

ADR

Ben F. Pierce Gore (SBN 128515)  
 PRATT & ASSOCIATES  
 1901 S. Bascom Avenue, Suite 350  
 Campbell, CA 95008  
 Telephone: (408) 429-6506  
 Fax: (408) 369-0752  
[pgore@prattattorneys.com](mailto:pgore@prattattorneys.com)

*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

**FILED**  
 MAY 14 2012  
 E-FILING  
 RICHARD W. WIENING  
 CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA



IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
 SAN JOSE DIVISION

HRL

CV 12-02425

KATIE KANE, individually and on behalf  
 of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

CHOBANI, INC., also formerly known  
 as AGRO-FARMA, INC.,

Defendant.

Case No.

**CLASS ACTION AND REPRESENTATIVE  
 ACTION**

**COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES,  
 EQUITABLE AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

Plaintiff, through her undersigned attorneys, brings this lawsuit against Defendant Chobani, Inc., also formerly known as Agro-Farma, Inc., (hereafter, "Chobani" or "Defendant") as to her own acts, upon personal knowledge, and as to all other matters upon information and belief. In order to remedy the harm arising from Defendant's illegal conduct, which has resulted in unjust profits, Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of a class of California consumers who, within the last four years, purchased Chobani's Greek Yogurt product either : (1) labeled with the ingredient "evaporated cane juice;" or (2) labeled "All Natural Ingredients" or "Only Natural Ingredients," but which contain artificial ingredients, flavorings, coloring, and/or chemical

1 preservatives (collectively, products in categories No. 1 and 2 are referred to herein as  
2 “Misbranded Food Products”).

### 3 INTRODUCTION

4 1. Every day, millions of Americans purchase and consume packaged foods.  
5 Identical federal and California laws require truthful, accurate information on the labels of  
6 packaged foods. This case is about companies that flout those laws. The law is clear: misbranded  
7 food cannot legally be manufactured, held, advertised, distributed or sold. Misbranded food is  
8 worthless as a matter of law, and purchasers of misbranded food are entitled to a refund of its  
9 purchase price.

10 2. Chobani is a New York Corporation that conducts its yogurt business throughout  
11 the United States and internationally. Chobani has also done business in the past as Agro-Farma  
12 Inc., before changing that name to Chobani, Inc. in January, 2012. It is estimated that Chobani  
13 currently is one of the nation’s top three manufacturers of yogurt and has approximately 20% of  
14 the yogurt market in the United States and up to 60% of the Greek yogurt market. Chobani Greek  
15 Yogurt products are sold at a premium price.

16 3. Chobani’s expected sales revenues for 2012 from the sale of its yogurt products  
17 are stated to be on track to hit \$1 billion.

18 4. As part of its overall marketing strategy, Chobani has recognized the desire of  
19 many of its consumers to eat a healthier diet comprised of natural foods and foods that lack added  
20 sugar. Chobani recognizes that natural and health claims drive sales, and, consequently, actively  
21 promotes the naturalness and health benefits of its products.

22 5. For example, Chobani makes the following representations regarding its yogurt:

- 23 • “This unique straining process is what makes Chobani “Greek” and full of
- 24 flavor and health benefits: Only natural ingredients. No preservatives. No
- 25 artificial flavors.”
- 26 • “Free from synthetic growth hormones.”
- 27 • “Includes ...3 probiotics.”
- 28 • “Twice the protein of regular yogurts.”

- “A good source of bone building calcium.”
- “We. . . lightly sweeten our real fruit chunks with evaporated cane juice, a natural type of unrefined sweetener.”

6. Defendant’s website, www.Chobani.com, is also largely dedicated to promoting the naturalness and nutritional and health aspects of its yogurt products.

7. Defendant actively promotes the purported naturalness and health benefits of its Misbranded Food Products, notwithstanding the fact that such promotion violates California and federal law.

8. For example, the Nutrition Facts for Chobani’s Greek Yogurt, Pomegranate flavor, state that it has 19 grams of sugar, but the ingredient section fails to list “sugar” or “dried cane syrup” as an ingredient. Instead, the label lists “Evaporated Cane Juice” as an ingredient, despite the fact that the FDA has specifically warned companies not to use this term because 1) it is “false and misleading;” 2) in violation of a number of labeling regulations designed to ensure that manufacturers label their products with the common and usual names of the ingredients they use and accurately describe the ingredients they utilize; and 3) the ingredient in question is not a juice.

9. In addition, the FDA’s Standard of Identity for yogurt (21 CFR § 131.200) prohibits the inclusion of any nutritive carbohydrate sweeteners not listed in the standard of identity. Evaporated Cane Juice is not included on the list of allowed sweeteners which is limited to:

sugar (sucrose), beet or cane; invert sugar (in paste or sirup form); brown sugar; refiner’s sirup; molasses (other than blackstrap); high fructose corn sirup; fructose; fructose sirup; maltose; maltose sirup, dried maltose sirup; malt extract, dried malt extract; malt sirup, dried malt sirup; honey; maple sugar; or any of the sweeteners listed in part 168 of this chapter [21], except table sirup.

10. In other marketing literature, Chobani represents that “Evaporated Cane Juice” is “a natural type of unrefined sweetener.” Chobani fails to disclose the fact that that “Evaporated Cane Juice” is, in its ordinary and commonly understood terms, “sugar,” and/or “dried cane syrup,”

11. For example, the list of ingredients for Chobani's Greek Yogurt, Pomegranate flavor is as follows:

<b>Nutrition Facts</b>  Serving Size: 6oz (170g) Servings Per Container 1  Calories 140 Calories from Fat 0  *Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet.	Amount Per Serving		%Daily Value*	Amount Per Serving		%Daily Value*
	<b>Total Fat</b> 0g		<b>0%</b>	<b>Total Carbohydrate</b> 21g		<b>7%</b>
	Saturated Fat 0g		<b>0%</b>	Dietary Fiber 0g		<b>0%</b>
	Trans Fat 0g			Sugars 19g		
	<b>Cholesterol</b> 0mg		<b>0%</b>	<b>Protein</b> 14g		<b>28%</b>
	<b>Sodium</b> 75mg		<b>3%</b>			
	Vitamin A 0% • Vitamin C 0% • Calcium 15% • Iron 2%					

**INGREDIENTS:** NONFAT YOGURT (CULTURED PASTEURIZED NONFAT MILK, LIVE AND ACTIVE CULTURES: S. THERMOPHILUS, L. BULGARICUS, L. ACIDOPHILUS, BIFIDUS AND L. CASEI). FRUIT ON THE BOTTOM (EVAPORATED CANE JUICE, POMEGRANATE SEEDS, POMEGRANATE JUICE CONCENTRATE, PECTIN, NATURAL FLAVOR, LOCUST BEAN GUM, FRUIT AND VEGETABLE JUICE CONCENTRATE [FOR COLOR]).

12. Chobani currently has at least 18 different flavors of its Greek Yogurt which list "Evaporated Cane Juice" as an ingredient, all of which are misbranded for reasons stated herein. These are:

- a) Apple Cinnamon
- b) Blood Orange
- c) Black Cherry
- d) Lemon
- e) Blueberry
- f) Raspberry
- g) Peach
- h) Pomegranate
- i) Strawberry
- j) Vanilla
- k) Passion Fruit
- l) Mango

- m) Pineapple
- n) Strawberry Banana
- o) Vanilla Chocolate Chunk
- p) Orange Vanilla
- q) Very Berry (Berry Nana)
- r) Honey-Nana

13. If a manufacturer is going to make 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 be natural or have a health or nutritional benefit over otherwise similar food products that do not claim such properties or benefits or that disclose certain ingredients. More importantly, these laws recognize that the failure to disclose the presence of risk-increasing nutrients 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 nutrients at levels that raise the risk of diet-related disease or health-related condition.

14. Identical federal and California laws regulate the content of labels on packaged food. The requirements of the federal Food Drug & Cosmetic Act ("FDCA") were adopted by the California legislature in the Sherman Food Drug & Cosmetic Law, California Health & Safety Code § 109875, *et seq.* (the "Sherman Law"). Under FDCA section 403(a), food is "misbranded" if "its labeling is false or misleading in any particular," or if it does not contain certain information on its label or its labeling. 21 U.S.C. § 343(a).

15. Under the 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 also those claims that might be technically true, but still misleading. If any one representation in the labeling is misleading, the entire food is misbranded, nor can any other statement in the labeling cure a misleading statement. "Misleading" is judged in reference to "the ignorant, the unthinking

1 and the credulous who, when making a purchase, do not stop to analyze.” *United States v. El-O-*  
2 *Pathic Pharmacy*, 192 F.2d 62, 75 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1951). Under the FDCA, it is not necessary to prove  
3 that anyone was actually misled.

4 16. In promoting the naturalness and health benefits of its Misbranded Food Products,  
5 Defendant claims to understand the importance of communicating responsibly about its products.  
6 Nevertheless, Defendant has made, and continues to make, false and deceptive claims on its  
7 Misbranded Food Products in violation of federal and California laws that govern the types of  
8 representations that can be made on food labels. In particular, in making its unlawful  
9 “Evaporated Cane Juice” claims on its Misbranded Food Products, Defendant has violated  
10 labeling regulations mandated by federal and California law by listing sugar and/or sugar cane  
11 syrups As “Evaporated Cane Juice.” According to the FDA, the term “Evaporated Cane Juice” is  
12 not the common or usual name of any type of sweetener, including dried cane syrup. Because  
13 cane syrup has a standard of identity defined by regulation in 21 CFR § 168.130, the common or  
14 usual name for the solid or dried form of cane syrup is “dried cane syrup.” According to the  
15 FDA, sweeteners derived from sugar cane syrup should not be listed in the ingredient declaration  
16 by names which suggest that the ingredients are juice, such as “Evaporated Cane Juice.” The  
17 FDA considers such representations to be “false and misleading” under section 403(a)(1) of the  
18 FDCA (21 U.S.C. 343(a)(1)) because they fail to reveal the basic nature of the food and its  
19 characterizing properties (i.e., that the ingredients are sugars or syrups) as required by 21 CFR §  
20 102.5.

21 17. Defendant has also made unlawful “all natural ingredients” and/or “only natural  
22 ingredients” claims on its Misbranded Food Products, in that Defendant has violated labeling  
23 regulations mandated by federal and California law which forbid the use of such labeling if the  
24 product contains artificial ingredients, flavorings, coloring, and/or chemical preservatives.

25 18. Defendant states the following on its website regarding its use of the term  
26 “natural” on its label: “Although the U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has yet to  
27 release a formal definition for the term “natural” to us, it recognizes that a product is free of  
28 processed ingredients along with artificial preservatives, flavors, and sweeteners. And that is



1 exactly what Chobani is.” Defendant excludes artificial colors from its understanding of the  
2 definition of “natural” which is false and misleading particularly, when the Defendant mislabels  
3 its unnaturally colored products so as to represent them as all natural.

4 19. Defendant’s violations of law include the illegal advertising, marketing,  
5 distribution, delivery and sale of Defendant’s Misbranded Food Products to consumers in  
6 California and throughout the United States.

7 20. Defendant has made, and continues to make, unlawful ingredient and all natural  
8 claims on food labels of its Misbranded Food Products that are prohibited by federal and  
9 California law and which render these products misbranded. Under federal and California law,  
10 Defendant’s Misbranded Food Products cannot legally be manufactured, advertised, distributed,  
11 held or sold. Defendant’s false and misleading labeling practices stem from its global marketing  
12 strategy. Thus, the violations and misrepresentations are similar across product labels and  
13 product lines.

#### 14 PARTIES

15  
16 21. Plaintiff, KATIE KANE is a resident of Los Gatos, California who purchased  
17 various flavors of Chobani’s Misbranded Food Products during the four (4) years prior to the  
18 filing of this Complaint (the “Class Period”).

19 22. Chobani, Inc. is a New York corporation doing business in the State of California  
20 and throughout the United States of America. It can be served with process by Service on its  
21 registered agent in California: Paracorp Incorporated, 2804 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 200,  
22 Sacramento, California

23 23. Defendant is a leading producer of retail yogurt products, including the  
24 Misbranded Food Products. Defendant sells its food products to consumers through grocery and  
25 other retail stores throughout California and the United States.

#### 26 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

27 24. This Court has original jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)  
28 because this is a class action in which: (1) there are over 100 members in the proposed class;

1 (2) members of the proposed class have a different citizenship from Defendant; and (3) the claims  
2 of the proposed class members exceed \$5,000,000 in the aggregate.

3 25. The Court has jurisdiction over the federal claim alleged herein pursuant to 28  
4 U.S.C. § 1331, because it arises under the laws of the United States.

5 26. The Court has jurisdiction over the California claims alleged herein pursuant to 28  
6 U.S.C. § 1367, because they form part of the same case or controversy under Article III of the  
7 United States Constitution.

8 27. Alternatively, the Court has jurisdiction over all claims alleged herein pursuant to  
9 28 U.S.C. § 1332, because the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, and is  
10 between citizens of different states.

11 28. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because a substantial portion  
12 of the wrongdoing alleged in this Complaint occurred in California, Defendant is authorized to  
13 do business in California, has sufficient minimum contacts with California, and otherwise  
14 intentionally avails itself of the markets in California and the United States through the  
15 promotion, marketing and sale of merchandise, sufficient to render the exercise of jurisdiction by  
16 this Court permissible under traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

17 29. Because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to these claims  
18 occurred in this District and because the Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant, venue is  
19 proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(a) and (b).

## 20 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

### 21 **A. Identical California And Federal Laws Regulate Food Labeling**

22 30. Food manufacturers are required to comply with identical federal and state laws  
23 and regulations that govern the labeling of food products. First and foremost among these is the  
24 FDCA and its labeling regulations, including those set forth in 21 C.F.R. § 101.

25 31. Pursuant to the Sherman Law, California has expressly adopted the federal  
26 labeling requirements as its own and indicated that “[a]ll food labeling regulations and any  
27 amendments to those regulations adopted pursuant to the federal act, in effect on January 1, 1993,  
28



1 or adopted on or after that date shall be the food regulations of this state.” California Health &  
2 Safety Code § 110100.

3 32. In addition to its blanket adoption of federal labeling requirements, California has  
4 also enacted a number of laws and regulations that adopt and incorporate specific enumerated  
5 federal food laws and regulations. For example, food products are misbranded under California  
6 Health & Safety Code § 110660 if its labeling is false and misleading in one or more particulars;  
7 are misbranded under California Health & Safety Code § 110665 if its labeling fails to conform to  
8 the requirements for nutrient labeling set forth in 21 U.S.C. § 343(q) and regulations adopted  
9 thereto; are misbranded under California Health & Safety Code § 110670 if its labeling fails to  
10 conform with the requirements for nutrient content and health claims set forth in 21 U.S.C. §  
11 343(r) and regulations adopted thereto; are misbranded under California Health & Safety Code §  
12 110705 if words, statements and other information required by the Sherman Law to appear on its  
13 labeling are either missing or not sufficiently conspicuous; are misbranded under California  
14 Health & Safety Code § 110735 if they are represented as having special dietary uses but fail to  
15 bear labeling that adequately informs consumers of its value for that use; and are misbranded  
16 under California Health & Safety Code § 110740 if they contain artificial flavoring, artificial  
17 coloring and chemical preservatives but fail to adequately disclose that fact on its labeling.

18 **B. FDA Enforcement History**

19 33. In recent years the FDA has become increasingly concerned that food  
20 manufacturers were disregarding food labeling regulations. To address this concern, the FDA  
21 elected to take steps to inform the food industry of its concerns and to place the industry on notice  
22 that food labeling compliance was an area of enforcement priority.

23 34. In October 2009, the FDA issued guidance to the food industry that stated in part:

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

1 FDA's research has found that with FOP labeling, people are less  
2 likely to check the Nutrition Facts label on the information panel  
3 of foods (usually, the back or side of the package). It is thus  
4 essential that both the criteria and symbols used in front-of-  
5 package and shelf-labeling systems be nutritionally sound, well-  
6 designed to help consumers make informed and healthy food  
7 choices, and not be false or misleading. The agency is currently  
8 analyzing FOP labels that appear to be misleading. The agency is  
9 also looking for symbols that either expressly or by implication are  
10 nutrient content claims. We are assessing the criteria established  
11 by food manufacturers for such symbols and comparing them to  
12 our regulatory criteria.

13 It is important to note that nutrition-related FOP and shelf labeling,  
14 while currently voluntary, is subject to the provisions of the  
15 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act that prohibit false or  
16 misleading claims and restrict nutrient content claims to those  
17 defined in FDA regulations. Therefore, FOP and shelf labeling that  
18 is used in a manner that is false or misleading misbrands the  
19 products it accompanies. Similarly, a food that bears FOP or shelf  
20 labeling with a nutrient content claim that does not comply with  
21 the regulatory criteria for the claim as defined in Title 21 Code of  
22 Federal Regulations (CFR) 101.13 and Subpart D of Part 101 is  
23 misbranded. We will consider enforcement actions against clear  
24 violations of these established labeling requirements. . .

25 ... Accurate food labeling information can assist consumers in  
26 making healthy nutritional choices. FDA intends to monitor and  
27 evaluate the various FOP labeling systems and their effect on  
28 consumers' food choices and perceptions. FDA recommends that  
manufacturers and distributors of food products that include FOP  
labeling ensure that the label statements are consistent with FDA  
laws and regulations. FDA will proceed with enforcement action  
against products that bear FOP labeling that are explicit or implied  
nutrient content claims and that are not consistent with current  
nutrient content claim requirements. FDA will also proceed with  
enforcement action where such FOP labeling or labeling systems  
are used in a manner that is false or misleading.

35. The 2009 FOP Guidance recommended that "manufacturers and distributors of  
food products that include FOP labeling ensure that the label statements are consistent with FDA  
law and regulations" and specifically advised the food industry that it would "proceed with  
enforcement action where such FOP labeling or labeling systems are used in a manner that is  
false or misleading."

36. Defendants had actual knowledge of the 2009 FOP Guidance.

1           37. Despite the issuance of the 2009 FOP Guidance, Defendants did not remove the  
2 unlawful and misleading food labeling claims from their Misbranded Food Products.

3           38. On March 3, 2010, the FDA issued an "Open Letter to Industry from [FDA  
4 Commissioner] Dr. Hamburg" ("Open Letter"). The Open Letter reiterated the FDA's concern  
5 regarding false and misleading labeling by food manufacturers. In pertinent part, the letter stated:

6           In the early 1990s, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the  
7 food industry worked together to create a uniform national system of  
8 nutrition labeling, which includes the now-iconic Nutrition Facts panel  
9 on most food packages. Our citizens appreciate that effort, and many use  
10 this nutrition information to make food choices. Today, ready access to  
11 reliable information about the calorie and nutrient content of food is even  
12 more important, given the prevalence of obesity and diet-related diseases  
13 in the United States. This need is highlighted by the announcement  
14 recently by the First Lady of a coordinated national campaign to reduce  
15 the incidence of obesity among our citizens, particularly our children.

16           With that in mind, I have made improving the scientific accuracy and  
17 usefulness of food labeling one of my priorities as Commissioner of  
18 Food and Drugs. The latest focus in this area, of course, is on  
19 information provided on the principal display panel of food packages and  
20 commonly referred to as "front-of-pack" labeling. The use of front-of-  
21 pack nutrition symbols and other claims has grown tremendously in  
22 recent years, and it is clear to me as a working mother that such  
23 information can be helpful to busy shoppers who are often pressed for  
24 time in making their food selections. ...

25           As we move forward in those areas, I must note, however, that there is  
26 one area in which more progress is needed. As you will recall, we  
27 recently expressed concern, in a "Dear Industry" letter, about the number  
28 and variety of label claims that may not help consumers distinguish  
healthy food choices from less healthy ones and, indeed, may be false or  
misleading.

          At that time, we urged food manufacturers to examine their product  
labels in the context of the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and  
Cosmetic Act that prohibit false or misleading claims and restrict  
nutrient content claims to those defined in FDA regulations. As a result,  
some manufacturers have revised their labels to bring them into line with  
the goals of the Nutrition Labeling and Education Act of 1990.  
Unfortunately, however, we continue to see products marketed with  
labeling that violates established labeling standards.

          To address these concerns, FDA is notifying a number of manufacturers  
that their labels are in violation of the law and subject to legal

1 proceedings to remove misbranded products from the marketplace.  
2 While the warning letters that convey our regulatory intentions do not  
3 attempt to cover all products with violative labels, they do cover a range  
4 of concerns about how false or misleading labels can undermine the  
intention of Congress to provide consumers with labeling information  
that enables consumers to make informed and healthy food choices.

5 ....

6 These examples and others that are cited in our warning letters are not  
7 indicative of the labeling practices of the food industry as a whole. In  
8 my conversations with industry leaders, I sense a strong desire within the  
9 industry for a level playing field and a commitment to producing safe,  
10 healthy products. That reinforces my belief that FDA should provide as  
11 clear and consistent guidance as possible about food labeling claims and  
nutrition information in general, and specifically about how the growing  
use of front-of-pack calorie and nutrient information can best help  
consumers construct healthy diets.

12 I will close with the hope that these warning letters will give food  
13 manufacturers further clarification about what is expected of them as  
14 they review their current labeling. I am confident that our past  
15 cooperative efforts on nutrition information and claims in food labeling  
16 will continue as we jointly develop a practical, science-based front-of-  
pack regime that we can all use to help consumers choose healthier foods  
and healthier diets.

17 39. Defendants continued to utilize unlawful food labeling claims despite the express  
18 guidance of the FDA in the Open Letter.

19 40. At the same time it issued its Open Letter, the FDA issued a number of warning  
20 letters to companies whose products were misbranded as result of their unlawful labels.

21 41. In its 2010 Open Letter to industry the FDA stated that the agency not only  
22 expected companies that received warning letters to correct their labeling practices but also  
23 anticipated that other firms would examine their food labels to ensure that they are in full  
24 compliance with food labeling requirements and make changes where necessary. Defendant did  
25 not change the labels on its Misbranded Food Products in response to these warning letters.

26 42. In addition to its general guidance about unlawful labeling practices the FDA has  
27 issued specific guidance about the unlawful practices at issue here. For example, in October of  
28

1 2009, the FDA issued Guidance for Industry: Ingredients Declared as Evaporated Cane Juice,  
2 which advised industry and that the term Evaporated Cane Juice was unlawful.

3 43. In addition to its guidance to industry in general, the FDA has repeatedly sent  
4 warning letters to specific companies regarding specific violations such as the ones at issue in this  
5 case.

6 44. In particular the FDA has issued warning letters to at least a half-dozen companies  
7 for utilizing the unlawful term evaporated cane juice and for making natural claim about products  
8 that contained unnatural colors or ingredients.

9 45. Despite the numerous FDA warning letters and the issuance of the 2009 FDA  
10 Guidance on Evaporated Cane Juice and the 2010 Open Letter, Defendant did not remove the  
11 unlawful and misleading food labeling ingredients from its Misbranded Food Products.

12 46. Defendant also continued to ignore the 2009 FOP Guidance which detailed the  
13 FDA's guidance on how to make food labeling claims. Defendant ignored this guidance as well  
14 and continued to utilize unlawful claims on the labels of its Misbranded Food Products. As such,  
15 the Defendant's Misbranded Food Products continue to run afoul of 2009 FOP Guidance as well  
16 as federal and California law.

17 47. Despite the FDA's numerous warnings to industry, Defendant has continued to sell  
18 products bearing unlawful food labeling claims without meeting the requirements to make them.

19 48. Plaintiff did not know, and had no reason to know, that the Defendant's  
20 Misbranded Food Products were misbranded and bore food labeling claims despite failing to meet  
21 the requirements to make those food labeling claims.

22 **C. Defendant's Unlawful and Misleading Evaporated Cane Juice Claims**

23  
24 **1. The Standard Of Identity For Yogurt Does Not Permit The Use Of  
Evaporated Cane Juice As An Ingredient**

25 49. As a matter of law it is unlawful to use Evaporated Cane Juice as an ingredient in  
26 yogurt.

1           50. The FDA's Standard of Identity for yogurt (21 CFR § 131.200) prohibits the  
 2 inclusion of any nutritive carbohydrate sweeteners not listed in the standard of identity.  
 3 Evaporated Cane Juice is not included on the list of allowed sweeteners which is limited to:

4           "sugar (sucrose), beet or cane; invert sugar (in paste or sirup form); brown sugar; refiner's  
 5 sirup; molasses (other than blackstrap); high fructose corn sirup; fructose; fructose sirup;  
 6 maltose; maltose sirup, dried maltose sirup; malt extract, dried malt extract; malt sirup,  
 7 dried malt sirup; honey; maple sugar; or any of the sweeteners listed in part 168 of this  
 8 chapter [21], except table sirup."

9           51. As discussed below, Evaporated Cane Juice is an unlawful term as it is merely a  
 10 false and misleading name for another food or ingredient that has a common or usual name,  
 11 namely sugar or dried cane syrup. However, to the extent that Evaporated Cane Juice is  
 12 considered to be the common or usual name of a type of sweetener, that sweetener is not  
 13 authorized for use in yogurt and if included in violation of the prohibition to do so, its presence  
 14 would preclude the product it is added to from being called or sold as yogurt.

15           **2. Evaporated Cane Juice Is An Unlawful Term Prohibited From Use On A**  
 16 **Product Label Or In Its Ingredient List**

17           52. 21 C.F.R. §§ 101.3 and 102.5, which have been adopted by California, prohibit  
 18 manufacturers from referring to foods by anything other than their common and usual names. 21  
 19 C.F.R. § 101.4, which has been adopted by California, prohibits manufacturers from referring to  
 20 ingredients by anything other than their common and usual names. Defendant has violated these  
 21 provisions by failing to use the common or usual name for ingredients mandated by law, or  
 22 because the products lacked the ingredient entirely. In particular, the Defendant used the unlawful  
 23 term Evaporated Cane Juice on its products in violation of numerous labeling regulations designed  
 24 to protect consumers from misleading labeling practices. The Defendant's practices also violated  
 25 express FDA policies.

26           53. For example, Defendant violated the FDA's express policy with respect to the  
 27 listing of certain ingredients such as dried sugar cane syrup. As stated by the FDA, "FDA's  
 28 current policy is that sweeteners derived from sugar cane syrup should not be declared as  
 'evaporated cane juice' because that term falsely suggests that the sweeteners are juice."



1           54.     The FDA “considers such representations to be false and misleading under section  
2 403(a)(1) of the Act (21 U.S.C. 343(a)(1) because they fail to reveal the basic nature of the food  
3 and its characterizing properties (*i.e.*, that the ingredients are sugars or syrups) as required by 21  
4 U.S.C. 102.5.”

5           55.     In October of 2009, the FDA issued Guidance for Industry: Ingredients Declared  
6 as Evaporated Cane Juice, which advised industry and that:

7           “...the term “evaporated cane juice” has started to appear as an ingredient on food  
8 labels, most commonly to declare the presence of sweeteners derived from sugar  
9 cane syrup. However, FDA’s current policy is that sweeteners derived from sugar  
10 cane syrup should not be declared as “evaporated cane juice” because that term  
11 falsely suggests that the sweeteners are juice...

12           “Juice” is defined by 21 CFR 120.1(a) as “the aqueous liquid expressed or  
13 extracted from one or more fruits or vegetables, purees of the edible portions of  
14 one or more fruits or vegetables, or any concentrates of such liquid or puree.” ...

15           “As provided in 21 CFR 101.4(a)(1), “Ingredients required to be declared on the  
16 label or labeling of a food . . . shall be listed by common or usual name . . . .” The  
17 common or usual name for an ingredient is the name established by common  
18 usage or by regulation (21 CFR 102.5(d)). The common or usual name must  
19 accurately describe the basic nature of the food or its characterizing properties or  
20 ingredients, and may not be “confusingly similar to the name of any other food  
21 that is not reasonably encompassed within the same name” (21 CFR 102.5(a))...

22           “Sugar cane products with common or usual names defined by regulation are  
23 sugar (21 CFR 101.4(b)(20)) and cane sirup (alternatively spelled “syrup”) (21  
24 CFR 168.130). Other sugar cane products have common or usual names  
25 established by common usage (e.g., molasses, raw sugar, brown sugar, turbinado  
26 sugar, muscovado sugar, and demerara sugar)...

27           “The intent of this draft guidance is to advise the regulated industry of FDA’s  
28 view that the term “evaporated cane juice” is not the common or usual name of  
any type of sweetener, including dried cane syrup. Because cane syrup has a  
standard of identity defined by regulation in 21 CFR 168.130, the common or  
usual name for the solid or dried form of cane syrup is “dried cane syrup.”...

“Sweeteners derived from sugar cane syrup should not be listed in the ingredient  
declaration by names which suggest that the ingredients are juice, such as  
“evaporated cane juice.” FDA considers such representations to be false and  
misleading under section 403(a)(1) of the Act (21 U.S.C. 343(a)(1)) because they  
fail to reveal the basic nature of the food and its characterizing properties (*i.e.*,  
that the ingredients are sugars or syrups) as required by 21 CFR 102.5.  
Furthermore, sweeteners derived from sugar cane syrup are not juice and should

1 not be included in the percentage juice declaration on the labels of beverages that  
2 are represented to contain fruit or vegetable juice (see 21 CFR 101.30).

3 56. Despite the issuance of the 2009 FDA Guidance, Defendant did not remove the  
4 unlawful and misleading food labeling ingredients from its Misbranded Food Products.

5 57. Defendant often list ingredients with unlawful and misleading names. The  
6 Nutrition Facts label of the Misbranded Food Products list "evaporated cane juice" as an  
7 ingredient. According to the FDA, "'evaporated cane juice' is not the common or usual name of  
8 any type of sweetener, including dried cane syrup." The FDA provides that "cane syrup has a  
9 standard of identity defined by regulation in 21 CFR 168.130, the common or usual name for the  
10 solid or dried form of cane syrup is 'dried cane syrup.'"

11 58. Various FDA warning letters have made it clear that the use of the term evaporated  
12 cane juice is unlawful because the term does not represent the common or usual name of a food or  
13 ingredient. These warning letters indicate that foods that bear labels that contain the term  
14 evaporated cane juice are misbranded.

15 59. Such products mislead consumers into paying a premium price for inferior or  
16 undesirable ingredients or for products that contain ingredients not listed on the label.

17 60. Defendant's false, unlawful and misleading ingredient listings render products  
18 misbranded under federal and California law. Misbranded products cannot be legally sold and are  
19 legally worthless. Plaintiff and the class paid a premium price for the Misbranded Food Products.

20 61. Defendant has also made the same illegal claims on its websites and advertising in  
21 violation of federal and California law.

22 **D. Defendant Makes Unlawful "All Natural Ingredients" and/or "Only Natural**  
23 **Ingredients" Claims**

24 62. Section 403(a) of the FDCA and California's Sherman Law prohibit food  
25 manufacturers from using labels that contain the terms "natural" and "all natural" when they  
26 contain artificial ingredients and flavorings, artificial coloring and chemical preservatives.

27 63. For example, 21 C.F.R. § 70.3(f) makes clear that "where a food substance such as  
28 beet juice is deliberately used as a color, as in pink lemonade, it is a color additive." Similarly,

1 any coloring or preservative can preclude the use of the term “natural” even if the coloring or  
2 preservative is derived from natural sources. Further, the FDA distinguishes between natural and  
3 artificial flavors in 21 C.F.R. § 101.22.

4 64. The FDA has also repeatedly affirmed its policy regarding the use of the term  
5 “natural” as meaning that nothing artificial or synthetic (including all color additives regardless of  
6 source) has been included in, or has been added to, a food that would not normally be expected to  
7 be in the food.

8 65. The FDA has sent out numerous warning letters concerning this issue. Defendant  
9 is aware of these FDA warning letters.

10 66. In its rule-making and warning letters to manufacturers, the FDA has repeatedly  
11 stated its policy to restrict the use of the term “natural” in connection with added color, synthetic  
12 substances and flavors as provided in 21 C.F.R. § 101.22.

13 67. The FDA considers use of the term “natural” on a food label to be truthful and  
14 non-misleading when “nothing artificial or synthetic...has been included in, or has been added to,  
15 a food that would not normally be expected to be in the food.” See 58 FR 2302, 2407, January 6,  
16 1993.

17 68. Any coloring or preservative can preclude the use of the term “natural” even if the  
18 coloring or preservative is derived from natural sources. Further, the FDA distinguishes between  
19 natural and artificial flavors in 21 C.F.R. § 101.22.

20 69. Defendant’s “all natural” and “only natural” labeling practices violate FDA  
21 Compliance Guide CPG Sec. 587.100, which states: [t]he use of the words “food color added,”  
22 “natural color,” or similar words containing the term “food” or “natural” may be erroneously  
23 interpreted to mean the color is a naturally occurring constituent in the food. Since all added  
24 colors result in an artificially colored food, we would object to the declaration of any added color  
25 as “food” or “natural.” Likewise, California Health & Safety Code § 110740 prohibits the use of  
26 artificial flavoring, artificial coloring and chemical preservatives unless those ingredients are  
27 adequately disclosed on the labeling.  
28

1           70. Defendant has unlawfully labeled a number of its food products as being “all  
2 natural” or “only natural” when they actually contain artificial ingredients and flavorings,  
3 artificial coloring and chemical preservatives.

4           71. For example, a number of Chobani’s Greek Yogurt flavors are unlawfully labeled  
5 as “all natural” and/or “only natural” despite being artificially colored and/or containing unnatural  
6 ingredients including, by way of example, the pomegranate flavor which artificially colors the  
7 yogurt product with “fruit or vegetable juice concentrate.”

8           72. Defendant has unlawfully labeled a number of its food products as being “All  
9 Natural ingredients” and/or “Only natural ingredients” when they actually contain artificial  
10 ingredients and flavorings, artificial coloring and/or chemical preservatives. These products  
11 include the Chobani Greek Yogurt products listed above.

12           73. Defendant has also made the same illegal claims on its websites and advertising in  
13 violation of federal and California law.

14           74. A reasonable consumer would expect that when Defendant labels its products as  
15 “All Natural Ingredients,” and/or “Only Natural Ingredients” the product’s ingredients are  
16 “natural” as defined by the federal government and its agencies. A reasonable consumer would  
17 also expect that when Defendant labels its products as “All Natural and “Only Natural” the  
18 product ingredients are “natural” under the common use of that word. A reasonable consumer  
19 would understand that “All Natural Ingredients” and/or “Only Natural Ingredients” products do  
20 not contain synthetic, artificial, or excessively processed ingredients.

21           75. Consumers are thus misled into purchasing Defendant’s products with synthetic or  
22 unnatural ingredients that are not “All Natural Ingredients” and/or “Only Natural Ingredients” as  
23 falsely represented on its labeling. Defendant’s products in this respect are misbranded under  
24 federal and California law. Misbranded products cannot be legally sold and are legally worthless.  
25 Plaintiff and the Class paid a premium price for the Misbranded Food Products.

26           **E. Defendant has Violated California Law**

27           76. Defendant has violated California Health & Safety Code § 110390 which makes it  
28 unlawful to disseminate false or misleading food advertisements that include statements on

1 products and product packaging or labeling or any other medium used to directly or indirectly  
2 induce the purchase of a food product.

3 77. Defendant has violated California Health & Safety Code § 110395 which makes it  
4 unlawful to manufacture, sell, deliver, hold or offer to sell any falsely advertised food.

5 78. Defendant has violated California Health & Safety Code §§ 110398 and 110400  
6 which make it unlawful to advertise misbranded food or to deliver or proffer for delivery any  
7 food that has been falsely advertised.

8 79. Defendant has violated California Health & Safety Code § 110760 which makes it  
9 unlawful for any person to manufacture, sell, deliver, hold, or offer for sale any food that is  
10 misbranded.

11 80. Defendant's Misbranded Food Products are misbranded under California Health &  
12 Safety Code § 110755 because they purport to be or are represented for special dietary uses, and  
13 its labels fail to bear such information concerning its vitamin, mineral, and other dietary  
14 properties as the Secretary determines to be, and by regulations prescribes as, necessary in order  
15 fully to inform purchasers as to its value for such uses.

16 81. Defendant has violated California Health & Safety Code § 110765 which makes it  
17 unlawful for any person to misbrand any food.

18 82. Defendant has violated California Health & Safety Code § 110770 which makes it  
19 unlawful for any person to receive in commerce any food that is misbranded or to deliver or  
20 proffer for deliver any such food.

21 **F. Plaintiff Purchased Defendant's Misbranded Food Products**

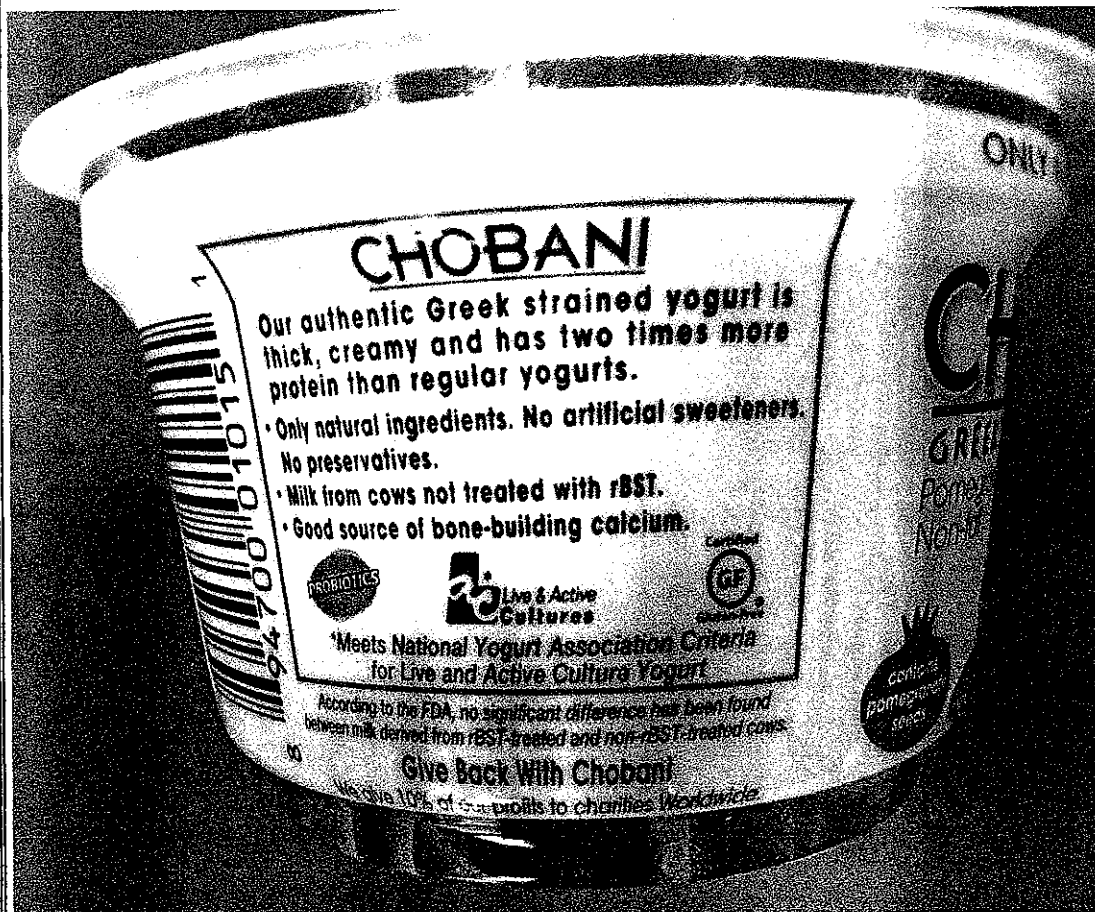
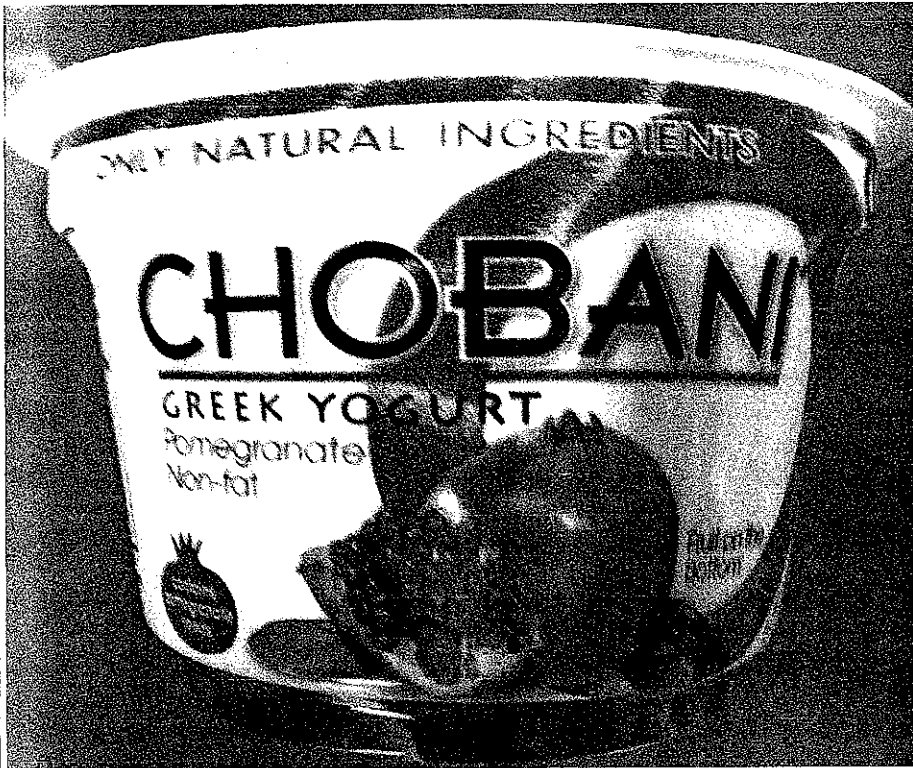
22 83. Plaintiff cares about the nutritional content of food and seeks to maintain a healthy  
23 diet.

24 84. Plaintiff purchased Defendant's Misbranded Food Products, including Chobani's  
25 Greek Yogurt Products, including but not limited to the pomegranate Flavor, with the listed  
26 ingredient "evaporated cane juice" on occasions during the Class Period.

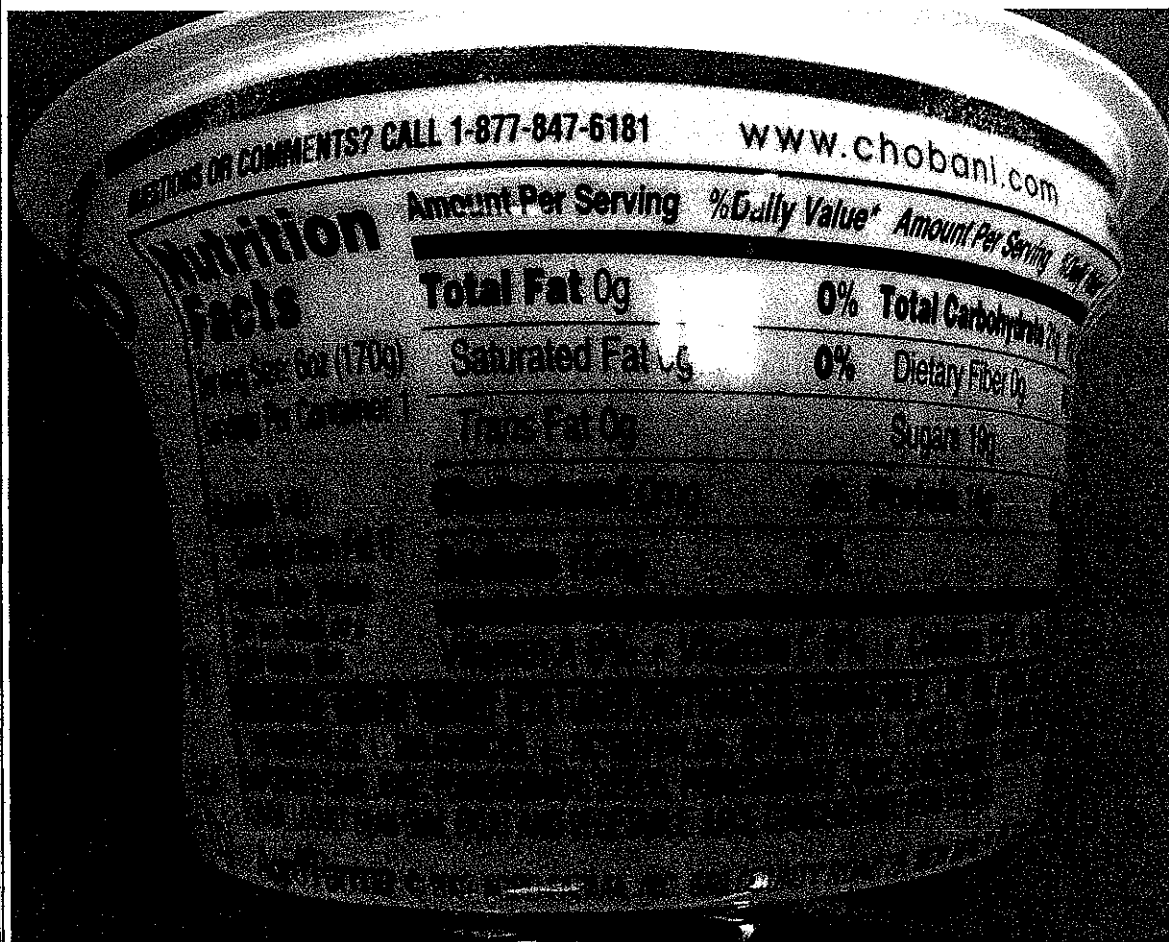
27 85. Plaintiff purchased the following of Defendant's Misbranded Food Products:  
28



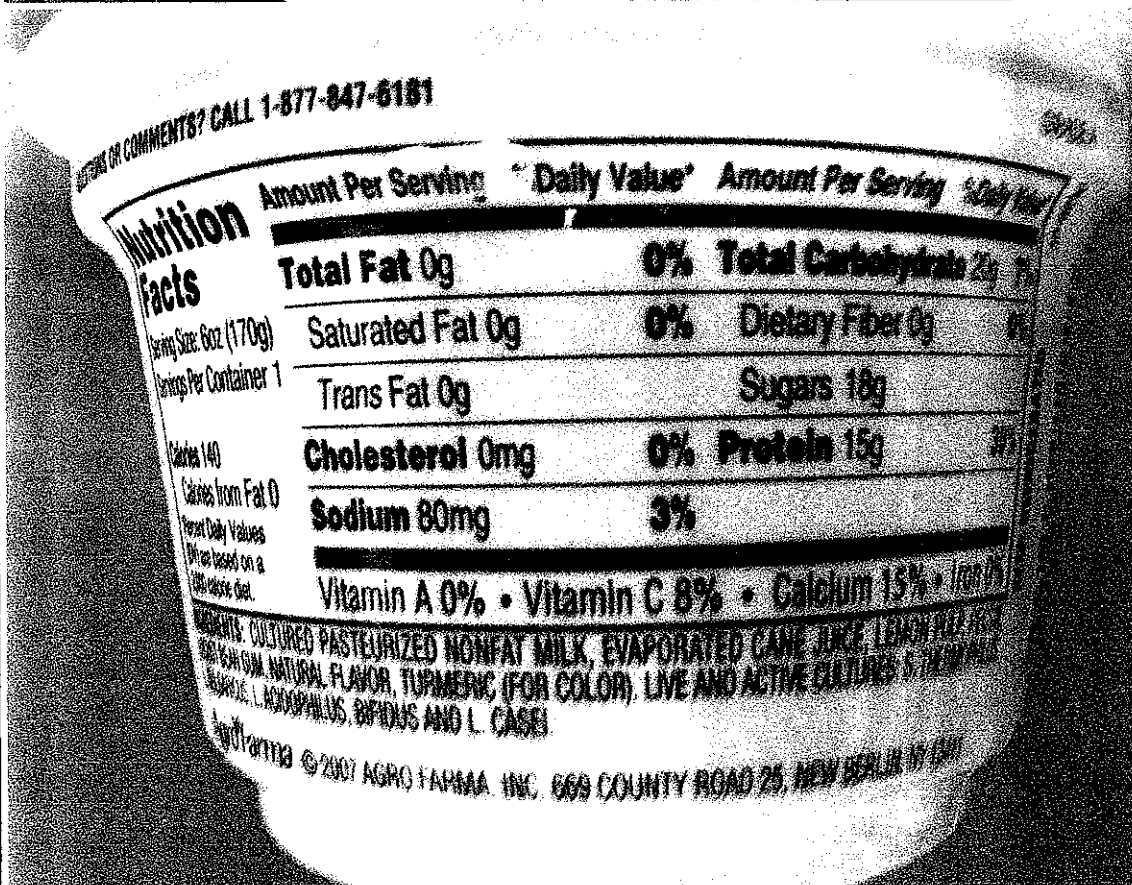
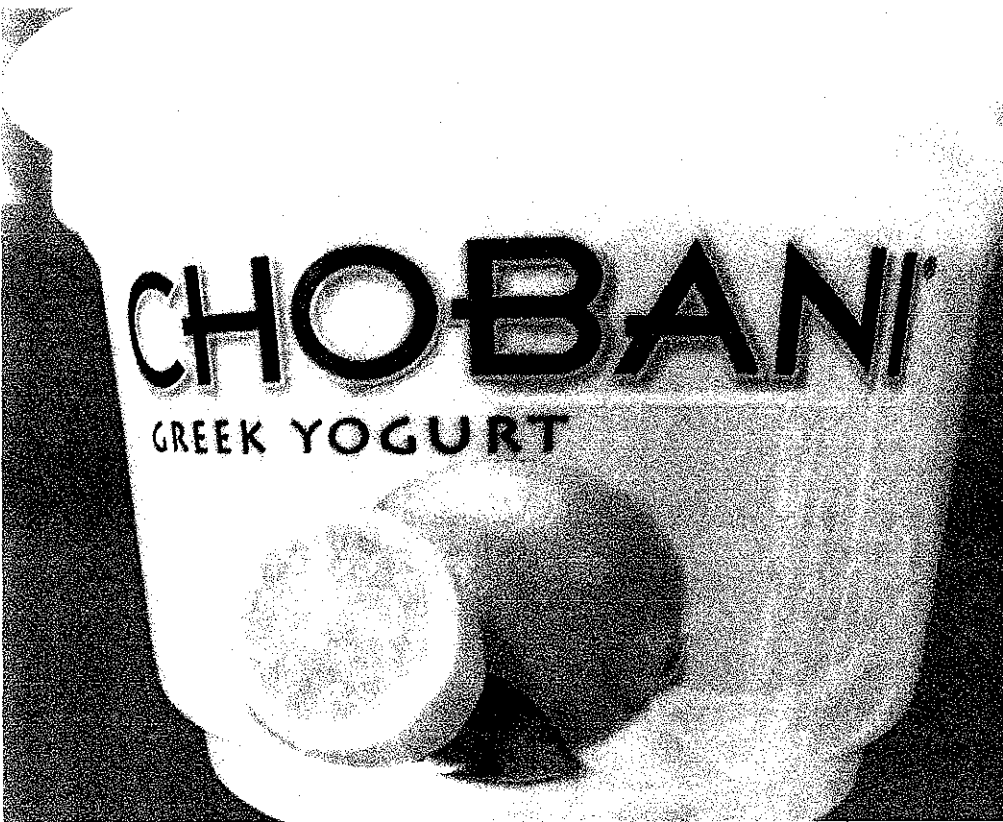
1 Chobani Greek Yogurt, Pomegranate (Non-fat)



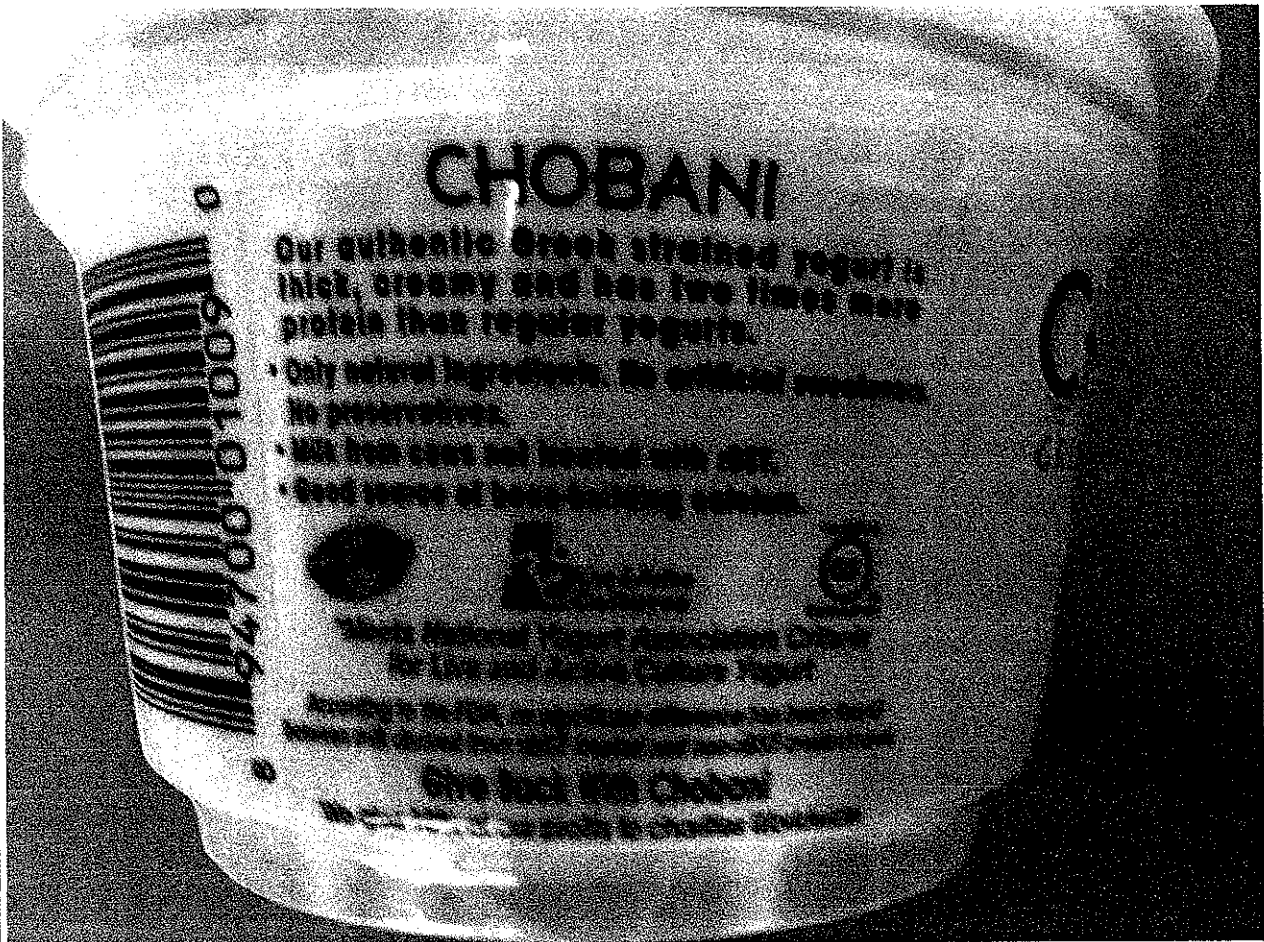




Chobani Greek Yogurt, Lemon (Non-fat)







86. Plaintiff read the labels on Defendant's Misbranded Food Products, including the Ingredient, "Evaporated Cane Juice" and the "All Natural Ingredients" and/or "Only Natural Ingredients" claims on the labels, before purchasing them.

87. Plaintiff relied on Defendant's package labeling including the Ingredient, "Evaporated Cane Juice" and "All Natural Ingredients" and/or "Only Natural Ingredients" claims, and based and justified the decision to purchase Defendant's products in substantial part on Defendant's package labeling including the Ingredient, "Evaporated Cane Juice" and "All Natural Ingredients" and/or "Only Natural Ingredients" claims.

88. At point of sale, Plaintiff did not know, and had no reason to know, that Defendant's products were misbranded as set forth herein, and would not have bought the products had she known the truth about them.

89. At point of sale, Plaintiff did not know, and had no reason to know, that Defendant's "Evaporated Cane Juice" and "All Natural Ingredients" and/or "Only Natural

Ingredients” claims were unlawful and unauthorized as set forth herein, and would not have bought the products had she known the truth about them.

90. As a result of Defendant’s unlawful “Evaporated Cane Juice” and “All Natural Ingredients” and/or “Only Natural Ingredients” claims, Plaintiff and thousands of others in California and throughout the United States purchased the Misbranded Food Products at issue.

91. Defendant’s labeling, advertising and marketing as alleged herein are false and misleading and were designed to increase sales of the products at issue. Defendant’s misrepresentations are part of an extensive labeling, advertising and marketing campaign, and a reasonable person would attach importance to Defendant’s misrepresentations in determining whether to purchase the products at issue.

92. A reasonable person would also attach importance to whether Defendant’s products were legally salable, and capable of legal possession, and to Defendant’s representations about these issues in determining whether to purchase the products at issue. Plaintiff would not have purchased Defendant’s Misbranded Food Products had she known they were not capable of being legally sold or held.

#### **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

93. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Procedure 23(b)(2) and 23(b)(3) on behalf of the following class:

All persons in the state of California who, within the last four years, purchased Defendant’s Greek Yogurt products: (1) labeled with the ingredient, “Evaporated Cane Juice” and /or (2) labeled “All Natural Ingredients” and/or “Only Natural Ingredients” but which actually contain artificial ingredients, flavorings, coloring, and/or chemical preservatives (the “Class”).

94. The following persons are expressly excluded from the Class: (1) Defendant and its subsidiaries and affiliates; (2) all persons who make a timely election to be excluded from the proposed Class; (3) governmental entities; and (4) the Court to which this case is assigned and its staff.

95. This action can be maintained as a class action because there is a well-defined community of interest in the litigation and the proposed Class is easily ascertainable.

1           96.    Numerosity: Based upon Defendant's publicly available sales data with respect to  
 2 the misbranded products at issue, it is estimated that the Class numbers in the thousands, and that  
 3 joinder of all Class members is impracticable.

4           97.    Common Questions Predominate: This action involves common questions of law  
 5 and fact applicable to each Class member that predominate over questions that affect only  
 6 individual Class members. Thus, proof of a common set of facts will establish the right of each  
 7 Class member to recover. Questions of law and fact common to each Class member include, just  
 8 for example:

- 9           a.    Whether Defendant engaged in unlawful, unfair or deceptive  
 10 business practices by failing to properly package and label its  
 Misbranded Food Products sold to consumers;
- 11           b.    Whether the food products at issue were misbranded as a matter of  
 12 law;
- 13           c.    Whether Defendant made unlawful and misleading ingredient and  
 natural claims with respect to its food products sold to consumers;
- 14           d.    Whether Defendant violated California Bus. & Prof. Code §  
 15 17200, *et seq.*, California Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500, *et seq.*, the  
 Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code §1750, *et seq.*,  
 16 California Civ. Code § 1790, *et seq.*, 15 U.S.C. § 2301, *et seq.*, and  
 the Sherman Law;
- 17           e.    Whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to equitable and/or  
 18 injunctive relief;
- 19           f.    Whether Defendant's unlawful, unfair and/or deceptive practices  
 harmed Plaintiff and the Class; and
- 20           g.    Whether Defendant were unjustly enriched by its deceptive  
 21 practices.

22           98.    Typicality: Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class because  
 23 Plaintiff bought Defendant's Misbranded Food Products during the Class Period. Defendant's  
 24 unlawful, unfair and/or fraudulent actions concern the same business practices described herein  
 25 irrespective of where they occurred or were experienced. Plaintiff and the Class sustained similar  
 26 injuries arising out of Defendant's conduct in violation of California law. The injuries of each  
 27 member of the Class were caused directly by Defendant's wrongful conduct. In addition, the  
 28 factual underpinning of Defendant's misconduct is common to all Class members and represents

1 a common thread of misconduct resulting in injury to all members of the Class. Plaintiff's claims  
2 arise from the same practices and course of conduct that give rise to the claims of the Class  
3 members and are based on the same legal theories.

4 99. Adequacy: Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class.  
5 Neither Plaintiff nor Plaintiff's counsel have any interests that conflict with or are antagonistic to  
6 the interests of the Class members. Plaintiff has retained highly competent and experienced class  
7 action attorneys to represent her interests and those of the members of the Class. Plaintiff and  
8 Plaintiff's counsel have the necessary financial resources to adequately and vigorously litigate  
9 this class action, and Plaintiff and counsel are aware of their fiduciary responsibilities to the Class  
10 members and will diligently discharge those duties by vigorously seeking the maximum possible  
11 recovery for the Class.

12 100. Superiority: There is no plain, speedy or adequate remedy other than by  
13 maintenance of this class action. The prosecution of individual remedies by members of the  
14 Class will tend to establish inconsistent standards of conduct for Defendant and result in the  
15 impairment of Class members' rights and the disposition of their interests through actions to  
16 which they were not parties. Class action treatment will permit a large number of similarly  
17 situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently  
18 and without the unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions  
19 would engender. Further, as the damages suffered by individual members of the Class may be  
20 relatively small, the expense and burden of individual litigation would make it difficult or  
21 impossible for individual members of the Class to redress the wrongs done to them, while an  
22 important public interest will be served by addressing the matter as a class action. Class  
23 treatment of common questions of law and fact would also be superior to multiple individual  
24 actions or piecemeal litigation in that class treatment will conserve the resources of the Court and  
25 the litigants, and will promote consistency and efficiency of adjudication.

26 101. The prerequisites to maintaining a class action for injunctive or equitable relief  
27 pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2) are met as Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds  
28



generally applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive or equitable relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

102. The prerequisites to maintaining a class action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3) are met as questions of law or fact common to class members predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, and a class action is superior to other available methods for fairly and efficiently adjudicating the controversy.

103. Plaintiff and Plaintiff's counsel are unaware of any difficulties that are likely to be encountered in the management of this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action.

### **CAUSES OF ACTION**

#### **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### **Business and Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.***

#### **Unlawful Business Acts and Practices**

104. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each allegation set forth above.

105. Defendant's conduct constitutes unlawful business acts and practices.

106. Defendant sold Misbranded Food Products in California and throughout the United States during the Class Period.

107. Defendant is a corporation and, therefore, each is a "person" within the meaning of the Sherman Law.

108. Defendant's business practices are unlawful under § 17200, *et seq.* by virtue of Defendant's violations of the advertising provisions of Article 3 of the Sherman Law and the misbranded food provisions of Article 6 of the Sherman Law.

109. Defendant's business practices are unlawful under § 17200, *et seq.* by virtue of Defendant's violations of § 17500, *et seq.*, which forbids untrue and misleading advertising.

110. Defendant's business practices are unlawful under § 17200, *et seq.* by virtue of Defendant's violations of the Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code § 1750, *et seq.*

111. Defendant sold Plaintiff and the Class Misbranded Food Products that were not capable of being sold, or held legally and which were legally worthless. Plaintiff and the Class paid a premium price for the Misbranded Food Products.

112. As a result of Defendant's illegal business practices, Plaintiff and the Class, pursuant to Business and Professions Code § 17203, are entitled to an order enjoining such future conduct and such other orders and judgments which may be necessary to disgorge Defendant's ill-gotten gains and to restore to any Class Member any money paid for the Misbranded Food Products.

113. Defendant's unlawful business acts present a threat and reasonable continued likelihood of injury to Plaintiff and the Class.

114. As a result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff and the Class, pursuant to Business and Professions Code § 17203, are entitled to an order enjoining such future conduct by Defendant, and such other orders and judgments which may be necessary to disgorge Defendant's ill-gotten gains and restore any money paid for Defendant's Misbranded Food Products by Plaintiff and the Class.

**SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**Business and Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.***  
**Unfair Business Acts and Practices**

115. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each allegation set forth above.

116. Defendant's conduct as set forth herein constitutes unfair business acts and practices.

117. Defendant sold Misbranded Food Products in California and throughout the United States during the Class Period.

118. Plaintiff and members of the Class suffered a substantial injury by virtue of buying Defendant's Misbranded Food Products that they would not have purchased absent Defendant's illegal conduct.

119. Defendant's deceptive marketing, advertising, packaging and labeling of its Misbranded Food Products and its sale of unsalable misbranded products that were illegal to

1 possess was of no benefit to consumers, and the harm to consumers and competition is  
2 substantial.

3 120. Defendant sold Plaintiff and the Class Misbranded Food Products that were not  
4 capable of being legally sold or held and that were legally worthless. Plaintiff and the Class paid  
5 a premium price for the Misbranded Food Products.

6 121. Plaintiff and the Class who purchased Defendant's Misbranded Food Products had  
7 no way of reasonably knowing that the products were misbranded and were not properly  
8 marketed, advertised, packaged and labeled, and thus could not have reasonably avoided the  
9 injury each of them suffered.

10 122. The consequences of Defendant's conduct as set forth herein outweigh any  
11 justification, motive or reason therefor. Defendant's conduct is and continues to be immoral,  
12 unethical, unscrupulous, contrary to public policy, and is substantially injurious to Plaintiff and  
13 the Class.

14 123. As a result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff and the Class, pursuant to Business  
15 and Professions Code § 17203, are entitled to an order enjoining such future conduct by  
16 Defendant, and such other orders and judgments which may be necessary to disgorge Defendant's  
17 ill-gotten gains and restore any money paid for Defendant's Misbranded Food Products by  
18 Plaintiff and the Class.

19 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**  
20 **Business and Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.***  
21 **Fraudulent Business Acts and Practices**

22 124. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each allegation set forth above.

23 125. Defendant's conduct as set forth herein constitutes fraudulent business practices  
24 under California Business and Professions Code sections § 17200, *et seq.*

25 126. Defendant sold Misbranded Food Products in California and throughout the United  
26 States during the Class Period.

27 127. Defendant's misleading marketing, advertising, packaging and labeling of the  
28 Misbranded Food Products and misrepresentation that the products were salable, capable of

1 possession and not misbranded were likely to deceive reasonable consumers, and in fact, Plaintiff  
2 and members of the Class were deceived. Defendant has engaged in fraudulent business acts and  
3 practices.

4 128. Defendant's fraud and deception caused Plaintiff and the Class to purchase  
5 Defendant's Misbranded Food Products that they would otherwise not have purchased had they  
6 known the true nature of those products.

7 129. Defendant sold Plaintiff and the Class Misbranded Food Products that were not  
8 capable of being sold or held legally and that were legally worthless. Plaintiff and the Class paid  
9 a premium price for the Misbranded Food Products.

10 130. As a result of Defendant's conduct as set forth herein, Plaintiff and the Class,  
11 pursuant to Business and Professions Code § 17203, are entitled to an order enjoining such future  
12 conduct by Defendant, and such other orders and judgments which may be necessary to disgorge  
13 Defendant's ill-gotten gains and restore any money paid for Defendant's Misbranded Food  
14 Products by Plaintiff and the Class.

15 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
16 **Business and Professions Code § 17500, *et seq.***  
17 **Misleading and Deceptive Advertising**

18 131. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each allegation set forth above.

19 132. Plaintiff asserts this cause of action for violations of California Business and  
20 Professions Code § 17500, *et seq.* for misleading and deceptive advertising against Defendant.

21 133. Defendant sold Misbranded Food Products in California and throughout the United  
22 States during the Class Period.

23 134. Defendant engaged in a scheme of offering Defendant's Misbranded Food  
24 Products for sale to Plaintiff and members of the Class by way of, *inter alia*, product packaging  
25 and labeling, and other promotional materials. These materials misrepresented and/or omitted the  
26 true contents and nature of Defendant's Misbranded Food Products. Defendant's advertisements  
27 and inducements were made within California and throughout the United States and come within  
28 the definition of advertising as contained in Business and Professions Code §17500, *et seq.* in that

1 such product packaging and labeling, and promotional materials were intended as inducements to  
2 purchase Defendant's Misbranded Food Products and are statements disseminated by Defendant  
3 to Plaintiff and the Class that were intended to reach members of the Class. Defendant knew, or  
4 in the exercise of reasonable care should have known, that these statements were misleading and  
5 deceptive as set forth herein.

6 135. In furtherance of its plan and scheme, Defendant prepared and distributed within  
7 California and nationwide via product packaging and labeling, and other promotional materials,  
8 statements that misleadingly and deceptively represented the composition and the nature of  
9 Defendant's Misbranded Food Products. Plaintiff and the Class necessarily and reasonably relied  
10 on Defendant's materials, and were the intended targets of such representations.

11 136. Defendant's conduct in disseminating misleading and deceptive statements in  
12 California and nationwide to Plaintiff and the Class was and is likely to deceive reasonable  
13 consumers by obfuscating the true composition and nature of Defendant's Misbranded Food  
14 Products in violation of the "misleading prong" of California Business and Professions Code §  
15 17500, *et seq.*

16 137. As a result of Defendant's violations of the "misleading prong" of California  
17 Business and Professions Code § 17500, *et seq.*, Defendant has been unjustly enriched at the  
18 expense of Plaintiff and the Class. Misbranded products cannot be legally sold or held and are  
19 legally worthless. Plaintiff and the Class paid a premium price for the Misbranded Food  
20 Products.

21 138. Plaintiff and the Class, pursuant to Business and Professions Code § 17535, are  
22 entitled to an order enjoining such future conduct by Defendant, and such other orders and  
23 judgments which may be necessary to disgorge Defendant's ill-gotten gains and restore any  
24 money paid for Defendant's Misbranded Food Products by Plaintiff and the Class.

25 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
26 **Business and Professions Code § 17500, *et seq.***  
27 **Untrue Advertising**

28 139. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each allegation set forth above.

1           140. Plaintiff asserts this cause of action against Defendant for violations of California  
2 Business and Professions Code § 17500, *et seq.*, regarding untrue advertising.

3           141. Defendant sold Misbranded Food Products in California and throughout the United  
4 States during the Class Period.

5           142. Defendant engaged in a scheme of offering Defendant's Misbranded Food  
6 Products for sale to Plaintiff and the Class by way of product packaging and labeling, and other  
7 promotional materials. These materials misrepresented and/or omitted the true contents and  
8 nature of Defendant's Misbranded Food Products. Defendant's advertisements and inducements  
9 were made in California and throughout the United States and come within the definition of  
10 advertising as contained in Business and Professions Code §17500, *et seq.* in that the product  
11 packaging and labeling, and promotional materials were intended as inducements to purchase  
12 Defendant's Misbranded Food Products, and are statements disseminated by Defendant to  
13 Plaintiff and the Class. Defendant knew, or in the exercise of reasonable care should have  
14 known, that these statements were untrue.

15           143. In furtherance of its plan and scheme, Defendant prepared and distributed in  
16 California and nationwide via product packaging and labeling, and other promotional materials,  
17 statements that falsely advertise the composition of Defendant's Misbranded Food Products, and  
18 falsely misrepresented the nature of those products. Plaintiff and the Class were the intended  
19 targets of such representations and would reasonably be deceived by Defendant's materials.

20           144. Defendant's conduct in disseminating untrue advertising throughout California  
21 deceived Plaintiff and members of the Class by obfuscating the contents, nature and quality of  
22 Defendant's Misbranded Food Products in violation of the "untrue prong" of California Business  
23 and Professions Code § 17500.

24           145. As a result of Defendant's violations of the "untrue prong" of California Business  
25 and Professions Code § 17500, *et seq.*, Defendant has been unjustly enriched at the expense of  
26 Plaintiff and the Class. Misbranded products cannot be legally sold or held and are legally  
27 worthless. Plaintiff and the Class paid a premium price for the Misbranded Food Products.  
28



1           146. Plaintiff and the Class, pursuant to Business and Professions Code § 17535, are  
2 entitled to an order enjoining such future conduct by Defendant, and such other orders and  
3 judgments which may be necessary to disgorge Defendant's ill-gotten gains and restore any  
4 money paid for Defendant's Misbranded Food Products by Plaintiff and the Class.

5  
6                                   **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
7                                   **Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code §1750, et seq.**

8           147. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each allegation set forth above.

9           148. This cause of action is brought pursuant to the CLRA. This cause of action does  
10 not currently seek monetary damages and is limited solely to injunctive relief. Plaintiff intends to  
11 amend this Complaint to seek damages in accordance with the CLRA after providing Defendant  
12 with notice pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1782.

13           149. At the time of any amendment seeking damages under the CLRA, Plaintiff will  
14 demonstrate that the violations of the CLRA by Defendant were willful, oppressive and  
15 fraudulent, thus supporting an award of punitive damages.

16           150. Consequently, Plaintiff and the Class will be entitled to actual and punitive  
17 damages against Defendant for its violations of the CLRA. In addition, pursuant to Cal. Civ.  
18 Code § 1782(a)(2), Plaintiff and the Class will be entitled to an order enjoining the above-  
19 described acts and practices, providing restitution to Plaintiff and the Class, ordering payment of  
20 costs and attorneys' fees, and any other relief deemed appropriate and proper by the Court  
21 pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1780.

22           151. Defendant's actions, representations and conduct have violated, and continue to  
23 violate the CLRA, because they extend to transactions that are intended to result, or which have  
24 resulted, in the sale of goods to consumers.

25           152. Defendant sold Misbranded Food Products in California and throughout the United  
26 States during the Class Period.

27           153. Plaintiff and members of the Class are "consumers" as that term is defined by the  
28 CLRA in Cal. Civ. Code §1761(d).



161. As a result of Defendant's fraudulent and misleading labeling, advertising, marketing and sales of Defendant's Misbranded Food Products Defendant was enriched at the expense of Plaintiff and the Class.

162. Defendant sold Misbranded Food Products to Plaintiff and the Class that were not capable of being sold or held legally and which were legally worthless. Plaintiff and the Class paid a premium price for the Misbranded Food Products. It would be against equity and good conscience to permit Defendant to retain the ill-gotten benefits it received from Plaintiff and the Class, in light of the fact that the products were not what Defendant purported them to be. Thus, it would be unjust and inequitable for Defendant to retain the benefit without restitution to Plaintiff and the Class of all monies paid to Defendant for the products at issue.

163. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's actions, Plaintiff and the Class have suffered damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

**EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**Beverly-Song Act (Cal. Civ. Code § 1790, et seq.)**

164. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each allegation set forth above.

165. Plaintiff and members of the Class are "buyers" as defined by Cal. Civ. Code § 1791(b).

166. Defendant is a "manufacturer" and "seller" as defined by Cal. Civ. Code § 1791(j) & (l).

167. Defendant's food products are "consumables" as defined by Cal. Civ. Code § 1791(d).

168. Defendant's nutrient and health content claims constitute "express warranties" as defined by Cal. Civ. Code § 1791.2.

169. Defendant, through its package labels, create express warranties by making the affirmation of fact and promising that its Misbranded Food Products comply with food labeling regulations under federal and California law.

170. Despite Defendant's express warranties regarding its food products, they do not comply with food labeling regulations under federal and California law.

171. Defendant breached its express warranties regarding its Misbranded Food Products in violation of Cal. Civ. Code § 1790, *et seq.*

172. Defendant sold Plaintiff and members of the Class Defendant's Misbranded Food Products that were not capable of being sold or held legally and which were legally worthless. Plaintiff and the Class paid a premium price for the Misbranded Food Products.

173. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's actions, Plaintiff and the Class have suffered damages in an amount to be proven at trial pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1794.

174. Defendant's breaches of warranty were willful, warranting the recovery of civil penalties pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1794.

**NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**Magnuson-Moss Act (15 U.S.C. § 2301, *et seq.*)**

175. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each allegation set forth above.

176. Plaintiff and members of the Class are "consumers" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 2301(3).

177. Defendant is "suppliers" and "warrantors" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 2301(4) & (5).

178. Defendant's food products are "consumer products" as defined by 15 U.S.C. § 2301(1).

179. Defendant's nutrient and health content claims constitute "express warranties."

180. Defendant, through its package labels, create express warranties by making the affirmation of fact and promising that its Misbranded Food Products comply with food labeling regulations under federal and California law.

181. Despite Defendant's express warranties regarding its food products, they do not comply with food labeling regulations under federal and California law.

182. Defendant breached its express warranties regarding its Misbranded Food Products in violation of 15 U.S.C. §§ 2301, *et seq.*

183. Defendant sold Plaintiff and members of the Class Misbranded Food Products that were not capable of being sold or held legally and which were legally worthless. Plaintiff and the Class paid a premium price for the Misbranded Food Products.

184. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's actions, Plaintiff and the Class have suffered damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury of her claims.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, and on behalf of the general public, prays for judgment against Defendant as follows:

A. For an order certifying this case as a class action and appointing Plaintiff and her counsel to represent the Class;

B. For an order awarding, as appropriate, damages, restitution or disgorgement to Plaintiff and the Class for all causes of action other than the CLRA, as Plaintiff does not seek monetary relief under the CLRA, but intends to amend her Complaint to seek such relief;

C. For an order requiring Defendant to immediately cease and desist from selling its Misbranded Food Products listed in violation of law; enjoining Defendant from continuing to market, advertise, distribute, and sell these products in the unlawful manner described herein; and ordering Defendant to engage in corrective action;

D. For all equitable remedies available pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1780;

E. For an order awarding attorneys' fees and costs;

F. For an order awarding punitive damages;

G. For an order awarding pre-and post-judgment interest; and

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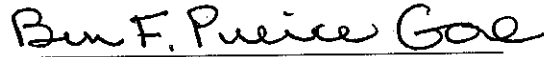
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1 H. For an order providing such further relief as this Court deems proper.

2  
3 Dated: May 14, 2012. Respectfully submitted,

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5 Ben. F. Pierce Gore (SBN 128515)  
6 PRATT & ASSOCIATES  
7 1901 S. Bascom Avenue, Suite 350  
8 Campbell, CA 95008  
9 Telephone: (408) 429-6506  
10 Fax: (408) 369-0752  
11 pgore@prattattorneys.com  
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