided by statute, common law or the Court's inherent power;
(k) Pre- and post-judgment interest; and
(l) All other relief, general or special, legal and equitable, to which Plaintiff and Class Members may be justly entitled as deemed by the Court.

Dated: November 6, 2014
Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Plaintiff Michelle Richard
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2. This case $\square$ is $\square \downarrow$ is not complex under rule 3.400 of the California Rules of Court. If the case is complex, mark the factors requiring exceptional judicial management:
a.Large number of separately represented parties
b. Extensive motion practice ralsing difficult or novel issues that will be time-consuming to resolve
c.Substantial amount of documentary evidence
d.
e. $\square$ Large number of witnesses Coondination with related actions pending in one or more courts In other counties, states, or countries, or in a federal court
3. Remedies sought (check all that apply): a. $\square$ monetary
f.Substantial postjudgment judicial supervision
b. $\square$ nonmonetary; declaratory or injuncitve relief c. $\square$ punitlve
4. Number of causes of action (specify): 5
$\therefore$ 5. This case $\square$ is $\square$ is not a class action suit.
6. If there are any known related cases, fike and serve a notice of related case. (You may use form $\mathrm{CH}=0 \mathrm{~F}$ 5.)

Date: November 6, 2014
Todd M. Friedman
(TYPE OR PRUNT NAME)
NOTICE

- Plaintiff must file this cover sheet with the first paper filed in the action or proceeding (except small ciaims cases or cases filed under the Probate Code, Family Code, or Welfare and Institutions Code). (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.220.) Failure to file may result in sanctions.
- Fite this cover sheet in addition to any cover sheet required by local court rule.
- If this case is complex under rule 3.400 et seq. of the California Rules of Court, you must serve a copy of this cover sheet on all other parties to the action or proceeding.
- Uniess this is a collections case under rule 3.740 or a complex case, this cover sheet will be used for statistical purposes only.


## INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO COMPLETE THE COVER SHEET

To Plaintiffs and Others Flifing First Papers. If you are filing a first paper (for example, a complaint) in a clvil case, you must complete and file, along with your first paper, the Civil Case Cover Shaet contained on page 1. This information will be used to compile statistics about the types and numbers of cases filed. You must complete items 1 through 6 on the sheet. In item 1, you must check one box for the case type that best describes the case. If the case fits both a general and a more specific type of case listed in item 1. check the more specific one. If the case has multiple causes of action, check the box that best indicates the primary cause of action. To assist you in completing the sheet, examples of the cases that belong under each case type in item 1 are provided below. A cover sheet must be filed only with your initlal paper. Failure to file a cover sheet with the first paper filed In a civil case may subject a party, its counsel, or both to sanctions under rules 2.30 and 3.220 of the Califomla Rules of Court.
To Parties in Rule 3.740 Collections Cases. A "collections case" under nule 3.740 is defined as an action for recovery of money owed in a sum stated to be certain that is not more than $\$ 25,000$, exclusive of interest and attorney's fees, arising from a transaction in which property, services, or money was acquired on credit. A collections case does not inctude an action seeking the following: (1) tort damages, (2) punitive damages, (3) recovery of real property, (4) recovery of personal property, or (5) a prejudgment writ of attachment. The identification of a case as a rule 3.740 collections case on this form means that it will be exempt from the general time-for-service requirements and case management rules, unless a defendant files a responsive pleading. A rule 3.740 collections case will be subject to the requirements for service and obtaining a judgment in rule 3.740.
To Parties in Complex Cases. In complex cases only, parties must aiso use the Civil Case Cover Sheet to designate whether the case is complex. If a plaintiff believes the case is complex under rule 3.400 of the Callfornia Ruies of Court, this must be indicated by completing the appropriate boxes in Iterns 1 and 2. If a plaintiff designates a case as complex, the cover sheet must be served with the complaint on all parties to the action. A defendant may file and serve no later than the time of its first appearance a joinder in the plaintif's designation, a counter-designation that the case is not complex, or, if the plaintff has made no designation, a designation that the case is complex.

```
Auto Tort
    Auto (22)-Personal Injury/Property
        DamageMNrongful Death
    Uninsured Motorist (46) (if the
        case involves an uninsured
        motortst claim subject to
        arbitration, check thls flem
        instead of Auto)
Other P//FDNWD (Personal Injuryl
Property Damage/Wrongful Death)
Tort
    Asbestos (04)
        Asbestos Property Damage
        Asbestos Personal Injuryl
            Wrongful Death
    Product Liability (not asbestos or
        toxic/environmental) (24)
    Medical Malpractice (45)
        Medical Malpractice-
            Physicians & Surgeons
        Other Profossional Heath Care
                Malpractice
    Other PIPDND (23)
        Premlses Llability (e.g., slip
                and fall)
        Intentional Bodlly Injury/PDNDD
                (e.g., assauli, vandaism)
        intentional Infliction of
                Emotional Distress
        Negligent Influction of
                Emotional Distress
        Other PI/PDND
Non-PIMDDWD (Other) Tort
    Bus|ness Tori/Unfalr Bushess
        Pracilee (07)
f.- Clvil Rights (e.g., discrimination.
                false arrest) (not civil
                harassment) (08)
D Defamation (e.g., stander, Ibel)
                (13)
    Fraud (16)
I}\mathrm{ Intellectual Property (19)
    Professional Negligence (25)
        Legal Malpractice
        Other Professional Malpractice
            (not medical or legal)
        Other Non-PI/PDND Tort (35
    mployment
F-.-Wrongful Termination (36)
    Other Employment (15)
$
```

Contract
Bresch of ContractWarranly (06)
Breach of Rental/-ase
Contract (not unlawful detainer or wrongful eviction)
Contract/Warranty Breach-Seller Plaintiff (not fraud or negligence)
Naglugent Breach of Contract/ Warranty
Other Braach of ContractNarranty
Collections (e.g., money owed, open
book accounts) (09)
Collection Case-Seller Plaintiff
Other Promissory Note/Collections Case
Insurance Coverage (not provisionally complex) (18)
Auto Subrogation
Other Coverage
Other Contract (37)
Contractual Fraud
Other Contract Dispute
Real Proparty
Eminent Domain/inverse
Condemnation (14)
Wrongful Evtction (33)
Other Real Property (e.g., quiet titia) (26)
Wilt of Possession of Real Property
Mortgage Foreclosure
Quiet Tite
Other Real Property (not eminent
domain, landlord/tenant, or foreclosure)
Unlawful Detalner
Commercial (31)
Residential (32)
Drugs (38) if the case involves illega! orugs, cheak this hem; oinerwise, report as Commercial or Residential)
Judiclal Review
Asset Forfetture (05)
Peitition Re: Arbitration Award (11)
Writ of Mandata (02)
Writ-Admintstrative Mandamus
Writ-Mandamus on Limited Court Case Matter
Whit-Other Limited Court Case Reviow
Other Judiclal Revlaw (39)
Review of Heallh Otficer Order
Notica of Appeal-Labor
Commissloner Appaals

Provisionalify Complex Clvil Litigation (Cal.
Rules of Court Rules 3.400-3.403)
Antitust/Trade Regulation (03)
Construction Defect (10)
Claims Involving Mass Tort (40)
Securitles Litigation (28)
Environmentalfoxic Tort (30)
Insurance Coverage Claims
(arising from provisionally complax
case type ilstod above) (41)
Enforcement of Judgment
Enforcement of Judgment (20)
Abstracl of Judgment (Out of County)
Confession of Judgment (nondomestic relations)
Sister State Judgment
Administrative Agency Award (not unpald taxes)
Petition/Certification of Entry of Judgment on Unpaid Taxes
Other Enforcement of Judgment Case
Miscellaneous Civil Comptaint RICO (27)
Other Complaint (not specifiog'
above) (42)
Declaratory Relief Only
Injunctive Rellef Only (nonharassment)
Mechanics Leen
Other Commercial Complaint Case (non-torthon-complex)
Other Clivil Complaint (non-forthon-complex)
Rilscellaneous Civil Patition
Partnership and Corporate
Governanca (2i)
Other Peltion (not specified
above) (43)
Civil Harassment
Workplace Violence
Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse
Election Contest
Petillon for Name Change
Pettlion for Rellef From Late Claim
Other Clvil Petition

## CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET ADDENDUM AND STATEMENT OF LOCATION （CERTIFICATE OF GROUNDS FOR ASSIGNMENT TO COURTHOUSE LOCATION）

This form is required pursuant to Local Rule 2.0 in all new civil case filings in the Los Angeles Superior Court．
Item I．Check the types of hearing and fill in the estimated length of hearing expected for this case：
JURY TRIAL？$\square$ YES CLASS ACTION？YES LIMITED CASE？$\square$ YES TIME ESTIMATED FOR TRIAL 2－4 $\square$ HOURS／回 DAYS
Item II．Indicate the correct district and courthouse location（4 steps－If you checked＂Limited Case＂，skip to Item III，Pg．4）：

Step 1：After first completing the Civil Case Cover Sheet form，find the main Civil Case Cover Sheet heading for your case in the left－margin below，and，to the right in Column $\mathbf{A}$ ，the Civil Case Cover Sheet case type you selected．

Step 2：Check one Superior Court type of action in Column 8 below which best describes the nature of this case．

Step 3：In Column C．circle the reason for the court location choice that applies to the type of action you have checked．For any exception to the court location，see Local Rule 2．0．

Applicable Reasons for Choosing Courthouse Location（see Column C below）

1．Class actions must be filed in the Stanlay Mosk Courthouse，central district．
2．May be filed in central（other county，or no bodlly injury／property damage）．
3．Location where cause of action arose．
4．Location where boodity infury，death or damage occurred
5．Location where performance requltred or defendant resides．

6．Locauton of property or permanently garaged vehicte．
7．Location where petitioner resides．
8．Location wherein detendantresspondent functions wholly． 9．Location where one or more of the parties reside．
10．Location of Labor Commissioner Office

Step 4：Fill in the information requested on page 4 in Item III；complete Item IV．Sign the declaration．

| 总吉 |  | B <br> Type of Action （Check only one） |  | C C Apilicable Raasons Seee Step 3 Above |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Auto（22） | －A7100 M | Motor Vehicie－Personal Injury／Property DamageNiongtul Death | 1．，2．， 4. |
|  | Uninsurad Moterist（46） | － 47110 P | Personal Injury／Property Damage Nrongtul Death－Uninsured Motorist | 1．，2．， 4. |
|  | Asbestos（04） | $\begin{array}{ll} \text { 口 } & \text { A6070 } A \\ \text { - } & \text { A7221 } \end{array}$ | Asbestos Property Damage <br> Asbestos－Personal Injury／Wrongfirl Death | $\begin{aligned} & 2 . \\ & 2 . \end{aligned}$ |
|  | Product Llabillty（24） | －A7260 P | Product Liability（not asbestos or toxic／environmental） | 1．，2．，3．，4．， 8. |
|  | Medical Malpractice（45） | $\begin{array}{ll} \square & \text { A7210 } \\ \square & \text { A7240 } \end{array}$ | Medical Malpractice－Physiclans \＆Surgeons Other Professlonal Health Care Malpracice | $\begin{array}{\|l\|l} 1 ., 4 . \\ 1 ., 4 . \end{array}$ |
|  | Other Personal Injury Property Damage Wrongful Death （23） |  | Premises Llablity（e．g．，slip and fail） <br> Intentionat Bodlly In）ury／Property Damage／Nrongfil Death（e．g．， assault，vandallsm．etc．） <br> Intentional Inflction of Emotional Distress <br> Other Personal Injury／Property DamageNwongtul Death | $\begin{array}{\|l} 1 ., 4 . \\ 1 ., 4 . \\ 1 ., 3 . \\ 1 ., 4 . \end{array}$ |
| LACIV 109 | v．03／41） | CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET ADDENDUM AND STATEMENT OF LOCATION |  | ocal Rule 2.0 <br> Page 1 of 4 |




Michelle Richard, et al. v. Whole Foods Market California, Inc., et a

Item III. Statement of Location: Enter the address of the accident, party's residence or place of business, performance, or other circumstance indicated in Item II., Step 3 on Page 1, as the proper reason for filing in the court location you selected.


Item IV. Declaration of Assignment. I declare under penalty of periury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that the above-entitled matter is properly filed for assignment to the Stanley Mosk Central District of the Superior Court of Califomia, County of Los Angeles [Code Civ. Proc. $\S 392$ courthoyse in the and (d)].

Dated: November 6, 2014


## PLEASE HAVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS COMPLETED AND READY TO BE FILED IN ORDER TO PROPERLY COMAMENCE YOUR NEW COURT CASE:

1. Original Complaint or Pettion.
2. If filing a Complaint, a completed Summons form for issuance by the Clerk.
3. Civil Case Cover Sheet, Judicial Councll form CM-010.
4. Clvil Case Cover Sheet Addendum and Statement of Location form, LACIV 109, LASC Approved 03-04 (Rev. 03/11).
5. Payment in full of the filing fee, unless fees have been walved.
6. A signed order appointing the Guardian ad Litem, Judicial Council form CIV-010, if the plaintiff or petitioner is a minor under 18 years of age will be required by Court in order to issue a summons.
7. Additional copies of documents to be conformed by the Clerk. Copies of the cover sheet and this addendum must be served along with the summons and complaint, or other initiating pleading in the case.

## ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database

