ise (3:23-cv-00454-LL-BLM	Document 1-2	Filed 03/10/23	PageID.19 Page 7 of 79		
1	JAMES T. HANNINK (12	31747)				
2	jhannink@sdlaw.com ZACH P. DOSTART (255 zdostart@sdlaw.com	5071)		Superior Court of California County of San Diego 02/06/2023 at 05:10:14 PM		
3	DOSTART HANNINK LI 4225 Executive Square, Su			Clerk of the Superior Court By Brandon Krause Deputy Clerk		
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5	Fax: 858-623-4200					
6	Attorneys for Plaintiff			Ň		
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8	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA					
9	COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO					
10						
11	ANDREW WEINBERG, individually and on behalf	f of all others	CASE NO. 3	7-2023-00005248-CU-BT-CTL		
12	similarly situated,		CLASS ACTI	<u>ON</u>		
13	Plaintiff,			FOR VIOLATION OF THE		
14	vs.			[Bus. & Prof. Code, § 17200 et seq.]		
15	WALMART, INC., a Delaware corporation;					
16	and DOES 1-50, inclusive	· ·				
17	Defendants	3.				
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INTRODUCTION

2	1. California law prohibits merchants from charging an amount greater than the price				
3	that is advertised, posted, marked, displayed, or quoted for any item of merchandise. (Bus. & Prof.				
4	Code, § 12024.2(a).) This class action complaint alleges that, with respect to a variety of				
5	merchandise, Walmart Inc. has charged at checkout an amount greater than the price posted, marked,				
6	or displayed for such merchandise. Such conduct constitutes an unlawful business practice in				
7	violation of the Unfair Competition Law, Bus. & Prof. Code, § 17200 et seq., ("UCL"). Pursuant to				
8	Business and Professions Code section 17203, Plaintiff seeks restitution for himself and all other				
9	affected California consumers, as well as an injunction for the benefit of the general public.				
10	THE PARTIES				
11	2. Plaintiff Andrew Weinberg ("Plaintiff") is an individual residing in Solano County,				
12	California.				
13	3. Defendant Walmart, Inc. ("Walmart") is a Delaware corporation that does business				
14	throughout California, including at retail stores in San Diego County.				
15	4. Plaintiff does not know the names of the defendants sued as DOES 1 through 50 but				
16	will amend this complaint when that information becomes known. Plaintiff alleges on information				
17	and belief that each of the DOE defendants is affiliated with the named defendant in some respect				
18	and is in some manner responsible for the wrongdoing alleged herein, either as a direct participant,				
19	or as the principal, agent, successor, alter ego, or co-conspirator of or with one or more of the other				
20	defendants. For ease of reference, Plaintiff will refer to the named defendant and the DOE				
21	defendants collectively as Defendants.				
22	5. Venue is proper in this court because Walmart has not designated a principal place				
23	of business in California and therefore venue is proper in any county. In addition, Walmart does				
24	business in San Diego County and has engaged in conduct that gives rise to liability in San Diego				
25	County.				
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27	///				
28	///				
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CALIFORNIA'S STATUTORY PRICE PROTECTION

6. California law seeks to ensure that consumers are not overcharged for purchased
merchandise. To that end, it is unlawful for a seller of merchandise to "[c]harge an amount greater
than the price, or to compute an amount greater than a true extension of a price per unit, that is then
advertised, posted, marked, displayed, or quoted for that commodity." (Bus. & Prof. Code,
§ 12024.2(a)(1).) If the amount charged for an item exceeds a price that is advertised, posted,
marked, displayed, or quoted, the differential is referred to as an "overcharge." (Bus. & Prof. Code,
§ 12024.2(d).)

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WALMART'S PRACTICE OF OVERCHARGING FOR MERCHANDISE

7. On July 19, 2022, after shopping at the Walmart Supercenter located at 7011 Main
 Street, American Canyon, California, Plaintiff discovered that he had been overcharged for several
 items. Specifically, for a loaf of Thomas' Swirl Cinnamon Raisin Bread, the charge at checkout was
 \$3.48, whereas the posted price was \$3.18. Thus, Plaintiff was overcharged for that item by \$0.30.
 In addition, for a half gallon of Crystal 2% milk, the charge at checkout was \$3.18, whereas the
 posted price was \$3.12. Thus, Plaintiff was overcharged for that item by \$0.06.

16 8. The overcharges to Plaintiff are not an isolated incident. Indeed, transactions during
17 September 2022 at Walmart stores in three of the largest metropolitan areas in California showed
18 overcharges for a variety of merchandise.

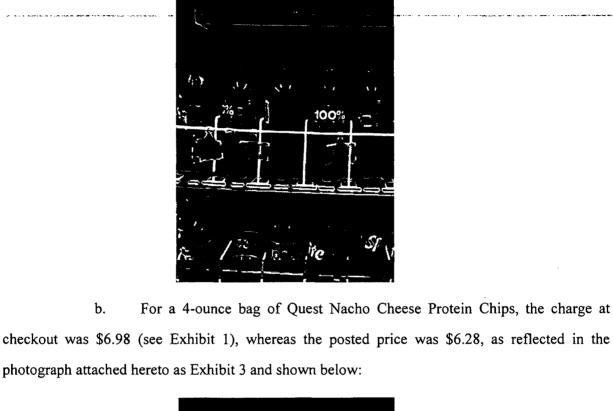
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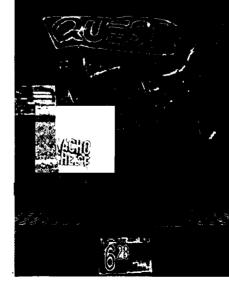
San Diego County

9. On September 9, 2022, at the Walmart store located at 13487 Camino Canada, El
 Cajon, California, Walmart overcharged for 2 of 37 items that were purchased (that is, there was an
 overcharge for more than 5% percent of the purchased items). The receipt for those purchases is
 attached hereto as Exhibit 1. The two overcharges are described below.

- 24 ////
- 25 ////
- . 26 ////
- 27 ////
- 28 ///

a. For a 20-ounce bottle of Coke Zero, the charge at checkout was \$2.08 (see
 Exhibit 1), whereas the posted price was \$1.98, as reflected in the photograph attached hereto as
 Exhibit 2 and shown below:



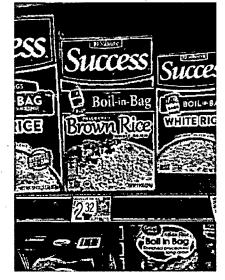


CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

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1 10. On September 12, 2022, at the Walmart store located at 13487 Camino Canada, El
 Cajon, California, Walmart overcharged for 2 of 17 items that were purchased (that is, there was an
 overcharge for more than 11% percent of the purchased items). The receipt for those purchases is
 attached hereto as Exhibit 4. The two overcharges are described below.

a. For a 14-ounce box of Success Brown Rice Boil-in-Bag, the charge at
checkout was \$2.52 (see Exhibit 4), whereas the posted price was \$2.32, as reflected in the
photograph attached hereto as Exhibit 5 and shown below:

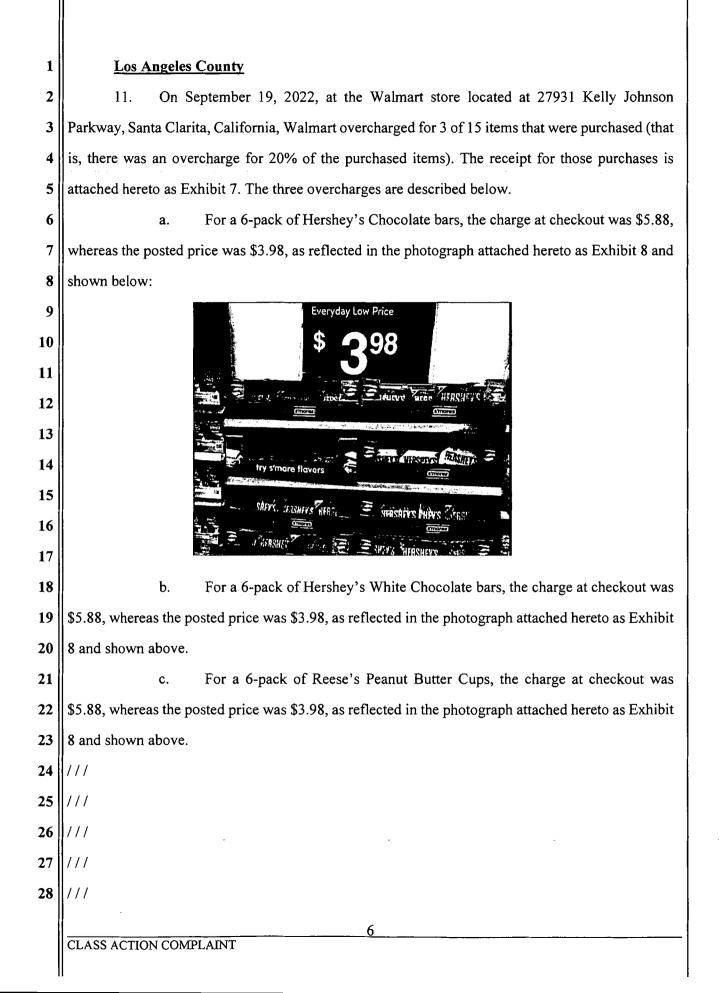


b. For a 20-ounce bottle of Pepsi Real Sugar, the charge at checkout was \$2.18
(see Exhibit 4), whereas the posted price was \$1.98, as reflected in the photograph attached hereto
as Exhibit 6 and shown below:



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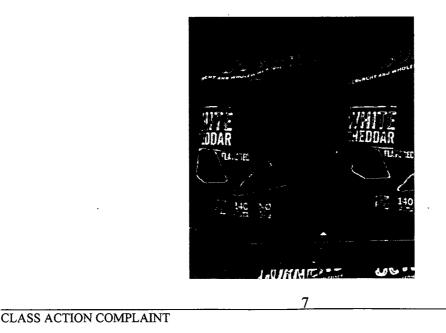


In another transaction on September 19, 2022, at the Walmart store located at 27931
 Kelly Johnson Parkway, Santa Clarita, California, Walmart overcharged for 2 of 36 items that were
 purchased (that is, there was an overcharge for over 5% of the purchased items). The receipt for
 attached hereto as Exhibit 9. The two overcharges are described below.

a. For a 20-ounce bottle of Diet Pepsi, the charge at checkout was \$2.18 (see
Exhibit 9), whereas the posted price was \$2.08, as reflected in the photograph attached hereto as
Exhibit 10 and shown below:



b. For a 7-ounce bag of White Cheddar Popcorners, the charge at checkout was
\$3.68 (see Exhibit 9), whereas the posted price was \$3.28, as reflected in the photograph attached
hereto as Exhibit 11 and shown below:



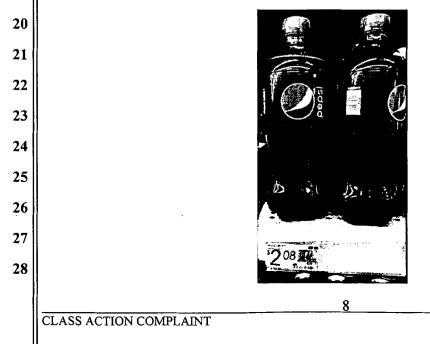
<u>Bay Area</u>

2 13. On September 12, 2022, at the Walmart store located at 1919 Davis Street, San
3 Leandro, California, Walmart overcharged for 4 of 15 items that were purchased (that is, there was
4 an overcharge for more than 25% of the purchased items). The receipt for those purchases is attached
5 hereto as Exhibit 12. The four overcharges are described below.

a. For a 16.9-ounce bottle of Coca-Cola, the charge at checkout was \$1.88 (see
7 Exhibit 12), whereas the posted price was \$1.78, as reflected in the photograph attached hereto as
8 Exhibit 13 and shown below:



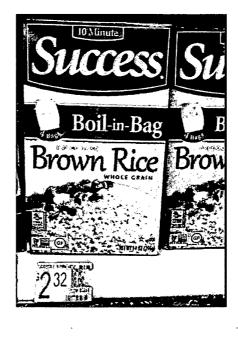
b. For a 20-ounce bottle of Pepsi, the charge at checkout was \$2.18 (see Exhibit
12), whereas the posted price was \$2.08, as reflected in the photograph attached hereto as Exhibit
14 and shown below:



c. For a can of Sugar Free Red Bull, the charge at checkout was \$2.68 (see
 Exhibit 12), whereas the posted price was \$2.50, as reflected in the photograph attached hereto as
 Exhibit 15 and shown below:



d. For a 14-ounce box of Success Brown Rice Boil-in-Bag, the charge at
checkout was \$2.52 (see Exhibit 12), whereas the posted price was \$2.32, as reflected in the
photograph attached hereto as Exhibit 16 and shown below:



In another transaction on September 12, 2022, at the Walmart store located at 1919
 Davis Street, San Leandro, California, Walmart overcharged for 2 of 20 items that were purchased
 (that is, there was an overcharge of 10% of the purchased items). The receipt for those purchases as
 Exhibit 17. The two overcharges are described below.

a. For a 6-pack of Skinny Pop Popcorn, the charge at checkout was \$4.84 (see
Exhibit 17), whereas the posted price was \$4.48, as reflected in the photograph attached hereto as
Exhibit 18 and shown below:



b. For a container of Armor All Glass Wipes, the charge at checkout was \$4.67
(see Exhibit 17), whereas the posted price was \$4.37, as reflected in the photograph attached hereto
as Exhibit 19 and shown below:



CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

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CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

15. Plaintiff brings this lawsuit as a class action under Code of Civil Procedure § 382 on
behalf of the following Class: "All persons who, within the four years preceding the filing of this
Complaint and while physically present in California, purchased at least one item of merchandise
from Walmart for which Walmart charged an amount greater than the price posted, marked, or
displayed for the item. Excluded from the Class are all employees of Walmart, all employees of
Plaintiff's counsel, and the judicial officers to whom this case is assigned."

8 16. <u>Ascertainability</u>. The members of the Class may be ascertained by information or
9 records in the possession of Walmart, third parties, and/or the Class members.

10 17. <u>Common Questions of Fact or Law</u>. There are questions of fact or law that are
11 common to the members of the Class, which predominate over individual issues. Common questions
12 include, without limitation, whether Walmart charged the Class members an amount greater than
13 the posted, marked, or displayed price for merchandise, and the appropriate remedies.

14 18. <u>Numerosity</u>. The Class is so numerous that joinder of all Class members would be
15 impracticable. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that the Class consists of
16 thousands of members.

17 19. <u>Typicality and Adequacy</u>. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class
18 members. Plaintiff has no interests that are adverse to those of the other Class members. Plaintiff
19 will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the Class.

20 20. A class action is superior to other methods for resolving this Superiority. controversy. Because the amount of money to which a Class member may be entitled is low in 21 22 comparison to the expense and burden of individual litigation, it would be impracticable for Class 23 members to redress the wrongs done to them without a class action forum. Class action treatment will permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single 24 forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without unnecessary duplication of effort and expense. 25 Certification of the Class would therefore conserve judicial resources and avoid the possibility of 26 inconsistent judgments. 27

28

1	FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION				
2	(Violation of the California Unfair Competition Law)				
3	(Bus. & Prof. Code, § 17200 et seq.)				
4	21.	21. Plaintiff incorporates the previous allegations as though fully set forth herein.			
5	22. The Unfair Competition Law defines unfair competition as including any unlawful				
6	business act or practice. (Bus. & Prof. Code, § 17200.)				
7	23.	23. Defendants' conduct as alleged above constitutes a business practice that violates			
8	Business and Professions Code section 12024.2(a) and, therefore, constitutes an unlawful business				
9	practice that is proscribed by Business and Professions Code section 17200.				
10	24. Plaintiff has suffered injury in fact and lost money as a result of Walmart's acts of				
11	unfair competition.				
12	25.	25. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 17203, Plaintiff seeks restitution			
13	for himself and the Class members.				
14	26.	Unless enjoined and restrained by this Court, Walmart will continue to commit the			
15	violations alleged herein. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 17203, Plaintiff seeks				
16	an injunction prohibiting Walmart from continuing its unlawful business practice as alleged herein.				
17		PRAYER			
18	WHE	REFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Walmart as follows:			
19	1.	For restitution;			
20	2.	For a public injunction for the benefit of the People of the State of California;			
21	3.	For reasonable attorneys' fees, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5;			
22	4.	For costs of suit; and			
23	5.	For such other relief as the Court may deem just and proper.			
24	Dated: Febru	uary 6, 2023 DOSTART HANNINK LLP			
25		Ruchesich Porl Statent			
26	Automat Pont Julin ACH P. DOSTART				
27	Attorneys for Plaintiff				
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	CLASS ACTIC	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT			

ClassAction.org

This complaint is part of ClassAction.org's searchable class action lawsuit database and can be found in this post: <u>Walmart Charges California Consumers</u> <u>More at Checkout Than Advertised Shelf Prices, Class Action Claims</u>