N. Ari Weisbrot, Esq. (NAW6029) FOX ROTHSCHILD LLP 75 Eisenhower Parkway Roseland, NJ 07068-1600 973.992.4800 (phone) 973.992.9125 (fax) aweisbrot@foxrothschild.com Attorneys for Defendant, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

PAT WASILEWSKI, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated,

Plaintiff

Civil Action No.:

**NOTICE OF REMOVAL** (Diversity)

V.

WAL-MART STORES, INC., JOHN DOES 1-5 and ABC CORPS. 1-5.

Defendants.

TO: THE HONORABLE JUDGES OF THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441, defendant Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., ("Defendant"), hereby file this Notice of Removal to remove this action from New Jersey Superior Court, Hudson County. As grounds for removal, Defendant states as follows:

- 1. Plaintiff, Pat Wasilewski ("Plaintiff") filed this action by way of a Complaint on or about December 19, 2013, in New Jersey Superior Court, Hudson County entitled Pat Wasilewski, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated, v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., John Does 1-5 and ABC Corps. 1-5, Civil Action No. HUD-L-5898-13 (hereinafter the "Action"). A copy of the Complaint is attached hereto as Exhibit A. Said action is now pending in that Court.
  - 2. Thereafter, on January 13, 2014, Plaintiff served a copy of the Summons and

Complaint upon CT Corporation System as agent for Defendants. A copy of the Service of Process is annexed hereto as Exhibit B. Receipt of the Summons and Complaint on that date was Defendant's first notice of the existence of a pleading containing a claim for relief asserted by Plaintiff which could be removed to this Court.

- 3. The Court has jurisdiction over this matter, and removal is proper, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, as there is complete diversity of citizenship, in that:
- a. According to the Complaint, Plaintiff is a resident of <u>New Jersey</u>, residing at 34 Newark Bay Court, Bayonne, New Jersey 07002.
- b. Defendant, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. is a corporation incorporated under the laws of Delaware, with its principal place of business in Bentonville, <u>Arkansas</u>.
- 4. The above-captioned Action is a civil action in which the amount in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs, and is between citizens of different states. Therefore, this Court has diversity jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332, which may be properly removed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441.
- 5. This Notice of Removal is filed within the time provided by 29 U.S.C. § 1446(b) and the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
- 6. Therefore, based upon the foregoing, this Action should be removed from the Superior Court of the State of New Jersey, Hudson County, to the United Stated States District Court of the District of New Jersey.
- 7. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1441(a) when the district embraces the place where such action is pending. Here, the United States District Court of the District of New Jersey is the appropriate venue because this action is pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Atlantic County.
  - 8. By filing this Notice of Removal, Defendant is not making a general appearance

and is not waiving its right to raise any defenses and/or grounds for dismissal pursuant to Rule

12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or otherwise, including without limitation personal

jurisdiction.

9. Upon the filing of this Notice of Removal, Defendant shall give written notice

thereof to Lance D. Brown, Esq., attorney for Plaintiff, and Defendant shall file copies of the

Notice of Removal with the Notice of Filing of Removal with the Court Clerk, Superior Court of

New Jersey, Law Division, Hudson County, New Jersey.

10. There are no other appearing defendants in this case, so no further consent for

removal is needed.

WHEREFORE, Defendant requests that the Action be removed from the Superior Court

of the State of New Jersey, Hudson County, to the United States District Court, District of New

Jersey.

Dated: February 11, 2014

FOX ROTHSCHILD, LLP

By: /s/ N. Ari Weisbrot, Esq. (NAW6029)

N. ARI WEISBROT, ESQ.

75 Eisenhower Parkway

Roseland, New Jersey 07068

(973) 994-7571

(973) 992-9125 - fax

aweisbrot@foxrothschild.com

Attorneys for Defendant, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

TO: Lance D. Brown, Esq.

Lance Brown and Associates, LLC

1 AAA Drive, Suite 205

Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691

(609) 587-5100

(609) 587-6030 - fax

Attorneys for Plaintiff

- 3 -

#### **CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on this date I filed this Notice of Removal and accompanying Exhibits with the Court and served same on counsel of record by ECF and by FedEx on:

Lance D. Brown, Esq. Lance Brown and Associates, LLC 1 AAA Drive, Suite 205 Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691 Attorneys for Plaintiff

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February 2014.

### FOX ROTHSCHILD, LLP

By:/s/ N. Ari Weisbrot, Esq. (NAW6029)

N. ARI WEISBROT, ESQ.
75 Eisenhower Parkway
Roseland, New Jersey 07068
Attorneys for Defendants
(973) 994-7571
(973) 992-9125 – fax
aweisbrot@foxrothschild.com
Attorneys for Defendant, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Dated: February 11, 2014

# **EXHIBIT A**

ohn A. Kenner, Sheriff		2 of 20 PageID:
Special Deputy  Summo	)NS	
Attorney(s) Lance D. Brown, Esq.	Superior Co	ourt of
Office Address 1 AAA Drive, Suite 205	New Jer	sev
Town, State, Zip Code Robbinsville, NJ 08691	•	•
T. I. I N (600) 507 5100	HUDSON	COUNTY
Telephone Number (609) 587-5100	Law	DIVISION
Attorney(s) for Plaintiff	Docket No: <u>L - 5898-13</u>	<del></del>
Pat Wasilewski, Individually and On Behalf of Similarly	-	
Situated Individuals Plaintiff(s)		
riammi(s)	CIVIL AC	TION
Vs.	SUMMO	NS
Walmart Stores, Inc., John Does 1-5 and ABC Corps		
Defendant(s)		
From The State of New Jersey To The Defendant(s) Named Above	۵۰	
from the date you received this summons, not counting the date you clerk of the Superior Court is available in the Civil Division Managhttp://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/prose/10153_deptyclerklawref.pd file your written answer or motion and proof of service with the Cl	gement Office in the county listed <u>f</u> .) If the complaint is one in forec	above and online at
Box 971, Trenton, NJ 08625-0971. A filing fee payable to the Tre Information Statement (available from the deputy clerk of the Superit is filed. You must also send a copy of your answer or motion to for to plaintiff, if no attorney is named above. A telephone call will canswer or motion (with fee of \$135.00 and completed Case Information)	easurer, State of New Jersey and a erior Court) must accompany your plaintiff's attorney whose name ar not protect your rights; you must	Justice Complex, P.O. completed Case answer or motion when ad address appear above file and serve a written
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# **Appendix XII-B1**



# **CIVIL CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT** (CIS)

FOR USE BY CLE	ERK'S OFFICE ONLY
PAYMENT TYPE:	□CK □CG □CA
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AMOUNT:	
OVERPAYMENT:	
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	Use for initial Law Division Civil Part pleadings (not motions) under Rule 4:5-1								
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Pat Wasilewski, i behalf of similarly	ndividu	ually and on	•		v. WalMart S	itores, Inc., .	John doe	es 1-5 and .	ABC Corps
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# CIVIL CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT

(CIS)
Use for initial pleadings (not motions) under *Rule* 4:5-1

(000000)	
ASE TYPE	ES (Choose one and enter number of case type in appropriate space on the reverse side.)
Track	1 - 150 days' discovery
	51 NAME CHANGE
	75 FORFEITURE 02 TENANCY
3	99 REAL PROPERTY (other than Tenancy, Contract, Condemnation, Complex Commercial or Construction)
	02 BOOK ACCOUNT (debt collection matters only)
	05 OTHER INSURANCE CLAIM (including declaratory judgment actions)
	06 PIP COVERAGE 10 UM or UIM CLAIM (coverage issues only)
5	11 ACTION ON NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENT
	12 LEMON LAW
	01 SUMMARY ACTION
	02 OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT (summary action) 99 OTHER (briefly describe nature of action)
9	
Track	II - 300 days' discovery
3	05 CONSTRUCTION
	09 EMPLOYMENT (other than CEPA or LAD)
	99 CONTRACT/COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION 03N AUTO NEGLIGENCE – PERSONAL INJURY (non-verbal threshold)
	03Y AUTO NEGLIGENCE - PERSONAL INJURY (verbal threshold)
6	05 PERSONAL INJURY
	10 AUTO NEGLIGENCE – PROPERTY DAMAGE
	21 UM or UIM CLAIM (includes bodily injury) 99 TORT – OTHER
Track	III - 450 days' discovery
	05 CIVIL RIGHTS
	01 CONDEMNATION
	02 ASSAULT AND BATTERY 04 MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
	06 PRODUCT LIABILITY
	07 PROFESSIONAL MALPRACTICE
	08 TOXIC TORT
	09 DEFAMATION 16 WHISTLEBLOWER / CONSCIENTIOUS EMPLOYEE PROTECTION ACT (CEPA) CASES
	17 INVERSE CONDEMNATION
	18 LAW AGAINST DISCRIMINATION (LAD) CASES
Track	IV - Active Case Management by Individual Judge / 450 days' discovery
	56 ENVIRONMENTAL/ENVIRONMENTAL COVERAGE LITIGATION 03 MT. LAUREL
-	08 COMPLEX COMMERCIAL
5	13 COMPLEX CONSTRUCTION
	14 INSURANCE FRAUD
	20 FALSE CLAIMS ACT D1 ACTIONS IN LIEU OF PREROGATIVE WRITS
	ounty Litigation (Track IV)
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	79 GADOLINIUM 292 PELVIC MESH/BARD
2	B1 BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB ENVIRONMENTAL 293 DEPUY ASR HIP IMPLANT LITIGATION
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	lease check off each applicable category
	icase check on each applicable category 🔛 Futative chass Action 🔛 Title 33

Lance D. Brown, Esq.

Attorney ID Number: 038021996 Lance Brown and Associates, LLC

1 AAA Drive, Suite 205

Robbinsville, New Jersey 08691

Tel.: (609) 587-5100 Fax: (609) 587-6030 Attorneys for Plaintiffs

PAT WASILEWSKI, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

WALMART STORES, INC. JOHNS DOES 1-5 and ABC CORPS. 1-5

Defendants.

FILED CUSTOMER SERVICE TEAM

DEC 1 9 2013

SUPERIOR COURT OF HEW JERSEY COUNTY OF HUDSON CIVIL DIVISION #6

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY HUDSON COUNTY: LAW DIVISION

CIVIL ACTION DOCKET NO.:

25898-13

COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs, Pat Wasilewski ("Ms. Wasilewski" or "Plaintiff"), individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated, by and through the undersigned counsel, hereby complain against Defendants WalMart Stores, Inc. ("WalMart") John Does 1-5 (fictitious individuals whose names and roles are not yet known) and ABC Corps. 1-5 (fictitious entities whose names and roles are not yet known) (hereafter collectively referred to as "Defendants") and states as follows:

#### **Preliminary Statements**

1. Plaintiff, in her individual capacity and on behalf of all others similarly situated, brings this action for breach of contract, violations of the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act, N.J.S.A. 56:8-1, et. seq. ("NJCFA") and promissory estoppel for monetary damages, liquidated damages, treble compensatory damages, consequential damages, punitive damages, exemplary damages and treble damages together with costs and attorneys' fees as a result of WalMart's deceitful advertisements.

#### The Parties

- 2. At all times relevant, Ms. Wasilewski was a New Jersey resident residing at 34 Newark Bay Court, Bayonne, New Jersey 07002.
- 3. At all times relevant, WalMart was a for-profit, commercial entity with a corporate address of 702 SW 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bentonville, Arkansas 72716-8611.
- 4. At all times relevant, WalMart was conducting business within the State of New Jersey at multiple locations, including, but not limited to, 2100 88<sup>th</sup> Street, North Bergen, New Jersey.

#### **Background**

- 5. Ms. Wasilewski, and all similarly situated individuals, is a consumer who shopped at Walmart.
- 6. Walmart is a store with locations throughout the United States.
- 7. At all times relevant Ms. Wasilewski shopped at the store located at 2100 88 St North Bergen, New Jersey.
- 8. In 2011, prior to entering into her Christmas and holiday shopping and during the course of her Christmas and holiday shopping, Ms. Wasilewski, and all similarly situated individuals, had viewed a number of commercials and other advertisements by Walmart.
- 9. These advertisements, without exception, assured WalMart customers, including Ms. Wasilewski and all other similarly situated individuals, that they could shop at Walmart and WalMart would match its competitors advertised sales.

10. These commercials made it clear that there was no need to shop anywhere else except for WalMart since any potential customer would be protected from not getting the greatest savings should there be an advertised sale in another store as WalMart guaranteed and promised to match said advertisements.

- 11. Ms. Wasilewski was in a habit of getting dolls for her extended family for the holiday season.
- 12. This holiday season was no different and on or about October 7, 2011 Ms. Wasilewski full of Christmas cheer went to the Walmart store located on 2100 88 St North Bergen, New Jersey.
- 13. At the time Ms. Wasilewski had entered the store she felt confident in her ability to shop at WalMart based upon all the advertisements she had seen.
- 14. On November 28, 2011 based upon all of the advertised promises and representations of WalMart, Ms. Wasilewski purchased \$562.05 worth of dolls from the North Bergen store.
- 15. On December 7, 2011 once again upon those representations Ms. Wasilewski purchased \$1,764.88 worth of dolls from the North Bergen store.
- 16. In addition, Ms. Wasilewski made another purchase on December 7 for \$526.92 worth of dolls.
- 17. On another occasion, on December 12, 2011 Ms. Wasilewski purchased \$1,231.01 worth of dolls.
- 18. In addition, on December 14, 2011 Ms. Wasilewski purchased \$1,698.48 worth of dolls.
- 19. Finally on December 15, 2011 Ms. Wasilewski purchased \$1,200.17 worth of dolls.

3 of 16 Wasilewski v. WalMart Stores, Inc.

- 20. In all, during the 2011 holiday season, Ms. Wasilewski purchase \$6,948.38 worth of dolls from the North Bergen Walmart.
- 21. Sears for the holiday season had induced customers to shop at their store wherein it would provide customers all toys buy one, get one free pursuant to an advertisement in the Sears catalog.
- 22. The only exceptions to the advertisement were Fischer Price Power Wheels and that offers were available on in-store purchases only.
- 23. The pictures presented within the Sears catalog as well as information shows that dolls were included in the buy, one get one free sale.
- 24. Accordingly Ms. Wasilewski attempted to get her prices adjusted pursuant to all of the advertising which Walmart had made in order to induce her to shop there.
- 25. Walmart refused to accept and stand by the promises they had made and refused to match Sears' advertisement.
- 26. Despite the fact that Ms. Wasilewski had made several demands, payment from Walmart was never forthcoming leading to the institution of this law suit.
- 27. Upon information and belief, WalMart engaged in similar conduct with similarly situated customers of WalMart by refusing to match its competitors' advertisements.

# **Class Action Allegations**

- 28. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate the preceding paragraphs as if set forth at length herein.
- 29. Plaintiff brings this Class action to recover damages owed by Defendants to Plaintiff and members of the putative Class for WalMart's failure to match its competitors' advertisements.

- 30. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated customers, former and present, who were and/or are affected by Defendants' willful and intentional violation actions described herein.
- 31. In addition, and in the alternative, Plaintiff brings this action in her individual and personal capacity, separate and apart from the Class claims set forth herein.
- 32. The Class is defined as follows:

All current and former customers of WalMart, who shopped at WalMart during the applicable statutory period who adequately and duly presented a competitors' advertisement to WalMart requesting WalMart to match the advertisement and to whom WalMart refused to match the advertisement.

- 33. This action is brought and may be properly maintained as a Class action pursuant to Rule 4:32 of the New Jersey Court Rules.
- 34. The Class is so numerous that joinder of all members is impractical. While the exact number and identities of Class members are unknown at this time, and can only be ascertained through appropriate discovery, it is believed that the number would be in the thousands.
- 35. This litigation is properly brought as a Class action because of the existence of questions of fact and law common to the Class which predominates over any questions affecting only individual members, including:
  - (a) Whether the content of WalMart's advertisement created an offer to its customers;
  - (b) Whether the content of WalMart's advertisement created an enforceable promise to its customers;
  - (c) Whether the content of WalMart's advertisement and the failure to match types of advertisements are violative of the applicable Consumer Fraud Acts;

- 36. This litigation is properly brought as a Class action because Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Class, inasmuch as all such claims arise from Defendants' standard policies and practices, as alleged herein. Like all Class members, Plaintiff was injured by Defendants' policies and practices of refusing to match a competitors' advertisement as promised and agreed.
- 37. Plaintiff has no interests antagonistic to the interests of the other members of the Class.

  Plaintiff is committed to the vigorous prosecution of this action and has retained competent counsel experienced in Class action litigation. Accordingly, Plaintiff is an adequate representative and will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class.
- 38. Class action is an appropriate and superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of the present controversy given the following factors:
  - (a) Common questions of law and/or fact predominate over any individual questions which may arise, and, accordingly, there would accrue enormous savings to both the Courts and the Class in litigating the common issues on a classwide instead of on a repetitive individual basis;
  - (b) Despite the relatively small size of individual Class members' claims, their aggregate volume, coupled with the economies of scale inherent in litigating similar claims on a common basis, will enable this case to be litigated as a Class action on a cost-effective basis, especially when compared with repetitive individual litigation; and
  - (c) No unusual difficulties are likely to be encountered in the management of this class action in that all questions of law and/or fact to be litigated at the liability stage of this action are common to the Class.
- 39. Class certification is also fair and efficient because prosecution of separate actions by individual Class members would create a risk of differing adjudications with respect to such individual members of the Class, which as a practical matter, may be dispositive of the interests of other members not parties to the adjudication, or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests.

- 40. Class certification is further appropriate under New Jersey law because Defendants have acted and continue to act on grounds generally applicable to the members of the Class.
- 41. Plaintiff anticipates that there will be no difficulty in the management of this litigation.

  This litigation presents the breach of contract, consumer fraud and promissory estoppel claims of a type that have often been prosecuted on a classwide basis, and the manner of identifying the Class and providing any monetary relief to it can easily be effectuated from a review of Defendants' and individual plaintiffs' records.

# Count I

#### (Individual Claim for Breach of Contract)

- 42. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate the preceding paragraphs as if set forth at length herein.
- 43. The advertisements from WalMart regarding matching any competitor's advertisement created an offer from WalMart to its customers to purchase products at WalMart and WalMart would match the competitors' advertisement, including after the purchase is already made at WalMart.
- 44. Ms. Wasilewski, one of WalMart's customers, accepted this offer when she purchased numerous products from WalMart during the 2011 holiday season.
- 45. As such, these transactions constituted bargained-for exchanges and WalMart was required to carry out its obligations by performing its duties, namely to match the competitors' advertisements.
- 46. After purchasing numerous products over numerous trips at WalMart, Ms. Wasilewski returned to WalMart with the Sears advertisement clearly stating that toys at Sears were buy-one, get-one free.
- 47. Upon presenting the advertisement, Ms. Wasilewski requested a price adjustment on her previous purchases pursuant to the advertisement and contract.

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- 48. WalMart breached its duties when it refused to make the requested price adjustment for Ms. Wasilewski's purchases.
- 49. WalMart's refusal to make the price adjustment constituted a material breach of the agreement.
- 50. As a result of Defendants' breach described herein, Ms. Wasilewski has been caused to suffer recoverable damages.

#### **Count II**

#### (Individual Claim for Violations of the Consumer Fraud Act)

- 51. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate the preceding paragraphs as if set forth at length herein.
- 52. WalMart's commercials and publications regarding matching competitors' advertisements constituted an "advertisement" under the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act, N.J.S.A. 56:8-1, et. seq.
- 53. WalMart is a "person" as used in that statute.
- 54. WalMart made those commercials and published those advertisements for the purpose of inducing customers to forego shopping at other retail establishments during the holiday season and only shop at their establishments.

- 55. WalMart published these advertisements knowing that it did not intend to fully match all competitors' advertisements, but no such fact was presented in the commercials or published advertisements.
- 56. Whether WalMart intended on actually matching its competitors' advertised prices is a material fact.
- 57. Therefore, WalMart's failure to disclose its true intentions constituted an unconscionable commercial practice, deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation and/or the knowing concealment, suppression or omission of a material fact.
- 58. WalMart conducted the unconscionable commercial practice, deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation and/or the knowing concealment, suppression or omission of a material fact with the intention of inducing customers to rely on said unconscionable commercial practice, deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation and/or the knowing concealment, suppression or omission of a material fact.
- 59. Ms. Wasilewski, as intended by WalMart, did, in fact, reasonably rely upon said unconscionable commercial practice, deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation and/or the knowing concealment, suppression or omission of a material fact when she carried out her holiday shopping at WalMart as described herein.
- 60. As such, WalMart's conduct is unlawful pursuant to the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act.
- 61. As a result of the actions described herein, Ms. Wasilewski has been caused to suffer recoverable damages.
- 62. Pursuant to the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act, Ms. Wasilewski is entitled to triple damages.

#### **Count III**

#### (Individual Claim for Promissory Estoppel)

- 63. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate the preceding paragraphs as if set forth at length herein.
- 64. WalMart's commercial and published advertisements as described herein were clear and definite promises to its customers, which included Ms. Wasilewski, that it would match any competitor's advertisement.
- 65. WalMart made these promises to its customers, including Ms. Wasilewski, for the specific purpose of inducing its customers, including Ms. Wasilewski, to rely upon these promises by conducting all of their holiday shopping at WalMart.
- 66. It was foreseeable that WalMart's customers, including Ms. Wasilewski, would, indeed, rely upon these promises by conducting all of their holiday shopping at WalMart.
- 67. Ms. Wasilewski did, in fact, reasonably rely upon and was induced by these promises into conducting all of her holiday shopping at WalMart.
- 68. As a result of reasonably relying upon WalMart's promises, Ms. Wasilewski has been caused to suffer recoverable damages.
- 69. In light of the foregoing, injustice can only be prevented by enforcing WalMart's promises to match its competitors' advertisements.

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#### **Count IV**

#### (Class Action Claims for Breach of Contract)

- 70. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate the preceding paragraphs as if set forth at length herein.
- 71. The advertisements from WalMart regarding matching any competitor's advertisement created an offer from WalMart to its customers to purchase products at WalMart and WalMart would match the competitors' advertisement, including after the purchase is already made at WalMart.
- 72. WalMart's customers accepted this offer when they purchased numerous products from WalMart during the applicable statutory period.
- 73. As such, these transactions constituted bargained-for exchanges and WalMart was required to carry out its obligations by performing its duties, namely to match the competitors' advertisements.
- 74. After purchasing numerous products over numerous trips at WalMart, WalMart's customers presented competitor advertisements to WalMart.
- 75. Upon presenting the advertisements, the customers requested a price adjustments on their previous or contemporaneous purchases pursuant to WalMart's advertisement and contract.

- 76. WalMart breached its duties when it refused to make the requested price adjustments.
- 77. WalMart's refusal to make the price adjustments constituted a material breach of the agreement.
- 78. As a result of Defendants' breach described herein, WalMart's customers have been caused to suffer recoverable damages.

#### Count V

#### (Class Action Claims for Violations of the Consumer Fraud Act)

- 79. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate the preceding paragraphs as if set forth at length herein.
- 80. WalMart's commercials and publications regarding matching competitors' advertisements constituted an "advertisement" under the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act, N.J.S.A. 56:8-1, et. seq.
- 81. WalMart is a "person" as used in that statute.
- 82. WalMart made those commercials and published those advertisements for the purpose of inducing customers to forego shopping at other retail establishments during the holiday season and only shop at their establishments.

- 83. WalMart published these advertisements knowing that it did not intend to fully match all competitors' advertisements, but no such fact was presented in the commercials or published advertisements.
- 84. Whether WalMart intended on actually matching its competitors' advertised prices is a material fact.
- 85. Therefore, WalMart's failure to disclose its true intentions constituted an unconscionable commercial practice, deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation and/or the knowing concealment, suppression or omission of a material fact.
- 86. WalMart conducted the unconscionable commercial practice, deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation and/or the knowing concealment, suppression or omission of a material fact with the intention of inducing customers to rely on said unconscionable commercial practice, deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation and/or the knowing concealment, suppression or omission of a material fact.
- 87. WalMart's customers, as intended by WalMart, did, in fact, reasonably rely upon said unconscionable commercial practice, deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation and/or the knowing concealment, suppression or omission of a material fact when they shopped at WalMart as described herein.
- 88. As such, WalMart's conduct is unlawful pursuant to the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act.
- 89. As a result of the actions described herein, WalMart's customers have been caused to suffer recoverable damages.
- 90. Pursuant to the New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act, WalMart's customers are entitled to triple damages.

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#### Count VI

## (Class Action Claims for Promissory Estoppel)

- 91. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate the preceding paragraphs as if set forth at length herein.
- 92. WalMart's commercial and published advertisements as described herein were clear and definite promises to its customers that it would match any competitor's advertisement.
- 93. WalMart made these promises to its customers for the specific purpose of inducing its customers to rely upon these promises by shopping at WalMart.
- 94. It was foreseeable that WalMart's customers would, indeed, rely upon these promises by shopping at WalMart.
- 95. WalMart's customers did, in fact, reasonably rely upon and was induced by these promises into shopping at WalMart.
- 96. As a result of reasonably relying upon WalMart's promises, WalMart's customers have been caused to suffer recoverable damages.
- 97. In light of the foregoing, injustice can only be prevented by enforcing WalMart's promises to match its competitors' advertisements.

#### **Count VII**

98. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate the preceding paragraphs as if set forth at length herein.

99. John Does 1-5 and ABC Corps. 1-5 are fictitious individuals and entities, respectively, whose names and roles are not yet known, but whose negligent or intentional actions contributed to the damages suffered by Plaintiff as described herein.

WHEREFORE Plaintiff, Pat Wasilewski, hereby demands judgment against Defendants, WalMart Stores, Inc., John Does 1-5 (fictitious individuals whose names and roles are not yet known) and ABC Corps. 1-5 (fictitious entities whose names and roles are not yet known), jointly and/or severally, in the alternative, in the amount of her damages, including compensatory, consequential, punitive, treble and exemplary, together with costs, plus interest as allowed by court rules, and such other relief as this Court deems just and equitable.

# **JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff requests a trial by Jury pursuant to 4:35-1.

# TRIAL ATTORNEY DESIGNATION

Pursuant to 4:5-1(c), Lance D. Brown, Esq. is designated as trial counsel.

Dated:

December 18, 2013

Lance D. Brown, Esq.

Lance Brown and Associates, LLC

Attorneys for Plaintiff

# **CERTIFICATION**

Pursuant to the requirements of Rule 4:5-1 (NOTICE OF OTHER ACTIONS), I, the undersigned, do hereby certify to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, that except as hereinafter indicated, the subject matter of the controversy referred to in the within pleading is not the subject of any other Cause of Action, pending in any other Court, or of a pending Arbitration Proceeding, nor is any other Cause of Action or Arbitration Proceeding contemplated;

1. <u>OTHER ACTIONS PENDING</u> ?YES NO _X_
A. If YES - Parties to other Pending Actions.
B. In my opinion, the following parties should be joined in the within pending Cause of Action.
2. OTHER ACTIONS CONTEMPLATED?YES NO _X_
A. If YES - Parties contemplated to be joined, in other Causes of Action.
3. <u>ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS PENDING?</u> YES NO _X_ A. If YES - Parties to Arbitration Proceedings.
B. In my opinion, the following parties should be joined in the pending Arbitration Proceedings.
4. OTHER ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS CONTEMPLATED?YESNO _X A. If YES - Parties contemplated to be joined to Arbitration Proceedings

In the event that during the pendency of the within Cause of Action, I shall become aware of any change as to any facts stated herein, I shall file an amended certification and serve a copy thereof on all other parties (or their attorneys) who have appeared in said Cause of Action.

Dated: December 18, 2013

Lance D. Brown, Esq. Lance Brown and Associates, LLC Attorneys for Plaintiffs

#### 



Service of Process **Transmittal** 

01/13/2014

CT Log Number 524202333

TO: Kim Lundy Service of Process

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. 702 SW 8th Street, MS 0215 Bentonville, AR 72716-0215

RE: **Process Served in New Jersey** 

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (Domestic State: DE) FOR:

#### ENCLOSED ARE COPIES OF LEGAL PROCESS RECEIVED BY THE STATUTORY AGENT OF THE ABOVE COMPANY AS FOLLOWS:

TITLE OF ACTION: Wasilewski Pat, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated,

Pltfs. vs. WalMart Stores, Inc., et al., Dfts. Name discrepancy noted.

DOCUMENT(S) SERVED: Summons, Case Information Statement, Complaint and Jury Demand,

Certification(s), Letter

COURT/AGENCY: Hudson County Superior Court - Law Division, NJ

Case # L589813

NATURE OF ACTION: Summons and Complaint - Class Action - Breach of Contract - Defendant breached

its duties when it refused to make the requested price adjustment for Plaintiff's

purchases

ON WHOM PROCESS WAS SERVED: The Corporation Trust Company, West Trenton, NJ

By Process Server on 01/13/2014 at 09:35 DATE AND HOUR OF SERVICE:

JURISDICTION SERVED: **New Jersey** 

APPEARANCE OR ANSWER DUE: Within 35 days, not counting the date of receipt

ATTORNEY(S) / SENDER(S): Lance D. Brown

Lance Brown and Associates, LLC

1 AAA Drive, Suite 205 Robbinsville, NJ 08691 609-587-5100

ACTION ITEMS: CT has retained the current log, Retain Date: 01/13/2014, Expected Purge Date:

01/18/2014 Image SOP

Email Notification, Candiss Golaszweski-CT East

CLS-VerificationEast@wolterskluwer.com

Email Notification, Kim Lundy Service of Process ctlawsuits@walmartlegal.com

SIGNED: The Corporation Trust Company

PER: Lissette Santiago-Rivera ADDRESS: 820 Bear Tayern Road

3rd Floor

West Trenton, NJ 08628

TELEPHONE: 609-538-1818

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