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7 *Counsel for Plaintiff and the Proposed Class*

8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

9 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

10  
 11 TROY BACKUS, on behalf of himself and  
 12 all others similarly situated,

13 Plaintiff,

14 v.

15 NESTLE USA INC.,

16 Defendant.

Case No: \_\_\_\_\_

**COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF:**  
**CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §§17200 *et seq.*;**  
**CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §§17500 *et seq.*;**  
**CAL. CIV. CODE §§ 1750 *et seq.*;**  
**BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTIES; AND**  
**BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTIES.**

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

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1 Plaintiff Troy Backus, on behalf of himself, all others similarly situated, and the general public,  
2 by and through his undersigned counsel, hereby sues Defendant Nestle USA, Inc. (“Nestle” or  
3 “Defendant”), and upon information and belief and investigation of counsel, alleges as follows:

4 **I. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

5 1. This Court has original jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2) (The  
6 Class Action Fairness Act) because the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$5,000,000  
7 exclusive of interest and costs and because more than two-thirds of the members of the class defined  
8 herein reside in states other than the states of which Defendant is a resident.

9 2. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because Plaintiff resides in  
10 this District and suffered injuries as a result of Defendant’s acts in this District; many of the acts and  
11 transactions giving rise to this action occurred in this District; and Defendant (1) is authorized to  
12 conduct business in this District and has intentionally availed itself of the laws and markets of this  
13 District through the distribution and sale of its products in this District, and (2) is subject to personal  
14 jurisdiction in this District.

15 **II. INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT**

16 3. This civil action arises out of the events and omissions of Defendant, which occurred in  
17 Marin County, California. Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 3-2(c), this action should be assigned to the San  
18 Francisco or Oakland Division. Plaintiff requests the San Francisco Division as it is closer to his home  
19 in Marin County.

20 **III. NATURE OF THE ACTION**

21 4. Nestle manufactures, markets, and sells a line of coffee creamer products (collectively  
22 the “Trans Fat Creamers” or “Products”) that contain partially hydrogenated oil (“PHO”).

23 5. The Trans Fat Creamers containing PHO include multiple varieties sold under the label  
24 of Coffee-Mate.

25 6. PHO is a food additive banned in many parts of the world due to its artificial trans fat  
26 content. Artificial trans fat is a toxic carcinogen for which there are many safe and commercially viable  
27 substitutes. The FDA last year issued a tentative determination that PHO is unfit for use in food.  
28

1 7. Nestle falsely markets and falsely represents the Trans Fat Creamers as free of trans fat;  
2 however all of the Trans Fat Creamers contain dangerous levels of trans fat.

3 8. Although safe, low-cost, and commercially acceptable alternatives to PHO exist,  
4 including those used in competing brands and even in a few other Nestle coffee creamers, Nestle  
5 unfairly elects *not* to use safe alternatives in the Trans Fat Creamers, in order to increase its profits at  
6 the expense of the health of its customers.

7 9. Additionally, Defendant misleadingly marketed its Trans Fat Creamers with an  
8 unauthorized health claim. This false advertising deceives consumers into purchasing a product that is  
9 harmful to their health.

10 10. Plaintiff repeatedly purchased and consumed the Trans Fat Creamers during the Class  
11 Period defined herein.

12 11. This action is brought to remedy Defendant's unlawful conduct. On behalf of the class  
13 as defined herein, Plaintiff seeks an order compelling Defendant to, *inter alia*: (1) cease marketing and  
14 selling the Trans Fat Creamers using the false and unauthorized nutrient content claim "0g trans fat";  
15 (2) conduct a corrective advertising campaign; (3) destroy all misleading and deceptive materials and  
16 Products; (4) award Plaintiff and other Class members restitution under the UCL and FAL; and (5) pay  
17 costs, expenses, and reasonable attorneys' fees.

18 **IV. PARTIES**

19 12. Defendant Nestle is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in  
20 California. Nestle owns, manufactures, and sells the Trans Fat Creamers.

21 13. Plaintiff Troy Backus is a resident of Marin County, California who repeatedly  
22 purchased the Trans Fat Creamers for personal and household consumption.

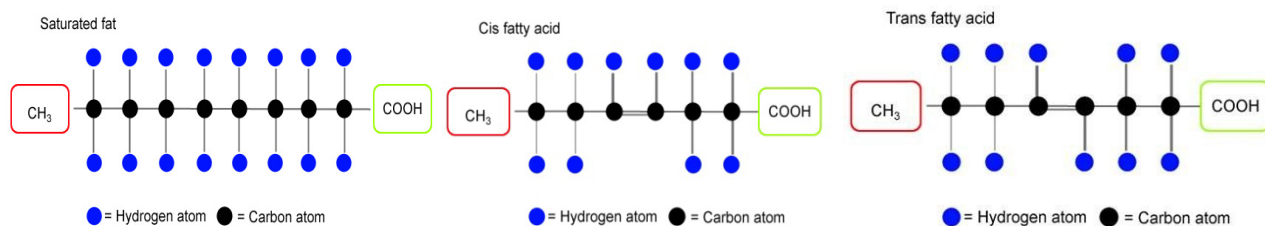
23 **V. NATURE OF TRANS FAT**

24 14. Artificial trans fat is manufactured via an industrial process called partial hydrogenation,  
25 in which hydrogen atoms are added to normal vegetable oil by heating the oil to temperatures above  
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27  
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1 400°F in the presence of ion donor catalyst metals such as rhodium, ruthenium, and nickel.<sup>1</sup> The  
 2 resulting product is known as partially hydrogenated oil, or PHO, which is the main source of trans fat  
 3 in the American diet and used in dangerous quantities in the Trans Fat Creamers.

4 15. PHO was invented in 1901 and patented in 1902 by German chemist Wilhelm Normann.  
 5 PHO molecules chemically differ from the natural fat molecules in other food products.<sup>2</sup>

6 16. Natural fat, except the trace amounts of natural trans fat from ruminant animals, comes  
 7 in two varieties: (1) fats that lack carbon double bonds (“saturated fat”) and (2) fats that have carbon  
 8 double bonds with the hydrogen atoms on the same side on the carbon chain (“cis fat”). Trans fat,  
 9 however, has carbon double bonds with hydrogen atoms on opposite sides of the carbon chain.



14 17. PHO was initially a “wonder product” attractive to the packaged food industry because  
 15 it combines the low cost of unsaturated cis fat with the flexibility and long shelf life of saturated fat.  
 16 Like cis fat, PHO is manufactured from low-cost legumes,<sup>3</sup> while saturated fat is derived from  
 17 relatively expensive animal and tropical plant sources.<sup>4</sup> Given its versatility, ten years ago PHO was  
 18 used in 40% of processed packaged foods.<sup>5</sup> Now, given its toxic properties, few food companies  
 19 continue to use PHO. Defendant, however, has decided not to follow its more responsible peers and  
 20

21 <sup>1</sup> See Alice H. Lichtenstein, *Trans Fatty Acids, Plasma Lipid Levels, and Risk of Developing Cardiovascular Disease*, 95 CIRCULATION 2588, 2588-90 (1997).

22 <sup>2</sup> See Alberto Ascherio et al., *Trans Fatty Acids & Coronary Heart Disease*, 340 NEW ENG. J. MED. 94,  
 23 94-8 (1999). See also Ctr. for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition, U.S. Food & Drug Admin., Questions  
 24 & Answers About *Trans Fat Nutrition Labeling* (Update 2006) (2003), available at  
<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/%7Edms/qatrans2.html>.

25 <sup>3</sup> e.g., corn oil, soybean oil, peanut oil

26 <sup>4</sup> e.g., butter, cream, tallow, palm, coconut oil

27 <sup>5</sup> Mary Carmichael, *The Skinny on Bad Fat*, Newsweek, Dec. 1, 2003, at 66. See also Kim Severson,  
 28 *Hidden Killer. It's Trans Fat. It's Dangerous. And It's In Food You Eat Every Day*, S.F. Chron., Jan.  
 30, 2002.

1 cease using PHO, instead unfairly placing profits over public health.

2 18. PHO causes cardiovascular heart disease, diabetes, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, and  
3 accelerates cognitive decline in diabetics.

4 **A. There is a Well-Established Scientific Consensus That Trans Fat is Extremely Harmful**

5 19. There is "no safe level" of artificial trans fat intake.<sup>6</sup>

6 20. According to the established consensus of scientists, consumers should keep their  
7 consumption of trans fat "as low as possible."<sup>7</sup>

8 21. In addition, "trans fatty acids are not essential and provide no known benefit to human  
9 health."<sup>8</sup> Thus, while "the [Institute of Medicine] sets tolerable upper intake levels (UL) for the highest  
10 level of daily nutrient intake that is likely to pose no risk of adverse health effects to almost all  
11 individuals in the general population[,] . . . the IOM does **not** set a UL for trans fatty acid because **any**  
12 incremental increase in trans fatty acid intake increases the risk of CHD."<sup>9</sup> (emphasis added).

13 22. Dariush Mozaffarian of Harvard Medical School writes in the New England Journal of  
14 Medicine:

15 [F]rom a nutritional standpoint, the consumption of trans fatty acids results in  
16 considerable potential harm but no apparent benefit. . . . Thus, complete or near-  
17 complete avoidance of industrially produced trans fat—a consumption of less than  
18 0.5 percent of the total energy intake—may be necessary to avoid adverse effects  
19 and would be prudent to minimize health risks.<sup>10</sup>

20 23. Today there is no question about the scientific consensus on trans fat. Dr. Julie Louise  
21 Gerberding, former director of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, writes:

22 <sup>6</sup> Food & Nutrition Bd., Inst. of Med., *Dietary Reference Intakes For Energy, Carbohydrate, Fiber,*  
23 *Fat, Fatty Acids, Cholesterol, Protein, and Amino Acids* (2005).

24 <sup>7</sup> *Id.*

25 <sup>8</sup> Food Labeling; Health Claim; Phytosterols and Risk of Coronary Heart Disease; Proposed Rule, 75  
Fed. Reg. 76526, 76542 (Dec. 8, 2010)

26 <sup>9</sup> *Id.*

27 <sup>10</sup> Dariush Mozaffarian et al., *Trans Fatty Acids and Cardiovascular Disease*, 354 N. ENGL. J. MED.  
28 1601, 1608-1609 (2006).

1 The scientific rationale for eliminating exposure to artificial trans fatty acids in foods  
2 is rock solid. There is no evidence that they provide any health benefit, and they are  
3 certainly harmful. These compounds adversely affect both low- and high-density  
4 lipoprotein cholesterol levels and increase the risk for coronary heart disease, even at  
5 relatively low levels of dietary intake. Gram for gram, trans fats are far more potent  
6 than saturated fats in increasing the risk for heart disease, perhaps because they also  
7 have pro-inflammatory properties and other adverse effects on vascular endothelium.  
8 The strong evidence of harm motivated the Institute of Medicine to issue  
9 recommendations that the intake of trans fats be minimized and prompted the [FDA]  
10 to require the addition of information about trans fat content to food labels beginning  
11 in 2006. Eliminating exposure to these dangerous fats could have a powerful  
12 population impact—potentially protecting 30,000 to 100,000 Americans from death  
13 related to heart disease each year.<sup>11</sup>

14 24. Dr. Mozaffarian further writes:

15 Given the adverse effects of trans fatty acids on serum lipid levels, systemic  
16 inflammation, and possibly other risk factors for cardiovascular disease and the  
17 positive associations with the risk of CHD, sudden death from cardiac causes, and  
18 possibly diabetes, the potential for harm is clear. The evidence and the magnitude of  
19 adverse health effects of trans fatty acids are in fact far stronger on average than  
20 those of food contaminants or pesticide residues, which have in some cases received  
21 considerable attention.<sup>12</sup>

22 25. Given its nature as an artificial chemical not naturally found in any food and the  
23 considerable harm that causes to human health, Dr. Walter Willet, also at Harvard Medical School, finds  
24 the most direct analogue of trans fat to be not any natural fat but contaminants such as pesticides. He

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26 <sup>11</sup> Julie Louise Gerberding, *Safer Fats for Healthier Hearts: The Case for Eliminating Dietary Artificial*  
*Trans Fat Intake*, 151 ANN. INTERN. MED. 137-138 (2009)

27 <sup>12</sup> Dariush Mozaffarian et al., *Trans Fatty Acids and Cardiovascular Disease*, 354 N. ENGL. J. MED.  
28 1601 (2006).



1 states that trans fat “is a food safety issue . . . this is actually contamination.”<sup>13</sup>

2 **B. Artificial Trans Fat Is So Inherently Dangerous It Has Been Banned by an Increasing**  
3 **Number of American and European Jurisdictions**

4 26. In 2008, California became the first state to ban all restaurant food with artificial trans  
5 fat, a law affecting approximately 88,000 eating establishments. Trans fats now may not be served in  
6 California’s schools or restaurants in an amount greater than half a gram per serving.<sup>14</sup>

7 27. New York City banned trans fat in its 20,000 food establishments in 2006. Similar laws  
8 exist in Philadelphia; Baltimore; Stamford, Connecticut; and Montgomery County, Maryland.

9 28. A 2004 Danish law restricted all foods to under 2 percent of fat calories from artificial  
10 trans fat. Switzerland made the same restriction in 2008.<sup>15</sup>

11 29. After conducting a surveillance study of Denmark’s trans fat ban, researchers concluded  
12 the change “did not appreciably affect the quality, cost or availability of food” and did not have “any  
13 noticeable effect for the consumers.”<sup>16</sup>

14 30. Similar bans have been introduced in Austria, Hungary and Switzerland. Brazil,  
15 Argentina, Chile, and South Africa have all taken steps to reduce or eliminate artificial trans fats from  
16 food.<sup>17</sup>

17 31. In 2006, a trans fat task force co-chaired by Health Canada and the Heart and Stroke  
18 Foundation of Canada recommended capping trans fat content at 2 percent of calories for tub  
19 margarines and spreads and 5 percent for all other foods. On September 30, 2009, British Columbia  
20 became the first province to impose these rules on all restaurants, schools, hospitals, and special  
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23 <sup>13</sup> Rebecca Coombes, *Trans fats: chasing a global ban*, 343 BRITISH MED. J. (2011).

24 <sup>14</sup> Cal. Educ. Code § 49431.7; Cal. Health & Saf. Code § 114377.

25 <sup>15</sup> Andrew Collier, *Deadly Fats: Why Are We still Eating Them?*, The Independent (UK), June 10,  
2008.

26 <sup>16</sup> Mozaffarian, 354 New Eng. J. Med. at 1610; *see also* Stender, Steen, *High Levels of Industrially*  
27 *Produced Trans Fat in Popular Fast Food*, 354 NEW ENG. J. MED. 1650, 1652 (2006).

28 <sup>17</sup> Coombes, *Trans fats: chasing a global ban*, 343 BRITISH MED. J. (2011).

1 events.<sup>18</sup>

2 32. In its European Food and Nutrition Action Plan 2015-2020, the World Health  
3 Organization identified one of its goals as “making the European Region trans fat-free.”<sup>19</sup> The  
4 European Commission is preparing legislation to ban the use of trans fats in the European Union, with a  
5 legislative report on a ban that would cover most of Europe anticipated in June 2015.<sup>20</sup>

6 **C. The Artificial Trans Fat in the Trans Fat Creamers Causes Cardiovascular Disease**

7 33. Trans fat raises the risk of CHD more than any other known nutritive product.<sup>21</sup>

8 34. Removing trans fat equivalent to 2% of total calories from the American diet “would  
9 prevent approximately 30,000 premature coronary deaths per year, and epidemiologic evidence  
10 suggests this number is closer to 100,000 premature deaths annually.”<sup>22</sup>

11 35. “10 to 19 percent of CHD events in the United States could be averted by reducing the  
12 intake of trans fat.”<sup>23</sup>

13 36. By raising LDL levels and lowering HDL levels, trans fat causes a wide variety of  
14 dangerous heart conditions, including low flow-mediated vasodilation, coronary artery disease, and  
15 primary cardiac arrest.

16 37. In a joint Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee Report, the Department of Health and  
17 Human Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture recognized “[t]he relationship between trans  
18 fatty acid intake and LDL cholesterol is direct and progressive, increasing the risk of cardiovascular  
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22 <sup>18</sup> *Province Restricts Trans Fat in B.C.*, British Columbia Ministry of Healthy Living and Sport Press  
23 Release (2009), available at [http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news\\_releases\\_2005-2009/2009HLS0013-000315.htm](http://www2.news.gov.bc.ca/news_releases_2005-2009/2009HLS0013-000315.htm).

24 <sup>19</sup> Regional Committee for Europe, *European Food and Nutrition Action Plan 2015-2020*, 64th session.

25 <sup>20</sup> Basu, J. *European trans fat report ‘could lead to ban’*, Food Navigator.com, April 15, 2015.

26 <sup>21</sup> Mozaffarian, 354 NEW ENG. J. MED. at 1603.

27 <sup>22</sup> Alberto Ascherio et al., *Trans Fatty Acids & Coronary Heart Disease*, 340 NEW ENG. J. MED. 94, 94-  
28 8 (1999).

<sup>23</sup> Mozaffarian, 354 NEW ENG. J. MED. at 1611.

1 disease.”<sup>24</sup>

2 38. The American Heart Association warns, “trans fats raise your bad (LDL) cholesterol  
3 levels and lower your good (HDL) cholesterol levels. Eating trans fats increases your risk of developing  
4 heart disease.”<sup>25</sup>

5 39. After a review of literature on the connection between the consumption of artificial trans  
6 fat and coronary heart disease, the FDA concluded:

7 [B]ased on the consistent results across a number of the most persuasive types of  
8 study designs (i.e., intervention trials and prospective cohort studies) that were  
9 conducted using a range of test conditions and across different geographical regions  
10 and populations . . . the available evidence for an adverse relationship between trans  
11 fat intake and CHD risk is strong.<sup>26</sup>

12 40. The FDA further found “[t]o date, there have been no reports issued by authoritative  
13 sources that provide a level of trans fat in the diet . . . below which there is no risk of [Coronary Heart  
14 Disease].”<sup>27</sup> Rather, there “is a positive linear trend between trans fatty acid intake and LDL cholesterol  
15 concentration, and therefore there is a positive relationship between trans fatty acid intake and the risk  
16 of CHD.”<sup>28</sup>

17 41. A study investigating the impact of trans fatty acids on heart health provides evidence  
18 that:

19 [E]ven the lower estimates from the effects [of PHO] on blood lipids would suggest  
20 that more than 30,000 deaths per year may be due to the consumption of partially  
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22 <sup>24</sup> Dep’t of Health & Human Serv. & U.S. Dep’t of Agric., 2005 Dietary Guidelines Advisory  
Committee Report, Section 10 (2005).

23 <sup>25</sup> Am. Heart Ass’n., *Trans Fat Overview*, available at  
24 [http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/GettingHealthy/FatsAndOils/Fats101/Trans-  
Fats\\_UCM\\_301120\\_Article.jsp](http://www.heart.org/HEARTORG/GettingHealthy/FatsAndOils/Fats101/Trans-Fats_UCM_301120_Article.jsp).

25 <sup>26</sup> Ctr. for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition, U.S. Food & Drug Admin., Questions & Answers About  
26 *Trans Fat Nutrition Labeling*.

27 <sup>27</sup> 75 Fed. Reg. 76526, 76542 (Dec. 8, 2010).

28 <sup>28</sup> *Id.*

1 hydrogenated vegetable fat. Furthermore, the number of attributable cases of  
2 nonfatal coronary heart disease will be even larger.<sup>29</sup>

3 42. By taking blood samples from 179 survivors of cardiac arrest and 285 randomly-selected  
4 control patients and comparing the top fifth with the bottom fifth of participants by trans fat intake,  
5 another study published in the American Heart Association's Circulation found that the largest  
6 consumers of trans fat have three times the risk of suffering primary cardiac arrest, even after  
7 controlling for a variety of medical and lifestyle risk factors.<sup>30</sup>

8 43. Australian researchers observed that heart attack patients possess elevated amounts of  
9 trans fat in their adipose tissue compared to controls, strongly linking heart disease with long-term  
10 consumption of trans fat.<sup>31</sup>

11 44. Another separate study isolated one of the methods by which trans fat causes  
12 atherosclerosis, namely by degrading the function of TGF- $\beta$ , a protein responsible for preventing the  
13 development of atherosclerotic lesions.<sup>32</sup>

14 45. TGF-  $\beta$  also functions to suppress cancerous tumors. The same scientists suggest that the  
15 degradation of TGF-  $\beta$  may be the reason that trans fat consumption is strongly linked to multiple forms  
16 of cancer.<sup>33</sup>

17 **D. The Artificial Trans Fat in the Trans Fat Creamers Causes Type-2 Diabetes**

18 46. Artificial trans fat causes type-2 diabetes.<sup>34</sup>

19 47. In particular, trans fat disrupts the body's glucose and insulin regulation system by  
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21 <sup>29</sup> W.C. Willett et al., *Trans Fatty Acids: Are the Effects only Marginal?* 84 AM. J. PUB. HEALTH 722,  
22 723 (1994).

23 <sup>30</sup> Rozenn N. Lemaitre et al., *Cell Membrane Trans-Fatty Acids and the Risk of Primary Cardiac  
24 Arrest*, 105 CIRCULATION 697, 697-701 (2002).

25 <sup>31</sup> Peter M. Clifton et al., *Trans Fatty Acids In Adipose Tissue And The Food Supply Are Associated  
26 With Myocardial Infarction*. 134 J. NUTR. 874, 874-79 (2004).

27 <sup>32</sup> Chen, C.L. et al., *A mechanism by which dietary trans fats cause atherosclerosis*, J. of Nut.  
28 Biochemistry 22(7) 649-655 (2011).

<sup>33</sup> *Id.*

<sup>34</sup> Am. Heart Ass'n., *Trans Fat Overview*.

1 incorporating itself into cell membranes, causing the insulin receptors on cell walls to malfunction, and  
 2 in turn elevating blood glucose levels and stimulating further release of insulin.

3 48. Researchers at Northwestern University's medical school found mice show multiple  
 4 markers of type-2 diabetes after eating a high trans fat diet for only four weeks.<sup>35</sup>

5 49. By the eighth week of the study, mice fed the diet high in trans fat showed a 500%  
 6 increase compared to the control group in hepatic interleukin-1 $\beta$  gene expression, one such marker of  
 7 diabetes, indicating the extreme stress artificial trans fat places on the body.<sup>36</sup>

8 50. A 14-year study of 84,204 women found that for every 2 percent increase in energy  
 9 intake from artificial trans fat, the relative risk of type-2 diabetes was increased by 39 percent.<sup>37</sup>

10 **E. The Artificial Trans Fat in the Trans Fat Creamers Causes Breast, Prostate, and**  
 11 **Colorectal Cancer**

12 51. Trans fat is a carcinogen and causes breast, prostate, and colorectal cancer.

13 52. A 13-year study of 19,934 French women showed 75 percent more women contracted  
 14 breast cancer in the highest quintile of trans fat consumption than did those in the lowest.<sup>38</sup>

15 53. In a 25-year study of 14,916 U.S. physicians, the doctors in the highest quintile of trans  
 16 fat intake had more than double the risk of developing prostate cancer than the doctors in the lowest  
 17 quintile.<sup>39</sup>

18 54. A study of 1,012 American males observing trans fat intake and the risk of prostate  
 19 cancer found "[c]ompared with the lowest quartile of total trans-fatty acid consumption, the higher  
 20 quartiles gave odds ratios (ORs) equal to 1.58," meaning those in the highest quartile are 58% more

21 <sup>35</sup> Sean W. P. Koppe et al., *Trans fat feeding results in higher serum alanine aminotransferase and*  
 22 *increased insulin resistance compared with a standard murine high-fat diet*, 297 AM. J. PHYSIOL.  
 GASTROINTEST LIVER PHYSIOL. 378 (2009).

23 <sup>36</sup> *Id.*

24 <sup>37</sup> Jorge Salmeron et al., *Dietary Fat Intake and Risk of Type 2 Diabetes in Women*, 73 AM. J. CLINICAL  
 25 NUTRITION 1019, 1023 (2001).

26 <sup>38</sup> Véronique Chajès et al., *Association between Serum Trans-Monounsaturated Fatty Acids and Breast*  
*Cancer Risk in the E3N-EPIC Study*. 167 AM. J. EPIDEMIOLOGY 1312, 1316 (2008).

27 <sup>39</sup> Jorge Chavarro et al., *A Prospective Study of Blood Trans Fatty Acid Levels and Risk of Prostate*  
 28 *Cancer.*, 47 PROC. AM. ASSOC. CANCER RESEARCH 95, 99 (2006).

1 likely to contract prostate cancer than those in the lowest.<sup>40</sup>

2 55. A 600-person study found an 86 percent greater risk of colorectal cancer in the highest  
3 trans fat consumption quartile.<sup>41</sup>

4 56. A 2,910-person study found “trans-monounsaturated fatty acids . . . were dose-  
5 dependently associated with colorectal cancer risk,” which showed “the importance of type of fat in the  
6 etiology and prevention of colorectal cancer.”<sup>42</sup>

7 **F. The Artificial Trans Fat in the Trans Fat Creamers Causes Alzheimer’s Disease and**  
8 **Cognitive Decline**

9 57. Trans fat causes Alzheimer’s Disease and cognitive decline.

10 58. In a study examining 815 Chicago area seniors, researchers found “increased risk of  
11 incident Alzheimer disease among persons with high intakes of . . . trans-unsaturated fats.”<sup>43</sup>

12 59. The study “observed a strong increased risk of Alzheimer disease with consumption of  
13 trans-unsaturated fat.”<sup>44</sup>

14 60. In a study of 1,486 women with type-2 diabetes, researchers found “[h]igher intakes of .  
15 . . . trans fat since midlife . . . were [] highly associated with worse cognitive decline . . . .”<sup>45</sup>

16 61. The study cautioned “[d]ietary fat intake can alter glucose and lipid metabolism and is  
17 related to cardiovascular disease risk in individuals with type-2 diabetes. Because insulin, cholesterol,  
18 and vascular disease all appear to play important roles in brain aging and cognitive impairments,  
19 dietary fat modification may be a particularly effective strategy for preventing cognitive decline,

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21 <sup>40</sup> Xin Liu et al., *Trans-Fatty Acid Intake and Increased Risk of Advanced Prostate Cancer: Modification by RNASEL R462Q Variant*, 28 CARCINOGENESIS 1232, 1232 (2007).

22 <sup>41</sup> L.C. Vinikoor et al., *Consumption of Trans-Fatty Acid and its Association with Colorectal Adenomas*, 168 Am. J. of Epidemiology 289, 294 (2008).

23 <sup>42</sup> Evropi Theodoratou et al., *Dietary Fatty Acids and Colorectal Cancer: A Case-Control Study*, 166  
24 AM. J. EPIDEMIOLOGY 181 (2007).

25 <sup>43</sup> Martha Clare Morris et al., *Dietary Fats and the Risk of Incident Alzheimer Disease*, 60 ARCH.  
NEUROL. 194, 198-199 (2003).

26 <sup>44</sup> *Id.*

27 <sup>45</sup> Elizabeth E. Devore et al., *Dietary Fat Intake and Cognitive Decline in Women with Type 2 Diabetes*,  
32 DIABETES CARE 635 (2009).

28

1 especially in individuals with diabetes.”<sup>46</sup> (citations omitted).

2 62. Artificial trans fat also damages the brains of men who consume it. A study conducted  
3 by UCSD School of Medicine of 1018 men, mostly younger men, found trans fat consumption to be  
4 strongly correlated to impaired memory.<sup>47</sup> The authors of the study, appearing last year in *Circulation*,  
5 the American Heart Association’s peer-reviewed journal, conclude that “Greater dTFA [dietary trans  
6 fatty acid] was significantly associated with worse word memory in adults aged 20-45 years, often  
7 critical years for career building.”

8 63. Performing a word memory test, each additional gram a day of trans fat consumed was  
9 associated with an estimate 0.76 fewer words correctly recalled. The authors suggest trans fat’s  
10 established pro-oxidant effect and damage to cell energy processes is the pathway by which trans fat  
11 consumption damages memory ability.<sup>48</sup>

12 **G. The Artificial Trans Fat in the Trans Fat Creamers Causes Damage to Vital Organs**

13 64. Artificial trans fat damages vital organs, including the heart, by causing chronic systemic  
14 inflammation, where the immune system becomes persistently overactive, damages cells, and causes  
15 organ dysfunction.<sup>49</sup>

16 **VI. PLAINTIFF’S PURCHASES OF THE TRANS FAT CREAMERS**

17 65. Plaintiff Troy Backus repeatedly purchased the Trans Fat Creamers during the Class  
18 Period defined herein.

19  
20 <sup>46</sup> *Id.*

21 <sup>47</sup> Golomb, B. et al., *Trans Fat Consumption is Adversely Linked to Memory in Working-Age Adults*,  
22 *Circulation* 2014 130:A15572.

23 <sup>48</sup> *Id.*

24 <sup>49</sup> See Lopez-Garcia et al., *Consumption of Trans Fat is Related to Plasma Markers of Inflammation and*  
25 *Endothelial Dysfunction*, 135 J. NUTR. 562 (2005); see also Baer et al., *Dietary fatty acids affect plasma*  
26 *markers of inflammation in healthy men fed controlled diets; a randomized crossover study*, 79 AM. J.  
27 *CLIN. NUTR.* 969 (2004); Mozaffarian & Clarke, *Quantitative effects on cardiovascular risk factors and*  
28 *coronary heart disease risk of replacing partially hydrogenated vegetable oils with other fats and oils*,  
63 *Euro. J. CLIN. NUTR.* 22 (2009); Mozaffarian et al., *Trans Fatty acids and systemic inflammation in*  
*heart failure* 80 AM. J. CLIN. NUTR. 1521 (2004).



1 66. Mr. Backus purchased the Trans Fat Creamers approximately 4 times annually for the  
2 last several years, with his most recent purchase being in February 2015.

3 67. The most frequent of Mr. Backus’ purchases of the Trans Fat Creamers were at the  
4 Safeway located at 137 Corte Madera Town Ctr., Town Center Corte Madera, Corte Madera, CA  
5 94925; at Mollie Stone’s Market located at 270 Bon Air Shopping Center, Bon Air Center, Greenbrae,  
6 CA 94904; Walmart located at Hilltop Mall, 1400 Hilltop Mall Rd, Richmond, CA 94806; and at  
7 Target located at 125 Shoreline Pkwy, San Rafael, CA 94901.

8 68. Plaintiff first discovered Defendant’s unlawful acts described herein in April 2015, when  
9 he learned that the Trans Fat Creamers contained artificial trans fat, and caused heart disease, diabetes,  
10 cancer, and death.

11 69. Plaintiff, in the exercise of reasonable diligence, could not have discovered earlier  
12 Defendant’s unlawful acts described herein because the association between PHO and trans fat and the  
13 dangers of artificial trans fats were known to Defendant, but not to Plaintiff, throughout the Class  
14 Period defined herein. Plaintiff is not a nutritionist, food expert, or food scientist, but rather a lay  
15 consumer who did not have the specialized knowledge that Defendant had which otherwise would have  
16 enabled him to associate PHO with artificial trans fat, and artificial trans fat with disease. Even today  
17 the nature and extensive utilization of artificial trans fats—including that they necessarily exist where  
18 partially hydrogenated oil is used an ingredient in a food product—is generally unknown to the average  
19 consumer. Moreover, he relied on Defendant’s “0g trans fat” claim.

20 70. Plaintiff would not have purchased these Products absent this advertisement.

21 71. Because Plaintiff expected this statement to be true and honest when it is in fact false  
22 and misleading, he did not receive the benefit of his purchases. Instead of receiving the benefit of  
23 products free of trans fat, he received Products that contained trans fat.

24 **VII. SPECIFIC MISREPRESENTATIONS, MATERIAL OMISSIONS, AND DECEPTIVE**  
25 **ACTS**

26 72. During the Class Period, the Trans Fat Creamers were made with PHO yet contained the  
27 deceptive health and wellness claim “0g Trans Fat” prominently displayed on the front of the Products’  
28 packaging.



1 73. **Misleading “0g Trans Fat” claims:** During the Class Period, Defendant marketed the  
2 Trans Fat Creamers products with the claim “0g Trans Fat” prominently displayed on the front of the  
3 Products’ packaging.



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23 74. This language was part of an intentional campaign to deceptively market the Trans Fat  
24 Creamers as healthful.

25 75. Defendant’s conduct is especially egregious because milk, cream, soy milk, almond  
26 milk, and competing creamer brands like International Delight, are all free of trans fat and do not pose  
27 the serious health consequences associated with the Trans Fat Creamers.

28 76. Moreover, the “0g Trans Fat” claim is an unauthorized nutrient content claim.

1 **VIII. THE TRANS FAT CREAMERS UNNECESSARILY CONTAIN PHO AND**  
2 **ARTIFICIAL TRANS FAT**

3 77. Defendant’s use of PHO in the Trans Fat Creamers is unnecessary. There are several  
4 safe substitutes for PHO and artificial trans fat. In fact, Defendant manufactures and distributes other  
5 creamer products with alternative formulations that do not contain artificial trans fat. For example,  
6 Defendant manufactures and sells a “Coffee-Mate Natural Bliss” line of creamers that do not contain  
7 artificial trans fat.

8 78. Similarly, several manufacturers of competing creamer products have responsibly  
9 decided to refrain from adding artificial trans fat to their products. Such brands sold in the United States  
10 include International Delight, Nature’s First Natural Dairy Creamer, The Label Reader’s Healthy  
11 Coffee Creamer, Silk For Coffee Soy Beverage, and Bailey’s Coffee Creamer, among others.

12 79. Although commercially viable alternative formulations and substitutes for PHO were  
13 and are available, Defendant elects not to use them in the Trans Fat Creamers in order to increase its  
14 profits.

15 **IX. DEFENDANT’S PRACTICES ARE “UNFAIR” WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE**  
16 **CALIFORNIA UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW**

17 80. Defendant’s practices as described herein are “unfair” within the meaning of the  
18 California Unfair Competition Law because its conduct is immoral, unethical, unscrupulous, and  
19 substantially injurious to consumers, and the utility of the conduct to Defendant does not outweigh the  
20 gravity of the harm to Defendant’s victims.

21 81. In particular, while Defendant’s use of PHO in the Trans Fat Creamers may allow  
22 Defendant to realize higher profit margins than if it used certain safe natural fats, or processed fats not  
23 containing trans fat, this utility is small and far outweighed by the gravity of the serious health harm  
24 Nestle inflicted upon consumers.

25 82. Defendant’s conduct injures competing manufacturers of creamer products that do not  
26 engage in its unlawful, unfair, and immoral behavior, especially given Defendant’s large market share  
27 and the limited shelf space in retailers’ packaged and refrigerated food sections.

28 83. Defendant’s actions also violate public policy by causing the United States, California,

1 and every other state to pay—via Medicare, Medicaid, Affordable Care Act Exchange subsidies,  
2 Veterans’ health programs, public employee and retiree health insurance, and other programs—for  
3 treatment of trans fat-related illnesses.

4 84. Further, the injury to consumers from Defendant’s practices is substantial, not  
5 outweighed by benefits to consumers or competition, and not one consumers themselves could  
6 reasonably have avoided.

7 **X. RELIANCE AND INJURY**

8 85. When purchasing the Trans Fat Creamers, Plaintiff was seeking products of particular  
9 qualities, including products that did not negatively affect blood cholesterol levels or the health of his  
10 cardiovascular system, and products made with natural, healthy ingredients.

11 86. Plaintiff purchased the Trans Fat Creamers believing they had the qualities he sought  
12 based on the Products’ deceptive labeling, but the Products were actually unsatisfactory to him for the  
13 reasons described herein.

14 87. The Trans Fat Creamers cost more than similar products without the misleading labeling,  
15 and would have cost less, for example demanded less in the marketplace, absent Defendant’s false and  
16 misleading statements and material omissions. Thus, the Trans Fat Creamers were worth less than what  
17 Plaintiff paid for them. Indeed, Coffee-Mate is not fit for human consumption and has a value of \$0.

18 88. Plaintiff, on one or more occasions, would not have purchased the Trans Fat Creamers  
19 absent Defendant’s misrepresentations.

20 89. Plaintiff purchased the Trans Fat Creamers instead of competing products based on the  
21 false statements and misrepresentations described herein.

22 90. Plaintiff lost money as a result of Defendant’s unlawful behavior. Plaintiff altered his  
23 position to his detriment and suffered loss in an amount equal to the amount he paid for the Trans Fat  
24 Creamers.

25 **XI. DELAYED DISCOVERY**

26 91. Plaintiff did not discover that Defendant’s labeling of the Products was false, deceptive,  
27 or misleading until April 2015, when he learned that Coffee-mate contains trans fat and that foods high  
28 in trans fat—such as the Coffee-mate—are harmful to human health because of their role in causing

1 coronary heart disease, type-2 diabetes, and cancer. Until this time, he lacked knowledge regarding the  
2 facts of their claims against Defendant.

3 92. Plaintiff is a reasonably diligent consumer who exercised reasonable diligence in his  
4 purchase, use, and consumption of the Products. Nevertheless, he would not have been able to discover  
5 Defendant's deceptive practices and lacked the means to discover them given that, like nearly all  
6 consumers, he is not an expert on nutrition and does not typically read or have access to scholarly  
7 journals such as *The Journal of Nutrition*,<sup>50</sup> *The European Journal of Clinical Nutrition*,<sup>51</sup> and *The New*  
8 *England Journal of Medicine*,<sup>52</sup> where the scientific evidence of artificial trans fat's dangers has been  
9 published. Furthermore, Defendant's labeling practices—in particular, representing Coffee-mate as  
10 having “0g trans fat”—actively impeded Plaintiff's and the Class' abilities to discover the dangerous  
11 effects of the Products throughout the Class Period.

## 12 **XII. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

13 93. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated (the  
14 “Class”), excluding Defendant's officers, directors, and employees, and the Court, its officers and their  
15 families.

16 94. The Class is defined as follows:

17 All persons who purchased in the United States, on or after January 1, 2008, for  
18 household or personal use, Coffee-Mate products manufactured or distributed by  
19 Nestle USA, Inc. containing the labeling claim “0g Trans Fat” and containing  
20 partially hydrogenated oil.

21 95. Questions of law and fact common to Plaintiff and the Class include:

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23 <sup>50</sup> Peter M. Clifton et al., *Trans Fatty Acids In Adipose Tissue And The Food Supply Are Associated With Myocardial Infarction*, 134 J. Nutr. 874, 874-79 (2004).

24 <sup>51</sup> A. Tavani et al., *Margarine intake and risk of nonfatal acute myocardial infarction in Italian women*,  
25 51 Eur. J. Clin. Nutr. 30–32 (1997) (estimating a 50 percent greater risk of heart attack in women with  
26 high consumption of margarine, an association “independent of body mass index, history of hypertension and hyperlipidemia”).

27 <sup>52</sup> Mozaffarian, 354 New Eng. J. Med. at 1611 (“10 to 19 percent of CHD events in the United States  
28 could be averted by reducing the intake of trans fat”).

- 1 a. Whether Defendant communicated a health and wellness message through
- 2 the Trans Fat Creamers' packaging;
- 3 b. Whether that message was material, or likely to be material, to a
- 4 reasonable consumer;
- 5 c. Whether that message was false, at variance with the truth, misleading,
- 6 likely to deceive, and/or had the capacity to deceive the public and/or a
- 7 reasonable consumer;
- 8 d. Whether Defendant fraudulently omitted material information in
- 9 advertising the Trans Fat Creamers as healthy;
- 10 e. Whether the class is entitled to restitution, attorneys' fees and costs,
- 11 injunctive, and/or any other relief;
- 12 f. Whether any applicable statute of limitations should be tolled on behalf of
- 13 the Class;
- 14 g. Whether Defendant's conduct constitutes violations of California's False
- 15 Advertising Law;
- 16 h. Whether Defendant's conduct was immoral, unscrupulous or offensive of
- 17 public policy because Defendant advertised the Trans Fat Creamers to
- 18 people deliberately seeking a healthy option despite knowing of the
- 19 dangers from its artificial trans fat content;
- 20 i. Whether Defendant's conduct constitutes a violation of the California
- 21 CLRA;
- 22 j. Whether Defendant's conduct constitutes a violation of the unlawful prong
- 23 of California's Unfair Competition Law;

24 96. By purchasing the Trans Fat Creamers, all Class members were subjected to the same  
25 wrongful conduct.

26 97. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the Class' claims because all Class members were  
27 subjected to the same unlawful, unfair, and deceptive conduct when they purchased the Trans Fat  
28 Creamers and suffered the economic injury.

1 98. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class, has no interests that  
2 are incompatible with the interests of the Class, and has retained counsel competent and experienced in  
3 class litigation.

4 99. The Class is sufficiently numerous, as it includes hundreds of thousands of individuals,  
5 if not millions, who purchased the Trans Fat Creamers throughout the United States during the Class  
6 Period.

7 100. Class representation is superior to other options for the resolution of the controversy.  
8 The relief sought for each Class member is small, as little as two dollars for some Class members.  
9 Absent the availability of class action procedures, it would be infeasible for Class members to redress  
10 the wrongs done to them.

11 101. Defendant has acted on grounds applicable to the Class, thereby making final injunctive  
12 relief or declaratory relief appropriate concerning the Class as a whole.

13 102. Questions of law and fact common to the Class predominate over any questions  
14 affecting only individual members.

15 103. Class treatment is appropriate under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and both Fed. R. Civ. P.  
16 23(b)(2) and 23(b)(3). Plaintiff does not contemplate class notice if the class is certified under Fed. R.  
17 Civ. P. 23(b)(2), which does not require notice. Plaintiff contemplates notice via publication if the class  
18 is certified under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3) or if the Court determines class notice is required  
19 notwithstanding that notice is not required under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2). Plaintiff will, if notice is  
20 required, confer with Defendant and seek to present the Court with a stipulation and proposed order on  
21 the details of a class notice plan.

22 **XIII. CAUSES OF ACTION**

23 **First Cause of Action**

24 **California Unfair Competition Law, Unlawful Prong**

25 **Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 et seq.**

26 104. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the allegations elsewhere in the Complaint as if set  
27 forth in full herein.

28 105. Defendant has made and distributed, in interstate commerce and in this District, products

1 that make false or misleading statements of fact regarding their content. The Trans Fat Creamers were  
2 placed into interstate commerce by Defendant and sold throughout the country and in this District.

3 106. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 prohibits any “unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business  
4 act or practice.”

5 107. The acts, omissions, misrepresentations, practices, and non-disclosures of Defendant as  
6 alleged herein constitute “unlawful” business acts and practices in that Defendant’s conduct violates the  
7 California False Advertising Law and the California Consumer Legal Remedies Act, as alleged herein.

8 108. Defendant’s conduct is further “unlawful” because it violates the Federal Food, Drug  
9 and Cosmetic Act (“FDCA”), specifically, (a) 21 U.S.C. § 343(a), which deems food misbranded when  
10 the label contains a statement that is “false or misleading in any particular,” and (b) 21 C.F.R. §  
11 101.13(i)(3), which bars nutrient content claims voluntarily placed on the front of a product label that  
12 are “false or misleading in any respect.”

13 109. Defendant further violates the FDCA’s implementing regulation, 21 C.F.R. § 1.21,  
14 because the Trans Fat Creamers’ packaging fails to reveal material facts, namely the dangers of PHO  
15 described in detail herein, “in light of other representations,” namely the specific statements described  
16 herein as misleading.

17 110. Defendant’s conduct further violates The California Sherman Food, Drug, and Cosmetic  
18 Law (“Sherman Law”), Cal. Health & Safety Code § 110660, which deems food products  
19 “misbranded” if their labeling is “false or misleading in any particular,” and Health & Safety Code §  
20 110670, which bars nutrient content claims voluntarily placed on the front of a product label that fail to  
21 comply with the federal regulation for nutrient content claims (i.e., “may not be false or misleading in  
22 any respect”). Defendant’s conduct also violates the following sections of the Sherman Law:

- 23 • § 110100 (adopting all FDA food labeling regulations as state regulations);
- 24 • § 110290 (“In determining whether the labeling or advertisement of a food . . . is misleading,  
25 all representations made or suggested by statement, word, design, device, sound, or any  
26 combination of these shall be taken into account. The extent that the labeling or advertising fails  
27 to reveal facts concerning the food . . . or consequences of customary use of the food . . . shall  
28 also be considered.”);



- 1 • § 110390 (“It is unlawful for any person to disseminate any false advertisement of any food . . .
- 2 . An advertisement is false if it is false or misleading in any particular.”);
- 3 • § 110395 (“It is unlawful for any person to manufacture, sell, deliver, hold, or offer for sale any
- 4 food . . . that is falsely advertised.”);
- 5 • § 110398 (“It is unlawful for any person to advertise any food, drug, device, or cosmetic that is
- 6 adulterated or misbranded.”);
- 7 • § 110400 (“It is unlawful for any person to receive in commerce any food . . . that is falsely
- 8 advertised or to deliver or proffer for delivery any such food . . . .”);
- 9 • § 110670 (“Any food is misbranded if its labeling does not conform with the requirements for
- 10 nutrient content or health claims as set forth in Section 403(r) (21 U.S.C. Sec. 343(r)) of the
- 11 federal act and the regulations adopted pursuant thereto.”);
- 12 • § 110680 (“Any food is misbranded if its labeling or packaging does not conform to the
- 13 requirements of Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 110290).”);
- 14 • § 110705 (“Any food is misbranded if any word, statement, or other information required
- 15 pursuant to this part to appear on the label or labeling is not prominently placed upon the label or
- 16 labeling and in terms as to render it likely to be read and understood by the ordinary individual
- 17 under customary conditions of purchase and use.”);
- 18 • § 110760 (“It is unlawful for any person to manufacture, sell, deliver, hold, or offer for sale any
- 19 food that is misbranded.”);
- 20 • § 110765 (“It is unlawful for any person to misbrand any food.”); and
- 21 • § 110770 (“It is unlawful for any person to receive in commerce any food that is misbranded
- 22 or to deliver or proffer for delivery any such food.”).

23 111. Defendant’s conduct may violate additional provisions of the Sherman Law.

24 112. All of the challenged labeling statements made by Defendant thus constitute violations  
25 of the FDCA and the Sherman Law and, as such, violated the “unlawful” prong of the UCL.

26 113. Defendant leveraged its deception to induce Plaintiff and members of the Class to  
27 purchase products that were of lesser value and quality than advertised.



1 114. Plaintiff suffered injury in fact and lost money or property as a result of Defendant's  
2 deceptive advertising: he was denied the benefit of the bargain when he decided to purchase the  
3 Products over competitor products that are less expensive and/or contain no artificial trans fat.

4 115. Had Plaintiff been aware of Defendant's false and misleading advertising tactics, he  
5 would not have purchased the Products, and had Defendant not advertised them in a fraudulent manner,  
6 he would have paid less for them.

7 116. In accordance with Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, Plaintiff seeks an order enjoining  
8 Defendant from continuing to conduct business through unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent acts and  
9 practices and to commence a corrective advertising campaign. Plaintiff intends to purchase the Products  
10 in the future when Defendant ceases its unfair business practices and removes trans fat.

11 117. Plaintiff also seeks an order for the restitution of all monies from the sale of the Products  
12 which were acquired through acts of unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent competition.

13 118. Plaintiff also seeks an order for the disgorgement and restitution of all monies from the  
14 sale of the Trans Fat Creamers, which were acquired through acts of unfair competition.

15 **Second Cause of Action**

16 **California Unfair Competition Law, Fraudulent Prong**

17 **Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 *et seq.***

18 119. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the allegations elsewhere in the Complaint as if set  
19 forth in full herein.

20 120. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 prohibits any "unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business  
21 act or practice."

22 121. Defendant leveraged its deception to induce Plaintiff and members of the Class to  
23 purchase products that were of lesser value and quality than advertised.

24 122. Plaintiff suffered injury in fact and lost money or property as a result of Defendant's  
25 deceptive advertising: he was denied the benefit of the bargain when he decided to purchase the Trans  
26 Fat Creamers over competitor products, which are less expensive and/or contain no artificial trans fat.

1 123. Had Plaintiff been aware of Defendant's false and misleading advertising tactics, he  
2 would not have purchased the Trans Fat Creamers, and had Defendant not advertised them in a  
3 fraudulent manner, Plaintiff would have paid less for them.

4 124. The acts, omissions, misrepresentations, practices, and non-disclosures of Defendant as  
5 alleged herein constitute "fraudulent" business acts and practices in that Defendant's conduct has a  
6 likelihood, capacity or tendency to deceive Plaintiff, the Class, and the general public.

7 125. In accordance with Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, Plaintiff seeks an order enjoining  
8 Defendant from continuing to conduct business through unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent acts and  
9 practices, and to commence a corrective advertising campaign.

10 126. Plaintiff further seeks an order for the restitution of all monies from the sale of the  
11 Products which were acquired through acts of unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent competition.

12 **Third Cause of Action**

13 **California Unfair Competition Law, Unfair Prong**

14 **Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 *et seq.***

15 127. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the allegations elsewhere in the Complaint as if set  
16 forth in full herein.

17 128. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 prohibits any "unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act  
18 or practice."

19 129. Defendant leveraged its deception to induce Plaintiff and members of the Class to  
20 purchase products that were of lesser value and quality than advertised.

21 130. Plaintiff suffered injury in fact and lost money or property as a result of Defendant's  
22 deceptive advertising: he was denied the benefit of the bargain when he decided to purchase the Trans  
23 Fat Creamers over competitor products, which are less expensive and/or contain no artificial trans fat.

24 131. Had Plaintiff been aware of Defendant's false and misleading advertising tactics, he  
25 would not have purchased the Trans Fat Creamers, and had Defendant not advertised them in a  
26 fraudulent manner, Plaintiff would have paid less for them.

27 132. The acts, omissions, misrepresentations, practices, and non-disclosures of Defendant as  
28 alleged herein constitute "unfair" business acts and practices because Defendant's conduct is:

- 1 a. immoral, unethical, unscrupulous, and offends public policy;
- 2 b. the gravity of Defendant's conduct outweighs any conceivable benefit of such conduct;
- 3 and
- 4 c. the injury to consumers caused by Defendant's conduct is substantial, not outweighed by
- 5 any countervailing benefits to consumers or competition, and not one that consumers
- 6 themselves could reasonably have avoided.

7 133. In accordance with Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17203, Plaintiff seeks an order enjoining  
8 Defendant from continuing to conduct business through unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent acts and  
9 practices, and to commence a corrective advertising campaign.

10 134. Plaintiff further seeks an order for the restitution of all monies from the sale of the Trans  
11 Fat Creamers which were acquired through acts of unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent competition.

12 **Fourth Cause of Action**

13 **California False Advertising Law,**

14 **Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500 *et seq.***

15 135. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the allegations elsewhere in the Complaint as if set  
16 forth in full herein.

17 136. In violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500 *et seq.*, the advertisements, labeling,  
18 policies, acts, and practices described herein were designed to, and did, result in the purchase and use of  
19 the Trans Fat Creamers without the knowledge that they contained harmful amounts of toxic artificial  
20 trans fat.

21 137. Defendant knew and/or reasonably should have known that the labels on the Trans Fat  
22 Creamers were untrue and/or misleading.

23 138. As a result, Plaintiff, the Class, and the general public are entitled to injunctive and  
24 equitable relief, restitution, and an order for the disgorgement of the funds by which Defendant was  
25 unjustly enriched.

1 **Fifth Cause of Action**

2 **California Consumer Legal Remedies Act,**

3 **Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750 *et seq.***

4 139. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the allegations elsewhere in the Complaint as if set  
5 forth in full herein.

6 140. The CLRA prohibits deceptive practices in connection with the conduct of a business that  
7 provides goods, property, or services primarily for personal, family, or household purposes.

8 141. Defendant's policies, acts and practices were designed to, and did, result in the purchase  
9 and use of the Products primarily for personal, family, or household purposes, and violated and continue  
10 to violate the following sections of the CLRA:

- 11 a. § 1770(a)(5): representing that goods have characteristics, uses, or benefits which they do  
12 not have;
- 13 b. § 1770(a)(7): representing that goods are of a particular standard, quality, or grade if they  
14 are of another;
- 15 c. § 1770(a)(9): advertising goods with intent not to sell them as advertised; and
- 16 d. § 1770(a)(16): representing the subject of a transaction has been supplied in accordance  
17 with a previous representation when it has not.

18 142. As a result, Plaintiff and the Class have suffered irreparable harm and are entitled to  
19 injunctive relief.

20 **Sixth Cause of Action**

21 **Breach of Express Warranty**

22 143. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates the allegations elsewhere in the Complaint as if set  
23 forth in full herein.

24 144. During the class period, Defendant made written representations to the public, including  
25 Plaintiff, by its advertising and packaging that the Trans Fat Creamers contain "0g Trans Fat."

26 145. These promises and related promises printed on the label became part of the basis of the  
27 bargain between the parties and thus constituted an express warranty.

1 146. Thereon, Defendant sold the goods to Plaintiff and other consumers who bought the  
2 goods from Defendant.

3 147. However, Defendant breached this express warranty in that the Trans Fat Creamers do  
4 not contain “0g Trans Fat” because it contains partially hydrogenated oil which necessarily contains  
5 artificial trans fat, a toxic substance known to increase the risk of coronary heart disease, cancer,  
6 Alzheimer’s disease, type-2 diabetes, stroke, and other ailments.

7 148. As a result of this breach, Plaintiff and other consumers in fact did not receive goods as  
8 warranted by Defendant.

9 149. As a proximate result of this breach of warranty by Defendant, Plaintiff and other  
10 consumers have been damaged in an amount to be determined at trial.

11 **Seventh Cause of Action**

12 **Breach of Implied Warranty of Merchantability**

13 150. Plaintiff realleges, and incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained  
14 elsewhere in this Complaint, as if fully set forth herein.

15 151. Defendant, through its acts and omissions set forth herein, in the sale, marketing and  
16 promotion of the Products, made representations to Plaintiff and the Class, on the Products’ labels, that  
17 the Products contained no trans fat.

18 152. Plaintiff and the Class bought the Products manufactured, advertised, and sold by  
19 Defendant, as described herein.

20 153. Defendant is a merchant with respect to the goods of this kind which were sold to  
21 Plaintiff and the Class, and there was in the sale to Plaintiff and other members of the Class an implied  
22 warranty that those goods were merchantable.

23 154. Defendant breached that implied warranty, however, in that the Products are not fit for  
24 their ordinary purpose and do not conform with the representations on their labels, as set forth in detail  
25 herein.

26 155. As an actual and proximate result of Defendant’s conduct, Plaintiff and the Class did not  
27 receive goods as impliedly warranted by Defendant to be merchantable in that they did not conform to  
28 the promises and affirmations made on the container or label of the goods.

1 156. Plaintiff and Class have sustained damages as a proximate result of the foregoing breach  
2 of implied warranty in the amount of the Products' purchase price.

3 **XIV. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

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

- 6 A. An order confirming that this class action is properly maintainable as a nationwide class  
7 action as defined above, appointing Plaintiff and his undersigned counsel to represent  
8 the Class, and requiring Defendant to bear the cost of class notice;
- 9 B. Where authorized by law and referenced in this Complaint, an order requiring Defendant  
10 to pay restitution to Plaintiff and class members so that they may be restored any money  
11 which may have been acquired by means of any unfair, deceptive, unconscionable,  
12 fraudulent, or negligent action;
- 13 C. An order requiring Defendant to disgorge any benefits received from Plaintiff and/or  
14 unjust enrichment realized as a result of its improper and misleading advertising and  
15 marketing of the Trans Fat Creamers;
- 16 D. An order requiring Defendant to cease and desist its deceptive, unconscionable, and  
17 fraudulent practices;
- 18 E. An order requiring Defendant to engage in a corrective advertising campaign;
- 19 F. An award of pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;
- 20 G. An award of attorneys' fees and costs; and
- 21 H. Such other and further relief as this Court may deem just, equitable or proper.

22 **XV. JURY DEMAND**

23 Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on his claims for damages.  
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28

1 DATED: April 30, 2015

Respectfully Submitted,

2 /s/ Gregory S. Weston

3 **THE WESTON FIRM**  
4 GREGORY S. WESTON  
5 PAUL K. JOSEPH  
6 1405 Morena Blvd., Suite 201  
7 San Diego, CA 92110  
8 Telephone: (619) 798-2006  
9 Facsimile: (480) 247-4553

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*Counsel for Plaintiff and the  
Proposed Class*

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The 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, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

Troy Backus

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Marin (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Gregory S. Weston
The Weston Firm
1405 Morena Blvd., Suite 201, San Diego, CA 92110, (619) 798-2006

DEFENDANTS

Nestle USA, Inc.

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Los Angeles (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

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 (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- Citizen of This State
Citizen of Another State
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country
PTF DEF
1 X 1
2
3
4
5
6

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Table with 5 columns: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES. Contains various legal categories and checkboxes.

V. 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
6 Multidistrict Litigation

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)

Brief description of cause: California Consumer Legal Remedies Act, Unfair Competition Law, and False Advertising Law

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$ 5,000,000.00 CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: X Yes [ ] No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

DATE SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

04/30/2015 /s/ Gregory S. Weston

IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT (Civil L.R. 3-2)

(Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND
SAN JOSE
EUREKA



## INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

### Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.  
 United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.  
 United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.  
 Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.  
 Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If the nature of suit cannot be determined, be sure the cause of action, in Section VI below, is sufficient to enable the deputy clerk or the statistical clerk(s) in the Administrative Office to determine the nature of suit. If the cause fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive.
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the six boxes.  
 Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.  
 Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.  
 Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.  
 Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.  
 Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.  
 Multidistrict Litigation. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407. When this box is checked, do not check (5) above.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.  
 Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.  
 Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.
- Date and Attorney Signature.** Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Northern District of California

Troy Backus

Plaintiff(s)

v.

Nestle USA, Inc.

Defendant(s)

Civil Action No.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) Nestle USA, Inc.
c/o CT Corporation System, Registered Agent
818 W. Seventh St., 2nd Floor
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:

Gregory S. Weston
The Weston Firm
1405 Morena Blvd., Suite 201
San Diego, CA 92110

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

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: