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12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
13 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

14 DAVID WOLF and MIGUEL
15 ALMARAZ, individually and on behalf of
16 others similarly situated,

17 Plaintiffs,

18 v.

19 RED BULL GMBH, a foreign company;
20 RED BULL NORTH AMERICA, INC., a
21 California corporation; and RED BULL
22 DISTRIBUTION COMPANY, INC., a
23 Delaware corporation,

24 Defendants.

CV 13-01444 - MWF (JGx)
CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

25 DAVID WOLF and MIGUEL ALMARAZ ("Plaintiffs"), by and through their attorneys,
26 on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, bring this Class Action Complaint
27 against Defendants RED BULL GMBH, a foreign company; RED BULL NORTH AMERICA,
28 INC., a California corporation, and RED BULL DISTRIBUTION COMPANY, INC., a Delaware
corporation (collectively "Defendants") and allege, based upon personal knowledge as to
themselves and their own acts, and as to all other matters upon information and belief, as follows:

I. NATURE OF ACTION

1. Plaintiffs bring this nationwide class action on behalf of a proposed class and subclass more fully defined below, of all similarly situated consumers who purchased Red Bull energy drinks designed, manufactured, marketed, advertised, distributed and/or sold by Defendants, or their predecessors, successors, or subsidiaries.

2. Defendants manufacture, market, distribute and/or sell their product throughout the United States including California under various brand and product names including, but not limited to, Red Bull® Energy Drink, Red Bull® Sugarfree, Red Bull® Total Zero and Red Bull® Editions (collectively “Red Bull” or the “product”).

3. According to Defendants, Red Bull is the No. 1 selling energy drink, both in the United States and globally, and is available in over 159 countries. In 2011 alone, approximately 4.6 billion cans were sold worldwide, and in the United States 1.65 billion cans were sold.

4. During the class period, Defendants have made various representations to consumers about the purported superior nature of Red Bull, over simpler and less expensive caffeine only products, such as caffeine tablets or a cup of coffee. To bolster those claims Defendants post “scientific studies” on the Red Bull website which they say “prove” Red Bull’s superiority.

5. However, no competent, credible and reliable scientific evidence exists to support Defendants’ claims about the product. The New York Times recently reported that “interviews with researchers and a review of scientific studies show: the energy drink industry is based on a brew of ingredients that, apart from caffeine, have little, if any benefit for consumers.”¹ The article continues: “Promoting a message beyond caffeine has enabled the beverage makers to charge premium prices. A 16-ounce energy drink that sells for \$2.99 a can contains about the same amount of caffeine as a tablet of No Doz that costs 30 cents.”

6. Defendants’ extensive and comprehensive nationwide marketing campaign *via* television commercials, internet websites and postings, promotional events, radio media,

¹ Barry Meier, *Energy Drinks Promised Edge, but Experts Say Proof is Scant*, N.Y. Times, Jan. 1, 2013, at 1.

1 advertising and packaging, was devised to mislead Plaintiffs and members of the putative class.
2 By disseminating false and misleading information about Red Bull, Plaintiffs and members of the
3 putative class were induced into purchasing, at a premium price, millions of dollars worth of Red
4 Bull.

5 7. Defendants knew or should have known that there is no greater benefit of ingesting
6 Red Bull than ingesting an equivalent dose of caffeine and have taken no meaningful steps to
7 clarify consumer misconceptions regarding the product.

8 8. As a result of Defendants' pervasive pattern of deceptive, false and otherwise
9 improper advertising, sales and marketing practices and through other actions and inactions
10 complained of herein, Defendants violated the Consumer Legal Remedies Act, Civil Code
11 §§1750, *et seq.*, and the Unfair Competition Law, Business & Professions Code, §§17200, *et seq.*
12 and were unjustly enriched. To remedy Defendants' illegal conduct, Plaintiffs on behalf of
13 themselves and other similarly situated purchasers seek restitution, monetary damages, equitable
14 relief, declaratory relief and/or disgorgement of profits in connection with Red Bull designed,
15 manufactured, marketed, advertised, distributed and sold by the Defendants, or by their
16 predecessors, successors or subsidiaries.

17 II. PARTIES

18 A. Plaintiffs

19 9. Plaintiff David Wolf, a resident and citizen of Los Angeles County, California, has
20 purchased and ingested Red Bull manufactured and marketed by Defendants over approximately
21 the last three years. Had he known of the true character and quality of Red Bull, he would not
22 have purchased (or would have paid less for) the product.

23 10. Plaintiff Miguel Almaraz, a resident and citizen of Los Angeles County,
24 California, has purchased and ingested Red Bull manufactured and marketed by Defendants over
25 the past several years. Had he known of the true character and quality of Red Bull, he would not
26 have purchased (or would have paid less for) the product.

27 B. Defendant

28 11. Defendant Red Bull GmbH, is a company organized and existing under the laws of

1 Austria, and offers various goods and services, most notably energy drinks, throughout many
2 countries of the world, including the United States, and sponsors numerous sports- and
3 entertainment-related events.

4 12. Defendant Red Bull North America, a wholly owned subsidiary of Red Bull
5 GmbH, is a California corporation headquartered in Santa Monica, California. Red Bull GmbH
6 offers its goods and services in the United States through Red Bull North America.

7 13. Defendant Red Bull Distribution Company, Inc. ("Red Bull Distribution"), a
8 Delaware corporation, is the largest distributor of Red Bull products in North America. Red Bull
9 Distribution has 32 distribution centers across the country, including Northern and Southern
10 California, and maintains a principal office in Santa Monica, California.

11 III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

12 14. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28
13 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2) and the Class Action Fairness Act, in that plaintiffs and certain of the
14 defendants in this action are citizens of different states and the amount in controversy exceeds
15 \$5,000,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs.

16 15. This court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants Red Bull North America and
17 Red Bull Distribution because they are headquartered in this District, and all Defendants conduct
18 substantial business in California, including the marketing, sale and distribution of Red Bull, and
19 have sufficient contacts with California or otherwise intentionally avail themselves of the laws
20 and markets of California, so as to sustain this Court's jurisdiction over Defendants.

21 16. Venue is proper in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391, because
22 Defendants maintain headquarters in this District and/or a substantial part of the events or
23 omissions giving rise to Plaintiffs' claims occurred in this judicial district. In addition,
24 Defendants do business and/or transact business in this judicial district, and therefore, are subject
25 to personal jurisdiction in this judicial district and reside here for venue purposes.

26 IV. SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

27 17. Introduced into the United States in 1997, Red Bull is the No. 1 selling energy
28 drink in the United States and globally. Defendants have invested millions of dollars promoting

1 the Red Bull products and services, including energy drinks in the United States. In 2011 alone,
 2 Defendants spent approximately \$386.2 million in marketing expenses in the United States. The
 3 public is exposed to the Red Bull marks, a distinctive design on its cans and promotions, on
 4 clothing and other merchandise (e.g., coolers, tents and umbrellas), on television, in print media,
 5 on the Internet (including on various social media websites such as Facebook where Red Bull has
 6 more than 29 million fans, and YouTube where Red Bull videos have received more than 102.9
 7 million views), at sporting and cultural events organized and/or sponsored by Red Bull (e.g., on
 8 Formula One race cars and at Red Bull New York soccer games at Red Bull Arena in New York)
 9 and through numerous other means.

10 18. Defendants sell or distribute Red Bull to consumers throughout California and the
 11 United States in four varieties: Red Bull Energy Drink, Red Bull Sugarfree, Red Bull Total Zero
 12 and Red Bull Editions. Red Bull Editions are available in multiple flavors including cranberry,
 13 blueberry and lime. Red Bull contains caffeine, taurine, glucuronolactone, a blend of vitamins
 14 B6, B12, niacin and pantothenic acid, sucrose, glucose and Alpine spring water.

15 19. Defendants have made various representations to consumers about the purported
 16 superior nature of Red Bull, over simpler and less expensive caffeine only products, such as
 17 caffeine tablets or a cup of coffee. To bolster those claims Defendants cite specific "scientific
 18 studies" on the Red Bull website which they say "prove" Red Bull's superiority. For example,
 19 Defendants state:

20 Red Bull Energy Drink is a functional beverage. Thanks to a unique combination
 21 of high quality ingredients Red Bull Energy Drink vitalizes body and mind.
 22 Numerous scientific studies on the product and the individual ingredients prove
 that Red Bull Energy Drink:

- 23 • Increases performance
- 24 • Increases concentration and reaction speed
- 25 • Improves vigilance
- 26 • Stimulates metabolism
- 27 • Makes you feel more energetic and thus improves your overall well-being

28 Red Bull Energy Drink has been developed for people who want to have a clear
 and focused mind, perform physically, are dynamic and performance-oriented
 whilst also balancing this with a fun and active lifestyle. In short, Red Bull gives

wings to people who want to be mentally and physically active and have a zest for life.²

20. In addition, Defendants represent to consumers that the “studies” confirm the Product’s superiority:

- “It has been extensively studied that Red Bull increases performance”
- “In various studies it was proven that Red Bull increases concentration and reaction speed”
- There exist “relevant studies about Red Bull improving vigilance”
- “A range of studies have verified that Red Bull stimulates metabolism”
- That Red Bull “Makes you feel more energetic and thus improves your overall well-being” ... “has been validated”

21. Defendants also represent to consumers that: “Numerous scientific studies* in the fields of sports medicine and psychology confirm the effects described for Red Bull Energy Drink. All scientific studies were done by independent third parties, are published in peer-reviewed journals and can be found in public databases.”³

22. Although Defendants rely upon “scientific” studies and research which purport to substantiate the product claims, independent researchers and industry experts have found otherwise. In a January 2013 New York Times article titled, “Energy Drinks Promised Edge, but Experts Say Proof is Scant,”⁴ the author cites widespread scientific and governmental criticism of manufacturers’ assertion that energy drinks provide any more benefit than the average dose of caffeine consumed in a cup of coffee.

23. Despite the lack of any reported scientific support for a claim that Red Bull provides more benefit to consumers than a caffeine tablet or cup of coffee, Defendants continue to market the product as a superior source of energy worthy of a premium price.

² http://www.redbull.com/cs/Satellite/en_INT/Red-Bull-Energy-Drink/001242937921959

³ http://www.redbull.com/cs/Satellite/en_INT/Red-Bull-Energy-Drink/001242937921959?pcs_c=PCS_Product&pcs_cid=1242937842064&pcs_pvt=faqs

⁴ Barry Meier, *Energy Drinks Promised Edge, but Experts say Proof is Scant*, N.Y. Times, Jan. 1, 2013.

24. Additionally, even though the Red Bull website asserts that the product's B-group vitamins (niacin, pantothenic acid, and vitamins B6 and B12) "play an important role in energy metabolism, such as the build-up and break-down of carbohydrates, fat and protein," and "support mental and physical performance," a study undertaken at Vanderbilt University⁵ (directed at 5-Hour Energy, an energy shot product), sheds light on the true effects and dangers of some of these ingredients:

(a) Niacin (vitamin B3): A niacin flush can cause liver toxicity, worsening of stomach ulcers and altered blood sugar or insulin levels or uric acid concentrations;

(b) Vitamin B6: It has yet to be shown that B6 supplementation in healthy people causes enhanced cognitive function;

(c) Vitamin B12: There is no evidence of the efficacy of vitamin B12 on cognitive function.

25. The ultimate conclusion, based in part on another scientific study, was that B6, B12 and folic acid supplementation, alone or in combinations, do not provide adequate evidence for a beneficial effect of supplementation on cognitive function testing in people with either normal or impaired cognitive function. This conclusion only serves to highlight the discrepancy between the advertising claims and the actual science and research.

26. In a 2003 article titled, "Debunking the Effects of Taurine in Red Bull Energy Drink,"⁶ the study concluded that the claimed improvement in cognitive capabilities and muscular performance were more plausibly related to caffeine alone rather than the purported unique combination of the key components of caffeine, taurine and glucuronolactone. The report

⁵ Megan Rogers, *5-Hour Energy: The Healthy Energy Drink?*, Vanderbilt Univ. Psych. Dept., available at <http://healthpsych.psy.vanderbilt.edu/2008/5-HourEnergy.htm>

⁶ Woojae Kim, *Debunking the Effects of Taurine in Red Bull Energy Drink*, Nutrition Bytes, Department of Biological Chemistry, UCLA, David Geffen School of Medicine, UC Los Angeles, 2003.

1 concluded that "it seems that drinking a cold cup of coffee may induce the same 'energizing and
2 refreshing' effects of drinking Red Bull—and best of all, at one-third the cost."

3 27. More recently, a study on the cognitive effects of key energy drink ingredients
4 caffeine, taurine and glucose similarly concluded that caffeine content, but not taurine or glucose
5 in energy drinks, drives cognitive improvements in executive control, working memory and
6 psychomotor performance.⁷

7
8 28. Another study reached a similar conclusion after its evaluation of multiple
9 ingredients commonly found in energy drinks such as Red Bull, including taurine,
10 glucuronolactone, glucose, B vitamins, guarana, yerbe mate, carnitine, St. John's wort and
11 ginseng.⁸ The study concluded that there is little, if any, solid evidence to support an increase in
12 either physical or mental energy due to consumption of energy drinks except for the increases
13 attributable to caffeine.
14

15 29. Finally, the European Food and Safety Commission undertook a study of taurine
16 and found that no cause and effect relationship has been established between taurine and its
17 contribution to cognitive function, cardiac function and a delay in the onset of physical fatigue.⁹

18 **The Product and Defendant's Advertising**

19
20 30. Defendants' exhaustive advertising campaign builds on this deception. In truth,
21 Defendants have no independent, reliable or competent support for their claims.

22 31. In a New York Times article,¹⁰ the reporter notes:

23 ⁷ Grace Giles and Caroline Mahoney, *et al*, *Differential Cognitive Effects of Energy Drink*
24 *Ingredients: Caffeine, Taurine, and Glucose*, *Pharmacology, Biochemistry, and Behavior* 102
(2012) 569-577.

25 ⁸ Tom M. McLellan and Harris R. Lieberman, *Do Energy Drinks Contain Active*
26 *Components Other Than Caffeine?*, 70 *Nutrition Rev.* 12, 730-744 (Dec. 2012).

27 ⁹ European Food & Safety Commission Panel on Dietetic Products, Nutrition and Allergies
(NDA), *Scientific Opinion on the Substantiation of Health Claims Related to: ... Vitamins,*
28 *Minerals, Lysine and/or Arginine and/or Taurine... Pursuant to Article 13(1) of Regulation EC*
No 1924/2006, 9 *EFSA J.* 4: 2083, *1 - *34 (Apr. 8, 2011),
<http://www.efsa.europa.eu/en/efsajournal/doc/2083.pdf>.

1 On its website, the producer of Red Bull ...states that "more than
2 2,500 reports have been published about taurine and its physiological
3 effects," including acting as a "detoxifying agent." In addition, that
4 company, Red Bull of Austria, points to a 2009 safety study by a
5 European regulatory group that gave it a clean bill of health.

6 But Red Bull's Web site does not mention reports by the same group,
7 the European Food Safety Authority, which concluded that claims
8 about the benefits in energy drinks lacked scientific support. Based
9 on those findings, the European Commission has refused to approve
10 claims that taurine helps maintain mental function and heart health
11 and reduces muscle fatigue.

12 32. Defendants' nationwide advertising campaign for Red Bull has been extensive and
13 comprehensive throughout the Class Period. Defendants have spent millions of dollars conveying
14 to consumers across the United States their persistently deceptive message that Red Bull's
15 "unique combination of high quality ingredients" increases performance, concentration and
16 reaction speed, improves vigilance, stimulates metabolism and makes you feel more energetic,
17 over a caffeine tablet or standard cup of coffee.

18 33. Defendants have orchestrated their deceptive Red Bull advertising campaign by
19 using a variety of media, including television, newspapers, radio, media tours, the Internet, email
20 blasts, video news releases, point of sale displays and prominently on the product's packaging.
21 As a result of this pervasive and uniform advertising campaign, Defendants have elevated Red
22 Bull to become one of the top sellers in the energy drink category.

23 34. As a result of Defendants' deceptive and misleading messages and omissions
24 about Red Bull, conveyed directly through their marketing and advertising campaigns,
25 Defendants have been able to charge a significant price premium for Red Bull over traditional
26 caffeine products, which has convinced consumers to pay for a purportedly superior product, as
27 their advertising misleadingly conveys.

28 35. Defendants' false and misleading representation to consumers claiming Red Bull
provides increased performance, concentration and reaction speed, and improved vigilance, and

Footnote continued from previous page

¹⁰ See fn. 4 above.

1 stimulates metabolism and makes you feel more energetic, over a caffeine tablet or standard cup
2 of coffee, and its omissions regarding the product's potential health risks have been—and
3 continue to be—material to consumers, including Plaintiffs and other members of the putative
4 class, and Defendants know that its misleading representations are material in nature.

5 **The False, Misleading and Deceptive Claims**

6 36. Defendants' claims about Red Bull's effectiveness and superiority with regard to
7 energy, physical and mental performance, and alertness benefits to consumers over a caffeine
8 tablet or standard cup of coffee are false, deceptive, unfair and unconscionable because there is
9 not sufficient, competent and/or reliable scientific evidence and/or substantiation for Red Bull's
10 effectiveness and superiority claims when the product is used by the consuming public in real
11 world settings.
12

13 37. There is no competent, credible and reliable scientific evidence that is sufficient in
14 quality and quantity, based on standards generally acceptable in the relevant scientific fields,
15 when considered in light of the entire body of relevant and reliable scientific evidence, to
16 substantiate its claims regarding the superior effectiveness of Red Bull.
17

18 38. Defendants' purported scientific evidence is neither competent nor reliable.
19 Defendants do not possess any tests, analyses, research, or studies that have been conducted and
20 evaluated in an objective manner.
21

22 **The Health Related Issues**

23 39. In response to the question "Is Red Bull safe to drink?" on the online FAQ web
24 page, Defendants reassure consumers that "Red Bull is a safe product and health authorities
25 around the world have confirmed this. Red Bull Energy Drink is available in more than 160
26
27
28

1 countries and last year alone, more than four billion cans and bottles were consumed across the
 2 world. About 30 billion cans have been consumed since Red Bull was created 24 years ago.”¹¹

3 40. However, in the article, “Caffeinated Energy Drinks – A Growing Problem,”¹² the
 4 authors note that the main active ingredient in energy drinks including Red Bull is caffeine,
 5 although other substances such as taurine, riboflavin, pyridoxine, nicotinamide, other B
 6 vitamins, and various herbal derivatives are also present. “The acute and long-term effects
 7 resulting from excessive and chronic consumption of these additives alone and in combination
 8 with caffeine are not fully known.”¹³

10 41. Defendants’ national advertising campaign for Red Bull targets children,
 11 adolescents and young adults. The Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity, Yale University,
 12 says that Red Bull has 20 million followers on Facebook, 223,000 on Twitter and gets 158
 13 million YouTube views monthly.¹⁴ A study titled, “Health Effects of Energy Drinks on Children,
 14 Adolescents and Young Adults”¹⁵ made the following conclusions with respect to the
 15 supplements:

17 (a) Energy drinks have no therapeutic benefit, and both known and unknown
 18 pharmacology of various ingredients, combined with reports of toxicity, suggest that these drinks
 19 may put some children at risk for serious adverse health effects;

20 (b) Typically, energy drinks contain high levels of caffeine, taurine and guarine,
 21 which have stimulant properties and cardiac and hematologic activity, but manufacturers claim
 22 that energy drinks are nutritional supplements which shields them from the caffeine limits

23 ¹¹ [http://www.redbullusa.com/cs/Satellite/en_US/red-bull-energy-](http://www.redbullusa.com/cs/Satellite/en_US/red-bull-energy-drink/001242989766321?pcs_c=PCS_Product&pcs_cid=1242989299257&pcs_pvt=fags)
 24 [drink/001242989766321?pcs_c=PCS_Product&pcs_cid=1242989299257&pcs_pvt=fags](http://www.redbullusa.com/cs/Satellite/en_US/red-bull-energy-drink/001242989766321?pcs_c=PCS_Product&pcs_cid=1242989299257&pcs_pvt=fags)

25 ¹² Chad J. Reissig, *et al.*, *Caffeinated Energy Drinks—A Growing Problem*, 99 *Drug & Alcohol Dependence* 1-3, 1-10 (Jan. 2009).

26 ¹³ *Id.* at 2.

27 ¹⁴ [http://www.philly.com/philly/health/Energy-Drinks-Are-Targeting-Your-Kids-Behind-](http://www.philly.com/philly/health/Energy-Drinks-Are-Targeting-Your-Kids-Behind-Your-Back.html)
 28 [Your-Back.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/health/Energy-Drinks-Are-Targeting-Your-Kids-Behind-Your-Back.html)

¹⁵ Sara Seifert and Judith Schaechter, *et al.*, *Health Effects of Energy Drinks on Children, Adolescents and Young Adults*, 127 *Pediatrics* 3, 511-528 at 522 (Mar. 2011).

1 imposed on sodas and the safety testing and labeling required of pharmaceuticals;

2 (c) Other ingredients vary, are understudied, and are not regulated;

3 (d) Youth-aimed marketing and risk-taking adolescent development tendencies
4 combine to increase overdose potential;

5 (e) High consumption is suggested by self-report surveys but is under-documented in
6 children (deleterious associations with energy drink consumption have been reported globally in
7 case reports and popular media); and

8 (f) Interactions between compounds, additive and dose-dependent effects, long-term
9 consequences, and dangers associated with risky behavior in children remain to be determined.

10 42. As a result of Defendants' deceptive and misleading messages and omissions
11 about Red Bull, conveyed directly through their marketing and advertising campaigns,
12 Defendants have been able to charge a significant price premium for Red Bull over traditional
13 caffeine products, which they have convinced consumers to pay for a purportedly superior
14 product, which may in fact pose serious undisclosed health risks.

15 **Defendants' Concealment**

16
17 43. Defendants were and remain under a duty to Plaintiffs and the putative class to
18 disclose the facts, as alleged herein. The duty to disclose the true facts arises because, as
19 manufacturer, distributor and marketer, Defendants are in a superior position to know the true
20 character and quality of their products and the true facts are not something that Plaintiffs and
21 putative class members could, in the exercise of reasonable diligence, have discovered
22 independently prior to purchasing Red Bull.

23 44. The facts concealed and/or not disclosed to Plaintiffs and the class, specifically
24 that consumers do not receive additional energy, physical/mental performance and alertness
25 benefits over a caffeine tablet or standard cup of coffee, and the product's potential health risks,
26 are material facts in that a reasonable person would have considered them important in deciding
27 whether or not to purchase (or pay the same price for) Red Bull.
28

45. Defendants intentionally concealed and/or failed to disclose the shortcomings of Red Bull for the purpose of inducing Plaintiffs and putative class members to act thereon.

46. Plaintiffs and the putative class members justifiably acted upon, or relied upon to their detriment, the concealed and/or non-disclosed material facts as evidenced by their purchase of Red Bull. Had they known of the true character and quality of Red Bull, Plaintiffs and the putative class members would not have purchased (or would have paid less for) the product.

47. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' misconduct, Plaintiffs and the putative class members have suffered actual damages. Defendants' conduct has been and is malicious, wanton and/or reckless and/or shows a reckless indifference to the interests and rights of others.

V. CLASS ALLEGATIONS

48. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiffs bring this class action on behalf of themselves and all members of the following class (the "Class"):

All persons throughout the United States who purchased Red Bull, except for resale, within the applicable statutory limitations period, including the period following the filing date of this action.

Additionally, Plaintiffs bring this action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on behalf of themselves and a subclass of similarly situated individuals, defined as:

All persons residing in California who purchased Red Bull, except for resale, within the applicable statutory limitations period, including the period following the filing date of this action (the "California Subclass").

Excluded from the Class and the California Subclass are: (1) any Judge or Magistrate presiding over this action and members of their families; (2) Defendants, Defendants' subsidiaries, parents, successors, predecessors and any entity in which the Defendants or their parents have a controlling interest and their current or former employees, officers and directors; (3) counsel for Plaintiff and Defendants; and (4) legal representatives, successors or assigns of any such

1 excluded persons.

2 49. Plaintiffs believe that the Class and California Subclass include thousands of
3 consumers across the United States, though the exact number and the identities of the Class
4 members are currently unknown.

5 50. The members of the Class and California Subclass are so numerous that joinder of
6 all Class members is impracticable.

7 51. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class and
8 California Subclass and predominate over any questions affecting solely individual members of
9 the Class and California Subclass. Nearly all factual, legal and statutory relief issues raised in
10 this Complaint are common to each of the members of the Class and California Subclass and will
11 apply uniformly to every member of the Class and California Subclass. Among the questions of
12 law and fact common to Class and California Subclass members are:

13 (a) Whether Defendants engaged in the wrongful conduct alleged herein;

14 (b) Whether, in its normal and customary use by consumers, Red Bull works as
15 advertised, marketed and conveyed to consumers;

16 (c) Whether, in the course of business, Defendants represented that Red Bull has
17 characteristics, uses, benefits or qualities that it does not have when used in a customary manner
18 by consumers;

19 (d) Whether the claims Defendants made and are making regarding Red Bull are
20 unfair or deceptive, specifically, whether Red Bull provides additional energy, mental and
21 physical performance and alertness benefits to consumers over a caffeine tablet or a standard cup
22 of coffee;

23 (e) Whether Defendants have been unjustly enriched through their acts and/or omissions
24 alleged herein;

25 (f) Whether the Plaintiffs and Class members that purchased Red Bull suffered
26 monetary damages and, if so, what is the measure of those damages;

27 (g) Whether Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to an injunction, damages,
28

1 restitution, equitable relief and other relief deemed appropriate and the amount and nature of such
2 relief.

3 52. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of other members of the Class and
4 California Subclass because Plaintiffs and every member of the Class and California Subclass
5 have suffered similar injuries as a result of the same practices alleged herein. Plaintiffs have no
6 interests adverse to the interests of the other members of the Class and California Subclass.

7 53. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class
8 and California Subclass. Plaintiffs have retained able counsel with extensive experience in class
9 action litigation. The interests of Plaintiffs are coincident with, and not antagonistic to, the
10 interests of the other Class and California Subclass members.

11 54. The questions of law and fact common to the members of the Class predominate
12 over any questions affecting only individual members, including legal and factual issues relating
13 to liability and damages.
14

15 55. Plaintiffs and other members of the Class have suffered damages as a result of
16 Defendants' unlawful and wrongful conduct. Absent a class action, Defendants will retain
17 substantial funds received as a result of their wrongdoing, and such unlawful and improper
18 conduct shall, in large measure, go unremedied. Absent a class action, the members of the Class
19 will not be able to effectively litigate these claims and will suffer further losses, as Defendants
20 will be allowed to continue such conduct with impunity and retain the proceeds of its ill-gotten
21 gains.
22

23 56. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient
24 adjudication of this controversy because joinder of all Class members is impracticable. Moreover,
25 because the damages suffered by individual members of the Class are relatively small, the
26 expense and burden of individual litigation make it impossible for members of the Class to
27 individually redress the wrongs done to them. The Class is readily definable, and prosecution of
28

1 this action as a class action will eliminate the possibility of repetitious litigation. There will be no
2 difficulty in the management of this action as a class action.

3 **COUNT I**

4 **CONSUMER LEGAL REMEDIES ACT**

5 **(Violations of Cal. Civil Code § 1750 *et seq.*)**

6 57. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate each preceding and succeeding paragraph as though
7 fully set forth herein.

8 58. The Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Civil Code Section 1750 *et seq.* (hereinafter
9 "CLRA") was designed and enacted to protect consumers from unfair and deceptive business
10 practices. To this end, the CLRA sets forth a list of unfair and deceptive acts and practices in
11 Civil Code Section 1770.

12 59. The CLRA applies to Defendants' actions and conduct described herein because it
13 extends to the sale of goods or services for personal, family or household use.

14 60. At all relevant times, Plaintiffs and members of the Class were "consumers" as
15 that term is defined in Civil Code Section 1761(d).

16 61. The transactions from which this action arises include transactions involving the
17 sale or lease of goods or services for personal, family or household purposes within the meaning
18 of Civil Code Section 1761.

19 62. Defendants' practices in connection with the marketing and sale of Red Bull
20 violate the CLRA in at least the following respects:

21 a. In violation of Section 1770(a)(5), Defendants knowingly misrepresented the
22 character, uses and benefits of Red Bull;

23 b. In violation of Section 1770(a)(7), Defendants represented that Red Bull is of a
24 particular standard, quality or grade, which it is not; and

25 c. In violation of Section 1770(a)(9), Defendants have knowingly advertised Red
26 Bull with the intent not to sell the product as advertised.

27 63. Defendants represent that Red Bull increases performance, concentration and
28 reaction speed, improves vigilance and provides additional energy or similar words intended to

1 convey to consumers that the consumer was obtaining a product that provides more benefit to
 2 consumers than a caffeine tablet or cup of coffee including but limited to the enhancement of
 3 physical or cognitive performance. These representations are false and misleading in that there is
 4 a lack of any reported scientific support for a claim that Red Bull provides more benefit to
 5 consumers than a caffeine tablet or cup of coffee.

6 64. Defendants' acts and practices, undertaken in transactions intended to result and
 7 which did result in the purchase of Red Bull by consumers, violate Civil Code Section 1770 and
 8 caused harm to Plaintiffs and Class and California Subclass members who would not have
 9 purchased (or paid as much for) Red Bull had they known the truth. The acts and practices
 10 engaged in by Defendants that violate the CLRA include inducing Plaintiffs and the Class and
 11 California Subclass to purchase (or pay more for) Red Bull than they would otherwise have paid
 12 had they known the truth.

13 65. Plaintiffs were injured by purchasing (or overpaying for) Red Bull.

14 66. In accordance with Civil Code § 1780(a), Plaintiffs and members of the Class and
 15 California Subclass seek injunctive and equitable relief for violations of the CLRA. In addition,
 16 after mailing appropriate notice and demand in accordance with Civil Code § 1782(a) & (d),
 17 Plaintiffs will subsequently amend this Class Action Complaint to also include a request for
 18 damages. Plaintiffs and members of the Class and California Subclass request that this Court
 19 enter such orders or judgments as may be necessary to restore to any person in interest any money
 20 which may have been acquired by means of such unfair business practices, and for such other
 21 relief, including attorneys' fees and costs, as provided in Civil Code § 1780 and the Prayer for
 22 Relief.

23 COUNT II

24 UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW

25 (Violations of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 *et. seq.*)

26 67. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate each preceding and succeeding paragraph as though
 27 fully set forth herein.
 28

68. Defendants have engaged in unfair competition within the meaning of California Business & Professions Code Section 17200 *et seq.* because Defendants' conduct is unlawful, misleading and unfair as herein alleged.

69. Defendants' business practices are unlawful because they violate the CLRA.

70. Defendants' business practices are misleading because they were likely to deceive consumers into believing that they are obtaining a product that provides more benefit to consumers than a caffeine tablet or cup of coffee including but not limited to the enhancement of physical or cognitive performance.

71. Defendants' business practices, and each of them, are unfair because they offend established public policy and/or are immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous and/or substantially injurious to consumers, which harm greatly outweighs any benefit associated with the business practice, in that consumers are led to believe that the product they were paying for had qualities that it did not have.

72. Plaintiffs have standing to pursue this claim because they have been injured by virtue of suffering a loss of money and/or property as a result of the wrongful conduct alleged herein. Plaintiffs would not have purchased Red Bull (or paid as much for it) had they known the truth.

73. Plaintiffs and the Class are entitled to relief, including full restitution and/or restitutionary disgorgement, to the greatest extent permitted by law, which may have been obtained by Defendants as a result of such business acts or practices, and enjoining Defendants to cease and desist from engaging in the practices described herein.

COUNT III

UNJUST ENRICHMENT

74. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate each preceding and succeeding paragraph as though fully set forth herein.

75. Plaintiffs and Class members conferred a monetary benefit on Defendants by purchasing Red Bull. Plaintiffs and Class members would have expected remuneration from Defendants at the time this benefit was conferred had they known that the product did not

perform as promised and Defendants' claim that its product is a superior source of energy and other benefits worthy of a premium price is unsupported by competent, credible and reliable scientific evidence to substantiate such claims.

76. As a result of Defendants' deceptive and misleading packaging, advertising, marketing and sale of Red Bull, Defendants were enriched, at the expense of the Plaintiffs and each member of the putative Class, through the payment of the purchase price for Red Bull products.

77. Under the circumstances, it would be against equity and good conscience to permit Defendants to retain the ill-gotten benefits that are received from Plaintiffs and members of the Class in light of the fact that the Red Bull products purchased by Plaintiffs and members of the Class were not as Defendants purport them to be, as alleged above.

78. It would be unjust and inequitable for Defendants to retain the benefit without restitution or disgorgement of monies paid to Defendants for Red Bull products, or such other appropriate equitable remedy as appropriate, to the Plaintiffs and other members of the Class.

RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and on behalf of the Class and California Subclass, pray for judgment, as follows:

- A. For an Order certifying this case as a class action against Defendants and appointing Plaintiffs as Representatives of the Class;
- B. For an order of compensatory damages, statutory damages, restitution, and all other forms of monetary and non-monetary relief recoverable under California law;
- C. For costs of suit incurred herein;
- D. For prejudgment interest to the extent allowed by law;
- E. For penalties as allowed by law;
- F. For permanent injunctive relief to enjoin further violations of the law; and
- G. For such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury on all issues triable of right by jury.

DATED: February 27, 2013

KAPLAN FOX & KILSHEIMER LLP

By: 

Laurence D. King (SBN 206423)

Linda M. Fong (SBN 124232)

KAPLAN FOX & KILSHEIMER LLP

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Los Angeles, CA 90025

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Facsimile: (310) 575-8697

jfarar@kaplanfox.com

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

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

NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR DISCOVERY

This case has been assigned to District Judge Michael Fitzgerald and the assigned discovery Magistrate Judge is Jay C. Gandhi.

The case number on all documents filed with the Court should read as follows:

CV13- 1444 MWF (JCGx)

Pursuant to General Order 05-07 of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, the Magistrate Judge has been designated to hear discovery related motions.

All discovery related motions should be noticed on the calendar of the Magistrate Judge

=====

NOTICE TO COUNSEL

A copy of this notice must be served with the summons and complaint on all defendants (if a removal action is filed, a copy of this notice must be served on all plaintiffs).

Subsequent documents must be filed at the following location:

☒ **Western Division**
312 N. Spring St., Rm. G-8
Los Angeles, CA 90012

☐ **Southern Division**
411 West Fourth St., Rm. 1-053
Santa Ana, CA 92701-4516

☐ **Eastern Division**
3470 Twelfth St., Rm. 134
Riverside, CA 92501

Failure to file at the proper location will result in your documents being returned to you.

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Central District of California ☒

David Wolf and Miguel Almaraz, individually
and on behalf of others similarly situated,

Plaintiff(s)

v.

Red Bull GmbH, a foreign company; Red Bull North
America, Inc., a California corporation; and Red Bull
Distribution Company, Inc., a Delaware corporation

Defendant(s)

CV13-01444-MWF (JCG-x)
Civil Action No.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) Red Bull GmbH
Am Brunnen 1
5330 Fuschl am See
Austria

Red Bull North America, Inc.
Red Bull Distribution Company, Inc.
c/o CT Corporation System
818 West Seventh Street
Los Angeles, CA 90017

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

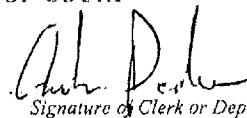
Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

Laurence D. King and Linda M. Fong
Kaplan Fox & Kilsheimer, LLP
350 Sansome Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94104

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

CLERK OF COURT

Date: 02/27/2013


Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No. _____

PROOF OF SERVICE

(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* _____
was received by me on *(date)* _____.

☐ I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* _____
on *(date)* _____; or

☐ I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* _____,
a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,
on *(date)* _____, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

☐ I served the summons on *(name of individual)* _____, who is
designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____
on *(date)* _____; or

☐ I returned the summons unexecuted because _____; or

☐ Other *(specify)*: _____

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ 0.00

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

COPY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
CIVIL COVER SHEETI. (a) PLAINTIFFS (Check box if you are representing yourself ☐)

David Wolf and Miguel Almaraz, individually and on behalf of others similarly situated

DEFENDANTS (Check box if you are representing yourself ☐)

Red Bull GmbH, Red Bull North America, Inc. and Red Bull Distribution Company, Inc.

(b) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number. If you are representing yourself, provide same.)

Laurence D. King and Linda M. Fong, of Kaplan Fox & Kilsheimer, LLP
350 Sansome Street, Suite 400
San Francisco, CA 94104
(415) 772-4700

(b) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number. If you are representing yourself, provide same.)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an X in one box only.)

- ☐ 1. U.S. Government Plaintiff
- ☐ 2. U.S. Government Defendant
- ☐ 3. Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☒ 4. Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES-For Diversity Cases Only
(Place an X in one box for plaintiff and one for defendant)

- | | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Citizen of This State | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business in this State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business in Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. ORIGIN (Place an X in one box only.)

- ☒ 1. Original Proceeding
- ☐ 2. Removed from State Court
- ☐ 3. Remanded from Appellate Court
- ☐ 4. Reinstated or Reopened
- ☐ 5. Transferred from Another District (Specify)
- ☐ 6. Multi-District Litigation

V. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No (Check "Yes" only if demanded in complaint.)CLASS ACTION under F.R.Cv.P. 23: ☒ Yes ☐ No

MONEY DEMANDED IN COMPLAINT: \$

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing and write a brief statement of cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.)
28 U.S.C. Sec. 1332(d)(2) and Class Action Fairness Act, violation of consumer protection statutes and unjust enrichment

VII. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an X in one box only.)

OTHER STATUTES	CONTRACT	REAL PROPERTY CONFL.	IMMIGRATION	PRISONER PETITIONS	PROPERTY RIGHTS
<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance	<input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land	<input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Habeas Corpus:	<input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights
<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment	<input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine	<input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee	<input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent
<input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust	<input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property		<input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence	<input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark
<input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking	<input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument			<input type="checkbox"/> 530 General	
<input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce/ICC Rates/Etc	<input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment			<input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty	
<input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation	<input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act			<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	
<input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Org.	<input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loan (Excl. Vet.)			<input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus/Other	<input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff)
<input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit	<input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Vet. Benefits			<input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923)
<input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV	<input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits			<input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition	<input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405 (g))
<input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract			<input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee Conditions of Confinement	<input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSIO Title XVI
<input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability			<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881	<input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405 (g))
<input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts	<input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise			<input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other	
<input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters	<input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land				
<input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Info Act	<input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure				
<input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration	<input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment				
<input type="checkbox"/> 899 Admin. Procedures Act/Review of Appeal of Agency Decision					
<input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes					

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Case Number

CV13-01444

AFTER COMPLETING PAGE 1 OF FORM CV-71, COMPLETE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED ON PAGE 2.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
CIVIL COVER SHEET

VIII(a). IDENTICAL CASES: Has this action been previously filed in this court and dismissed, remanded or closed? ☒ NO ☐ YES

If yes, list case number(s): _____

VIII(b). RELATED CASES: Have any cases been previously filed in this court that are related to the present case? ☒ NO ☐ YES

If yes, list case number(s): _____

Civil cases are deemed related if a previously filed case and the present case:

- (Check all boxes that apply) ☐ A. Arise from the same or closely related transactions, happenings, or events; or
☐ B. Call for determination of the same or substantially related or similar questions of law and fact; or
☐ C. For other reasons would entail substantial duplication of labor if heard by different judges; or
☐ D. Involve the same patent, trademark or copyright, and one of the factors identified above in a, b, or c also is present.

IX. VENUE: (When completing the following information, use an additional sheet if necessary.)

(a) List the County in this District; California County outside of this District; State if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which **EACH** named plaintiff resides.

☐ Check here if the government, its agencies or employees is a named plaintiff. If this box is checked, go to item (b).

County in this District:*	California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country
Los Angeles County	

(b) List the County in this District; California County outside of this District; State if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which **EACH** named defendant resides.

☐ Check here if the government, its agencies or employees is a named defendant. If this box is checked, go to item (c).

County in this District:*	California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country
Los Angeles County	Delaware Austria

(c) List the County in this District; California County outside of this District; State if other than California; or Foreign Country, in which **EACH** claim arose.
NOTE: In land condemnation cases, use the location of the tract of land involved.

County in this District:*	California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country
Los Angeles County	

*Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura, Santa Barbara, or San Luis Obispo Counties
Note: In land condemnation cases, use the location of the tract of land involved

X. SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY (OR SELF-REPRESENTED LITIGANT): _____

DATE: February 27, 2013

Notice to Counsel/Parties: The CV-71 (JS-44) Civil Cover Sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required pursuant to Local Rule 3-1 is not filed but is used by the Clerk of the Court for the purpose of statistics, venue and initiating the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions, see separate instructions sheet).

Key to Statistical codes relating to Social Security Cases:

Nature of Suit Code	Abbreviation	Substantive Statement of Cause of Action
861	HIA	All claims for health insurance benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. Also, include claims by hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the program. (42 U.S.C. 1935ff(b))
862	BL	All claims for "Black Lung" benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969. (30 U.S.C. 923)
863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured workers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended; plus all claims filed for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))
863	DIWW	All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))
864	SSID	All claims for supplemental security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security Act, as amended.
865	RSI	All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405 (g))