

1 STEVE W. BERMAN (*pro hac vice* pending)
ASHLEY A. BEDE (*pro hac vice* pending)
2 HAGENS BERMAN SOBOL SHAPIRO LLP
1918 Eighth Avenue, Suite 3300
3 Seattle, WA 98101
Telephone: (206) 623-7292
4 Facsimile: (206) 623-0594
steve@hbsslaw.com
5 *ashleyb@hbsslaw.com*

6 ELAINE T. BYSZEWSKI (SBN 222304)
CHRISTOPHER R. PITOUN (SBN 290235)
7 HAGENS BERMAN SOBOL SHAPIRO LLP
301 N. Lake Avenue, Suite 203
8 Pasadena, CA 91101
Telephone: (213) 330-7150
9 Facsimile: (213) 330-7152
elaine@hbsslaw.com
10 *christopherp@hbsslaw.com*

11 *Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Proposed Class*

12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
13 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
14

15 ELAINE MCCOY, on behalf of herself and all
16 others similarly situated,

17 Plaintiffs,

18 v.

19 NESTLÉ USA, INC., a Delaware Corporation,
20 Nestle Mexico, S.A., a Mexican Corporation,

21 Defendants.
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

Case No. 3:15-cv-04451

CLASS ACTION

**COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATION OF
CALIFORNIA CONSUMER
PROTECTION LAWS**

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

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1 Plaintiff Elaine McCoy (“Plaintiff”) brings this action on behalf of herself and all others
2 similarly situated against Nestlé USA Inc. and Nestlé Mexico S.A. (“Defendants” or “Nestle”).
3 Plaintiff’s allegations against Defendants are based upon information and belief and upon
4 investigation of Plaintiff’s counsel, except for allegations specifically pertaining to Plaintiff, which
5 are based upon each Plaintiff’s personal knowledge.

6 I. OVERVIEW

7 1. America’s largest and most profitable food conglomerates should not tolerate child
8 labor, much less child slave labor, anywhere in their supply chains. These companies should not turn
9 a blind eye to known human rights abuses or shirk from investigating and preventing potential
10 human rights abuses by their suppliers, especially when the companies consistently and affirmatively
11 represent that they act in a socially and ethically responsible manner. When these food
12 conglomerates fail to uphold their responsibility for ensuring the absence of child and slave labor in
13 their supply chains, their misconduct has the profound consequence of supporting and encouraging
14 such labor. And when these food conglomerates fail to disclose the use of child and slave labor in
15 their supply chains to consumers, they are deceived into buying products they would not have
16 otherwise and thereby unwittingly supporting child and slave labor themselves through their product
17 purchases. Such food conglomerates should be required to make restitution to the consumers they
18 have deceived and to ensure the absence of child and slave labor in their supply chains in the future.

19 2. Chocolate is perhaps the most beloved confectionary ingredient in the world. Most
20 major companies that purchase chocolate obtain it from sources on the Ivory Coast. The lives of the
21 people who harvest cocoa are nothing short of terrible. The labor in harvesting cocoa is performed
22 by slave laborers – often children. Many of these children are taken from poor countries like Mali.
23 Some of these children are abducted, and there are countless missing children claims. To make
24 matters worse, sometimes extremely poor people sell their own children into slavery for as little as
25 \$30. Children that are sometimes not even 10 years old carry huge sacks that are so big that they
26 cause them serious physical harm. Much of the world’s chocolate is quite literally brought to us by
27 the back-breaking labor of child slaves.

1 3. Nestlé is one of the largest and most profitable food conglomerates in the United
2 States. Nestle sources its food products from all over the globe. Among its products, Nestlé markets
3 and distributes chocolate products, including Nestle Crunch, 100 Grand, Baby Ruth, Butterfingers,
4 Nestle Toll House, Nestle Hot Cocoa Mix, Nestle Milk Chocolate, and Nestle seasonal confections,
5 which are made with cocoa beans from the Ivory Coast in Western Africa (“Chocolate Products”).

6 4. Although Nestlé’s Corporate Business Principles and Supplier Code prohibit both
7 child and forced labor, Nestle is aware that cocoa beans from the Ivory Coast are produced using
8 child labor, including the Worst Forms of Child Labor as recognized by the United Nations: the
9 compulsory labor of trafficked children and the labor of children involving dangerous tools, transport
10 of heavy loads, and exposure to toxic substances, i.e., hazardous work.¹

11 5. The Bureau of International Labor Affairs of the U.S. Department of Labor confirms
12 that cocoa beans from the Ivory Coast are likely the product of child and/or forced labor:²

Country	Good	Child Labor	Forced Labor
Cote d’Ivoire	Cocoa	X	X
Cote d’Ivoire	Coffee	X	X

13
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15
16
17 6. The Bureau of International Labor Affairs of the U.S. Department of Labor reports
18 that “children from within Côte d’Ivoire, as well as migrant children from Benin, Burkina Faso,
19 Guinea, Mali, Nigeria, and Togo, are working under conditions of forced labor on Ivoirian cocoa
20 farms. Based on the most recently available estimate from Tulane University, over 4,000 children
21 work in conditions of forced labor in the production of cocoa in Côte d’Ivoire. Some children are
22 sold by their parents to traffickers, some are kidnapped, and others migrate willingly but fall victim
23 to traffickers who sell them to recruiters or farmers, where they end up in conditions of bonded labor.
24 Some farmers buy the children and refuse to let them leave the farm until the debt of their purchase
25 has been worked off. The children are frequently not paid for their work; some of their wages are

26
27 ¹ <http://www.ilo.org/ipecc/facts/WorstFormsofChildLabour/lang--en/index.htm>.

² <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/list-of-goods/>.

1 paid to the recruiter or trafficker. These children are held against their will on isolated farms, are
2 locked in their living quarters at night, and are threatened and beaten if they attempt to escape. They
3 are punished by their employers with physical abuse. They are forced to work long hours, including
4 overtime, and are required to work even when they are sick. Some children are denied sufficient
5 food by their traffickers and employers. Some children are forced to perform dangerous tasks,
6 including carrying heavy loads, using machetes and sharp tools, and applying pesticides and
7 fertilizers.”³

8 7. Moreover, a July 30, 2015, report entitled “Survey Research on Child Labor in West
9 African Cocoa Growing Areas,” prepared by the Payson Center for International Development of
10 Tulane University and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor, found that during the time period
11 from 2013 to 2014 over 1.1 million children in the Ivory Coast were engaged in the most common
12 Worst Forms of Child Labor, hazardous work, including the use of dangerous tools, transport of
13 heavy loads, and exposure to toxic substances. This was up from the 791,181 children engaged in
14 such work at the time of the last survey in 2008 to 2009. Put another way, the 22% of children
15 engaged in such labor in 2008 to 2009 had increased to 31% of children in 2013 and 2014.⁴

16 8. “The USDOL-funded research found that over half of the children working on cocoa
17 farms have been injured in work-related activities.”⁵ The 2015 Payson report found that 37% of
18 those working in cocoa production experienced wounds/cuts while performing agricultural work and
19 11% experienced muscle pain. Thirty-one percent of children working in cocoa production experi-
20 enced “very bad pain” when injured, and 11% were unable to continue working after being injured.⁶

21 9. And on September 2, 2015, the Fair Labor Association released the results of its audit
22 of Nestlé, finding continued evidence of children younger than fifteen working on the Ivory Coast
23 farms supplying the chocolate manufacturer. These children “were expected to work in hazardous
24

25 ³ <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/list-of-products/index-country.htm#Cote-dIvoire>.

26 ⁴ <http://www.childlaborcocoa.org/index.php/2013-14-final-report>.

27 ⁵ <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/issues/child-labor/cocoa/>.

28 ⁶ <http://www.childlaborcocoa.org/index.php/2013-14-final-report>.

1 conditions and carry out dangerous tasks, including using machetes and transporting heavy loads.”
2 And the Fair Labor Association “found evidence of forced labour, with a young worker not receiving
3 any salary for a year’s work at a farm.” In response, a Nestlé spokesperson stated that “no company
4 sourcing cocoa from Ivory Coast can guarantee that it has completely removed the risk of child
5 labour from its supply chain.”⁷

6 10. Notwithstanding its awareness of the Worst Forms of Child Labor used to produce the
7 cocoa beans used to make its Chocolate Products, Nestlé does not disclose this to consumers at the
8 point of purchase.

9 11. Knowing that Nestlé’s Chocolate Products are likely the product of the Worst Forms
10 of Child Labor is material to consumers not wishing to support such labor with their purchasing
11 power. In the course of marketing and selling its Chocolate Products, however, Nestlé materially
12 omits and does not disclose the likelihood that its Chocolate Products are made with child and slave
13 labor. Furthermore, Nestlé does not disclose that despite its awareness that child and slave labor is
14 being used in its supply chains, Nestlé has not required its suppliers to remedy this human tragedy.
15 Nestlé, as one of the largest companies in the world, can dictate the terms by which cocoa beans are
16 produced and supplied to it, including the labor conditions in the supply chain. But through its own
17 inadequate efforts over the course of decades Nestlé is presently not able to trace all of the cocoa
18 beans that make up its Chocolate Products back to the cocoa plantations on which they are grown,
19 much less ensure that the cocoa beans are not the product of child or slave labor.⁸ And meanwhile
20 Nestlé continues to profit from the child and forced labor that is used to make its Chocolate Products.
21 This is shameful. Had Plaintiff and Class Members known the truth, they would not have purchased
22 Nestlé’s Chocolate Products or paid as much for them.

23 12. Nestlé’s material omissions and failure to disclose is all the more appalling
24 considering that Nestlé has identified the protection of human rights, including the abolition of child

25 _____
26 ⁷ <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2015/sep/02/child-labour-on-nestle-farms-chocolate-giants-problems-continue>.

27 ⁸ <http://www.nestle.com/csv/rural-development-responsible-sourcing/responsible-sourcing> (2015
28 objective includes ability to trace 40% of cocoa supplies).

1 labor and the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labor as one of its Corporate Business
2 Principals.⁹ But Nestlé does not live up to its own ideals. Nestlé’s public espousal of a message
3 condemning child and forced labor and its superior knowledge of the likelihood that the cocoa beans
4 used to make its Chocolate Products are so produced obligate Nestle to disclose the truth to
5 consumers at the point of sale.

6 13. Nestlé’s conduct described herein violates the (i) California’s Business & Professions
7 Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* (the Unfair Competition Law or “UCL”); (ii) California Civil Code §§ 1750,
8 *et seq.* (the Consumers Legal Remedies Act or “CLRA”); and (iii) California’s Business &
9 Professions Code §§ 17500, *et seq.* (the False Advertising Law or “FAL”). Plaintiff brings this
10 action on behalf of a California class for restitution and injunctive relief, and any other relief deemed
11 appropriate by the court to which this case is assigned.

12 II. PARTIES

13 14. Plaintiff Elaine McCoy is and was at all relevant times a citizen of the State of
14 California and resides in Fairfield, California. Plaintiff Elaine McCoy has purchased Nestlé
15 Chocolate Products at various retail stores including Sam’s Club and Safeway in and around
16 Vacaville, and Fairfield, California from 2011 through present. Plaintiff Elaine McCoy saw the
17 product packaging and labeling as well as signage in retail stores where she purchased the Chocolate
18 Products. Plaintiff would not have purchased the Chocolate Products or paid as much for them had
19 Nestlé disclosed the truth. Plaintiff Elaine McCoy seeks restitution and injunctive relief requiring
20 Nestlé to cease its deceptive marketing.

21 15. Defendant Nestlé USA, Inc. is a nationwide manufacturer and distributor of food and
22 beverage products. Nestlé USA, Inc. is incorporated in Delaware with its principal place of business
23 located at 800 Brand Blvd., Glendale, CA 91203.

24 16. Defendant Nestlé Mexico, S.A. is the Mexican subsidiary of Nestle S.A. Nestlé
25 Mexico, S.A., which also manufactures and distributes food and beverage products, acts as a

26 _____
27 ⁹ The Nestlé Corporate Business Principles, June 2010, *available at* <http://www.research.nestle.com/asset-library/documents/corporate-business-principles-en.pdf> (last visited Aug. 17, 2015).

1 consignee for chocolate imported into the United States from the Ivory Coast. Its corporate
 2 headquarters is located at Av. Ejercito Nacional 453 Delegacion Miguel Hidalgo Col. Granada
 3 11520 Mexico, D.F. Mexico. Defendant Nestlé Mexico, S.A. facilitates the entry of cocoa beans
 4 produced involving the Worst Forms of Child Labor into the United States for its parent company,
 5 Defendant Nestlé USA, Inc., and thereby participates in the unlawful conduct alleged herein.
 6 Defendants are collectively referred to as “Nestle” or “Defendants.”

7 **III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

8 17. This Court has diversity jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d),
 9 because the amount in controversy for the Class exceeds \$5,000,000, and the Class includes
 10 members who are citizens of a different state than Defendants.

11 18. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because they have offices and
 12 conducts substantial business in this district and throughout the State of California.

13 19. Venue is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), because Defendants have
 14 marketed and sold Chocolate Products within this district, and a substantial number of the acts and
 15 omissions alleged herein occurred within this district.

16 **IV. FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

17 **A. The Worst Forms of Child Labor in the Ivory Coast Are Used to Produce Nestlé’s 18 Chocolate Products.**

19 20. Ivory Coast is the world’s largest producer of cocoa, the raw ingredient that makes
 20 chocolate,¹⁰ an industry estimated to be worth more than \$90 billion a year.¹¹ According to the
 21 World Cocoa Foundation, “Cote d’Ivoire supplies more than 40% of the world’s cocoa.”¹² As a
 22 major chocolate manufacturer, Nestle has a strong presence in the Ivory Coast. In Abidjan, the
 23 largest city and chief port of the Ivory Coast, Nestle has a Research and Development Centre where

24 _____
 25 ¹⁰ <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2015/sep/02/child-labour-on-nestle-farms-chocolate-giants-problems-continue>.

26 ¹¹ <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-18644870>.

27 ¹² http://worldcocoafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/Economic_Profile_of_the_US_Chocolate_Industry_2011.pdf.

1 it propagates a million cocoa trees annually for the 30,000 farmers in the Ivory Coast from which it
2 obtains cocoa beans.¹³

3 21. Nestle acknowledges, as it must, that “there are children working on farms in Cote
4 d’Ivoire in areas where we source cocoa.”¹⁴ Specifically, Nestle acknowledges that “[t]oo many
5 children are involved in hazardous farming tasks or work on farms instead of going to school,” that
6 “there are situations of children carrying out unsafe tasks, using dangerous tools, carrying loads that
7 are too heavy, suffering injuries and missing out on schooling,” and that “[s]ome producers are also
8 known to seek cheap labour by illegally using forced child or adult labour.”¹⁵ Despite these
9 acknowledgements, Nestle makes no disclosure regarding child or slave labor to consumers at the
10 point of sale and the vast majority of consumers are unaware of these human rights abuses.

11 22. Offering the excuse that “[n]o company sourcing cocoa here can guarantee they’ve
12 eliminated the risk of children working in their supply chain,” Nestle instead offers the false
13 assurances that it is “determined to tackle the problem”¹⁶ and that its Nestle Cocoa Plan (launched in
14 2009)¹⁷ is helping to “eliminate the use of child labour” and to “stamp out forced labour practices” in
15 the Ivorian cocoa industry.¹⁸ Nestle wrongly asserts that in the last decade, “there have been positive
16 changes and evidence of ... fewer children exposed to unsafe farming tasks,” such that “progress is
17 being made.”¹⁹ But a 2015 report sponsored by the United States Department of Labor found that
18
19

20 ¹³ [http://www.nestlecocoaplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/ABOUT-THE-NESTLE-](http://www.nestlecocoaplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/ABOUT-THE-NESTLE-COCOA-PLAN.pdf)
21 [COCOA-PLAN.pdf](http://www.nestlecocoaplan.com/infographic-tackling-child-labour-in-our-cocoa-supply-chain/); [http://www.nestlecocoaplan.com/infographic-tackling-child-labour-in-our-](http://www.nestlecocoaplan.com/infographic-tackling-child-labour-in-our-cocoa-supply-chain/)
22 [cocoa-supply-chain/](http://www.nestlecocoaplan.com/infographic-tackling-child-labour-in-our-cocoa-supply-chain/).

23 ¹⁴ [http://www.nestlecocoaplan.com/infographic-tackling-child-labour-in-our-cocoa-supply-](http://www.nestlecocoaplan.com/infographic-tackling-child-labour-in-our-cocoa-supply-chain/)
24 [chain/](http://www.nestlecocoaplan.com/infographic-tackling-child-labour-in-our-cocoa-supply-chain/).

25 ¹⁵ [http://www.nestlecocoaplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/ABOUT-THE-NESTLE-](http://www.nestlecocoaplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/ABOUT-THE-NESTLE-COCOA-PLAN.pdf)
26 [COCOA-PLAN.pdf](http://www.nestlecocoaplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/ABOUT-THE-NESTLE-COCOA-PLAN.pdf).

27 ¹⁶ [http://www.nestlecocoaplan.com/infographic-tackling-child-labour-in-our-cocoa-supply-](http://www.nestlecocoaplan.com/infographic-tackling-child-labour-in-our-cocoa-supply-chain/)
28 [chain/](http://www.nestlecocoaplan.com/infographic-tackling-child-labour-in-our-cocoa-supply-chain/).

¹⁷ <http://www.nestle.com/media/newsandfeatures/nestle-launches-the-cocoa-plan>.

¹⁸ <https://www.nestle.co.nz/media/pressreleases/sustainable-cocoa>.

¹⁹ [http://www.nestlecocoaplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/ABOUT-THE-NESTLE-](http://www.nestlecocoaplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/ABOUT-THE-NESTLE-COCOA-PLAN.pdf)
29 [COCOA-PLAN.pdf](http://www.nestlecocoaplan.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/ABOUT-THE-NESTLE-COCOA-PLAN.pdf).

1 children engaged in hazardous work in Ivorian cocoa production has increased over 40% from
2 2008/09 to 2013/14.

3 23. Indeed, Nestle has been falsely assuring those who are aware of the human rights
4 abuses that it will end child and forced labor in its Ivorian Coast supply chain since 2001.
5 Meanwhile an entire generation of West African children has suffered due to Nestlé’s empty
6 promises.

7 24. As the Food Empowerment Project describes in its article entitled Child Labor and
8 Slavery in the Chocolate Industry, a “child’s workday typically begins at six in the morning and ends
9 in the evening.^[18] Some of the children use chainsaws to clear the forests.^[17] Other children climb the
10 cocoa trees to cut bean pods using a machete. These large, heavy, dangerous knives are the standard
11 tools for children on the cocoa farms.... Once they cut the bean pods from the trees, the children
12 pack the pods into sacks that weigh more than 100 pounds when full and drag them through the
13 forest.²⁰

14 25. “Aly Diabate, a former cocoa slave, said, ‘Some of the bags were taller than me. It
15 took two people to put the bag on my head. And when you didn’t hurry, you were beaten.’ Holding
16 a single large pod in one hand, each child has to strike the pod with a machete and pry it open with
17 the tip of the blade to expose the cocoa beans. Every strike of the machete has the potential to slice a
18 child’s flesh. The majority of children have scars on their hands, arms, legs or shoulders from the
19 machetes. In addition to the hazards of using machetes, children are also exposed to agricultural
20 chemicals on cocoa farms in Western Africa.”²¹

21 26. “Cases often involve acts of physical violence, such as being whipped for working
22 slowly or trying to escape. Reporters have also documented cases where children and adults were
23 locked in at night to prevent them from escaping. Former cocoa slave Aly Diabate told reporters,
24 ‘The beatings were a part of my life. I had seen others who tried to escape. When they tried, they
25 were severely beaten.’ Drissa, a recently freed slave who had never even tasted chocolate,

26 _____
27 ²⁰ <http://www.foodispower.org/slavery-chocolate/>.

28 ²¹ *Id.*

1 experienced similar circumstances. When asked what he would tell people who eat chocolate made
 2 from slave labor, he replied that they enjoyed something that he suffered to make, adding, ‘When
 3 people eat chocolate, they are eating my flesh.’”²²

4 27. In *DOE I v. Nestlé USA Inc.*, the Ninth Circuit stated:

5 The use of child slave labor in the Ivory Coast is a humanitarian
 6 tragedy. Studies by International Labour Organization, UNICEF, the
 7 Department of State, and numerous other organizations have
 8 confirmed that thousands of children are forced to work without pay in
 9 the Ivorian economy. Besides the obvious moral implications, this
 10 widespread use of child slavery contributes to poverty in the Ivory
 11 Coast, degrades its victims by treating them as commodities, and
 12 causes long-term mental and physical trauma.²³

13 **1. In 2001 the Industry Agrees to the Harkin-Engel Protocol and Promises to
 14 Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor in the Ivory Coast by 2005.**

15 28. In 2001, the Chocolate Manufacturers Association of the United States of America
 16 signed the *Protocol for the Growing and Processing of Cocoa Beans and their Derivative Products*
 17 *in a Manner that Complies with ILO Convention 182 Concerning the Prohibition and Immediate*
 18 *Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor* (“Harkin-Engel Protocol”).²⁴ Nestle
 19 was a signatory to this agreement, which “acknowledged the problem of forced child labor in West
 20 Africa.” The Harkin-Engel Protocol noted that “while the scope of the problem is uncertain, the
 21 occurrence of the worst forms of child labor in the growing and processing of cocoa beans and their
 22 derivative products is simply unacceptable.” Accordingly, the industry committed to develop and
 23 implement standards of public certifications by July 1, 2005, “that cocoa beans and their derivative
 24 products have been grown and/or processed without any of the worst forms of child labor.” Nestle, and
 25 the other signatories, promised to work “wholeheartedly...to fulfill the letter and spirit of this Protocol,
 26 and to do so in accordance with the deadlines prescribed herein.”²⁵

27 _____
 28 ²² *Id.*

²³ 766 F.3d 1013, 1017 (9th Cir. 2014).

²⁴ The protocol was established by Senator Tom Harkin and Congressman Eliot Engel.
http://www.ilo.org/washington/areas/elimination-of-the-worst-forms-of-child-labor/WCMS_159486/lang--en/index.htm.

²⁵ mvoplatfrom.nl/about-us/publications-en/Publication_2380.

1 **2. The Industry Breaks this Promise Repeatedly in a Series of Follow-up**
2 **Statements Postponing Their Deadline to 2008, to 2010, and now to 2020.**

3 29. In a series of subsequent Joint Statement, the chocolate industry effectively kicks the
4 can down the road on its promises.

5 30. On July 1, 2005, the industry issued a Joint Statement acknowledging that “[i]n
6 September 2001, chocolate and cocoa industry representatives signed an agreement, developed in
7 partnership with Senator Harkin and Representative Engel, to eliminate the worst forms of child
8 labor in the growing of cocoa beans and their derivative products from West Africa. But “the July 1,
9 2005 deadline will not be fully met.” That being said, the industry “assured Sen. Harkin and Rep.
10 Engel that it is fully committed to achieving a certification system, which can be expanded across the
11 cocoa-growing areas of West Africa and will cover 50% of the cocoa growing areas of Cote d’Ivoire
12 and Ghana within three years.” Senator Harkin stated, that he was “disappointed that the July 1
13 deadline established in the Protocol was not fully met,” but he was “pleased that they have
14 committed to redouble their efforts to create a certification system and eliminate the worst forms of
15 child labor and forced labor in the cocoa fields and throughout the supply chain.”²⁶

16 31. Unable to meet the new self-imposed deadline, on June 16, 2008, the industry issued
17 another Joint Statement promising “to have a sector-wide independently verified certification process
18 fully in place across each country’s cocoa-growing sector by the end of 2010.”²⁷

19 32. Again unable to meet the new self-imposed deadline, on September 13, 2010, the
20 industry issued yet another Joint Statement promising “[b]y 2020, the establishment and
21 implementation of a credible and transparent sector-wide monitoring system across cocoa growing
22 regions in the two countries” and – instead of the elimination promised in 2001 – “the worst forms of
23
24
25

26 ²⁶ www.cacao.gouv.ci/commun/documents/jointstatementSenateurTomHarkin.pdf.

27 ²⁷ http://www.csrwire.com/press_releases/14132-Joint-Statement-from-U-S-Senator-Tom-Harkin-Representative-Eliot-Engel-and-the-Chocolate-and-Cocoa-Industry-on-the-Implementation-of-the-Harkin-Engel-Protocol-

1 child labor as defined by ILO Convention 182 in the cocoa sectors of Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana will
2 be reduced by 70 percent."²⁸

3 **3. Meanwhile the Worst Forms of Child Labor in the Ivory Coast Continue – with**
4 **a Recent Report Commissioned by the U.S. Department of Labor Finding That**
5 **They Have Become *Even More Prevalent* – Despite Nestlé's Assurances to the**
6 **Contrary.**

7 33. In order to assess the chocolate industry's progress in meeting the Harkin-Engle
8 Protocol, the Department of Labor contracted with the Payson Center for International Development
9 of Tulane University, awarding it a \$4.3 million contract in 2006.

10 34. "As part of the Tulane-USDOL contract, Tulane studies progress made towards the
11 elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labor (WFCL) and Forced Adult Labor (FAL) in the cocoa
12 sector of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana and towards meeting obligations under the Harkin-Engel Protocol,
13 a voluntary agreement against the WFCL and FAL signed in September 2001 by the Chocolate
14 Manufacturers Association (CMA) and the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) and witnessed by the
15 congressional offices of U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) and U.S. Rep. Eliot Engel (D-N.Y.)."²⁹

16 35. "Since the start of the Tulane-USDOL collaboration in October 2006, Tulane has
17 implemented several representative population-based household surveys of child labor in the cocoa
18 sector, examined efforts by the international cocoa/chocolate industry and the governments of Côte
19 d'Ivoire and Ghana to establish child labor monitoring, certification and verification systems, studied
20 remediation activities and other interventions against the WFCL and FAL in the cocoa sector
21 financed by the cocoa/chocolate industry and trained government officials in Cote d'Ivoire and
22 Ghana to remediate the WFCL and monitor the number of children working in this sector. Tulane's
23 research findings are reported in annual reports to the U.S. Congress."³⁰

24 36. On March 31, 2011, the Payson Center released its report entitled, "Oversight of
25 Public and Private Initiatives to Eliminate the Worst Forms of Child Labor in the Cocoa Section in

26 ²⁸ <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/projects/summaries/GhanaSignedDeclaration.pdf>;
27 <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/projects/summaries/CocoaFrameworkAction.pdf>.

28 ²⁹ <http://childlabor-payson.org/>.

³⁰ *Id.*

1 Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana.”³¹ The report found that the chocolate industry’s funding “has not been
2 sufficient in light of its commitment to eliminate [the Worst Forms of Child Labor] in the cocoa
3 sectors of Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire as per Article 1 of the Protocol.” The report found that
4 “important provisions of the Protocol have not yet been realized.” For example, the chocolate
5 industry has not met Article 6, “a key tenet of the Protocol with a 2005 deadline,” because the
6 chocolate industry “has only partly developed and not enforced industry-wide standards upholding
7 ILO Convention 182 in the cocoa sectors of Cote d'Ivoire and Ghana.” Rather, “the present level of
8 Industry engagement of product certifiers allows these certifiers to cover only a small fraction of
9 cocoa producing regions in each country.”

10 37. The 2011 report further found that the chocolate industry had failed to achieve “its
11 Joint Statement 2005 commitment to cover 50 percent of the two countries’ cocoa-producing areas
12 by July 2008 and has yet to accomplish the goals of the Joint Statement 2008 commitment of
13 reaching 100% of the cocoa growing regions of both countries with remediation activities by the end
14 of 2010.” And it was not even close – the report found that remediation activities had only reached
15 3.8% of the cocoa growing region in the Ivory Coast.³² Thus, the children in the region continue to
16 engage in the Worst Forms of Child Labor, including hazardous work like carrying heavy loads,
17 weeding and breaking cocoa pods using machetes, and spraying chemicals without any protective
18 gear.

19 38. The next year, Nestle “partnered with the Fair Labor Association (FLA) to investigate
20 whether children are working on cocoa farms which are supplying its factories.”³³ The answer,
21 unsurprisingly, was yes. The FLA found that “child labour is a reality on cocoa farms in Côte
22 d'Ivoire.”³⁴ Reiterating the promise made a decade prior, Nestle vowed to engage in “a new effort to
23 prevent the use of child labour in cocoa-growing areas” because the “use of child labour in our cocoa

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25 ³¹ <http://childlabor-payson.org/Tulane%20Final%20Report.pdf>.

26 ³² *Id.*

27 ³³ <http://www.nestlecocoaplan.com/>.

28 ³⁴ <http://www.nestle.com/Media/NewsAndFeatures/fla-report-cocoa;>
<http://www.nestlecocoaplan.com/nestle-sets-out-actions-to-address-child-labour/>.

1 supply chain goes against everything we stand for.” Nestlé’s Executive Vice President for
2 Operations, José Lopez, stated that “no company sourcing cocoa from Côte d’Ivoire can guarantee
3 that it doesn’t happen, but what we can say is that tackling child labour is a top priority for our
4 company.” Once again, Nestle assured those aware of the issue that it “is committed to the
5 eradication of child labour in its cocoa supply chain.” Once again, it pledged “to create a robust
6 monitoring and remedy scheme,” as it had in 2001. And, once again, Nestle reiterated that it was
7 fully supportive of a “plan directed against child trafficking.”³⁵

8 39. And Nestle acknowledged the FLA’s finding that although “Nestlé does not own or
9 operate farms in Côte d’Ivoire,” it “is well positioned to make a positive impact on the livelihoods of
10 workers in the cocoa supply chain ... due to its leverage with its suppliers and the volume of cocoa
11 beans it procures.”³⁶ Nestle has had the opportunity to take effective advantage of that leverage
12 since 2001 to eliminate child and slave labor from its Ivorian supply chain as it promised, but it has
13 failed to do so – and accordingly it has failed an entire generation of West African children.

14 40. As CNN reported in 2012, “[d]uring the course of an investigation for [it]’s Freedom
15 Project initiative – an investigation that went deep into the cocoa fields of Ivory Coast – a team of
16 CNN journalists found that child labor, trafficking and slavery are rife in an industry that produces
17 some of the world’s best-known brands.”³⁷ CNN reported on its encounter with one such modern
18 child slave:

19 Chocolate’s billion-dollar industry starts with workers like Abdul.
20 He squats with a gang of a dozen harvesters on an Ivory Coast farm.
21 Abdul holds the yellow cocoa pod lengthwise and gives it two quick
22 cracks, snapping it open to reveal milky white cocoa beans. He
23 dumps the beans on a growing pile.

25 ³⁵ *Id.*

26 ³⁶ *Id.*

27 ³⁷ <http://thecnnfreedomproject.blogs.cnn.com/2012/01/19/child-slavery-and-chocolate-all-too-easy-to-find/>.

1 Abdul is 10 years old, a three-year veteran of the job.

2 He has never tasted chocolate.

3 [¶]

4 When Abdul's mother died, a stranger brought him across the border
5 to the farm. Abdul says all he's given is a little food, the torn clothes
6 on his back, and an occasional tip from the farmer. Abdul is a
7 modern child slave.

8 41. As the U.S. Department of Labor itself reported in 2013, "children in Côte d'Ivoire
9 continue to engage in the worst forms of child labor in agriculture, particularly on cocoa farms,
10 sometimes under conditions of forced labor." The DOL further reported that over half of these
11 children "were estimated to report injuries from dangerous activities" and that "[c]hildren from
12 neighboring West African countries are trafficked into Côte d'Ivoire for agricultural labor, especially
13 in cocoa production."³⁸

14 42. The most recent report prepared by the Payson Center for International Development
15 of Tulane University and sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor is dated July 30, 2015, and
16 entitled "Survey Research on Child Labor in West African Cocoa Growing Areas." The summary
17 document for the ninety-nine page report states that "*the numbers of children working in cocoa
18 production, in child labor in cocoa production, and in hazardous work in cocoa production have
19 increased from 2008/09 to 2013/14,*" with the number of children doing hazardous work in cocoa
20 production growing by 46%.³⁹

21 43. Thus, Fair Trade International reported on August 4, 2015, that the "2013/2014
22 Survey Research on Child Labor in West African Cocoa-Growing Areas released last week by the
23 Tulane University shows that child labor in cocoa production is on the rise in West Africa."⁴⁰

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26 ³⁸ <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/findings/2013TDA/cotedivoire.pdf>.

27 ³⁹ <http://www.childlaborcocoa.org/index.php/2013-14-final-report>.

28 ⁴⁰ <http://fairtradeamerica.org/post/125861349722/childrens-involvement-in-west-african-cocoa>

1 44. More specifically, the 2015 Payson Report found that during the time period from
2 2013 to 2014 over 1.1 million children in the Ivory Coast were engaged in the most common Worst
3 Forms of Child Labor, hazardous work, including the use of dangerous tools, transport of heavy
4 loads, and exposure to pesticides. This was up from the 791,181 children engaged in such work at
5 the time of the last survey in 2008 to 2009. Put another way, the 22% of children engaged in such
6 labor in 2008 to 2009 had increased to 31% of children in 2013 and 2014.⁴¹

7 45. “The 2015 Payson Report concluded that “[a]fter increases in the total number of
8 children working in the cocoa sector in both countries combined, 1.5 million children still have to be
9 removed from hazardous work by 2020 in order to reach the Framework of Action target.”
10 However, “[w]ith production growing and increasing global demand for cocoa beans, production
11 methods and/or child labor mitigation strategies need to change drastically to achieve major
12 progress.”⁴²

13 46. Right on the heels of the July 30, 2015 Payson Report, the Fair Labor Association
14 released the results of its audit of Nestle on September 2, 2015. The FLA explained that “[f]or
15 Nestlé in Ivory Coast, the FLA has been monitoring since 2013 a growing portion of its cocoa supply
16 served by the Nestlé Cocoa Plan (NCP). As of mid-2015, the NCP represented around 25 percent of
17 Nestlé’s total cocoa supply chain.”⁴³ In other words, Nestle had the FLA audit the subset of its
18 supplying cocoa farms where it had engaged in the most efforts to eradicate child and forced labor.
19 The FLA assessors visited a sample of 260 farms, less than 1% of the 30,000 that supply Nestle in
20 the Ivory Coast.⁴⁴

21 47. The 2015 FLA report found that “[c]hildren younger than 15 continue to work at
22 cocoa farms connected to Nestle, more than a decade after the food company promised to end the use

23 ⁴¹ <http://www.childlaborcocoa.org/index.php/2013-14-final-report>.

24 ⁴² *Id.*

25 ⁴³ <http://www.fairlabor.org/report/2014-assessments-nestl%C3%A9-cocoa-supply-chain-ivory-coast>.

26 ⁴⁴

27 http://www.fairlabor.org/sites/default/files/documents/reports/september_2015_nestle_executive_summary.pdf.

1 of child labour in its supply chain.” These children “were expected to work in hazardous conditions
2 and carry out dangerous tasks, including using machetes and transporting heavy loads.” And the Fair
3 Labor Association “found evidence of forced labour, with a young worker not receiving any salary
4 for a year’s work at a farm.”

5 48. In response, a Nestle spokesperson reiterated the familiar refrain that “no company
6 sourcing cocoa from Ivory Coast can guarantee that it has completely removed the risk of child
7 labour from its supply chain.”⁴⁵ And Nestle continues to claim it has made progress towards meeting
8 the Harkin-Engel Protocol. But claims of progress are flatly contradicted the 2015 Payson report
9 finding that children engaged in hazardous work in Ivorian cocoa production has increased over 40%
10 from 2008/09 to 2013/14.

11 49. In any event, claims of progress – true or not – do not free Nestle from its obligation
12 to provide disclosures to consumers at the point of sale regarding the existence of child and slave
13 labor that indisputably remains in Nestlé’s supply chain for Chocolate Products, based on Nestlé’s
14 superior knowledge of its supply chain. And even were the Ivorian human rights abuses a problem
15 that Nestle was powerless to solve (it is not), Nestle would still be obligated to disclose to consumers
16 at the point of sale the existence of child and slave labor in its supply chain for Chocolate Products.
17 The vast majority of consumers are not aware of the human rights abuses and reasonable consumers
18 would not have purchased Nestle Chocolate Products had they known the truth.

19 **B. Nestlé Fails to Disclose the Use of the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Its Supply Chain.**

20 50. As Nestle explains in its Cocoa Plan, in the Ivory Coast, the “journey from the cocoa
21 bean to the chocolate ... starts with the farmer, who sells his crop either to a cooperative or a pisteur.
22 There are about 700 cooperatives in the country and around 5,000 independent pisteurs. These are
23 roving buyers/salesmen who call on farmers to buy as much cocoa as they can. They’re called
24 pisteurs because they go up and down the pistes or rough tracks which lead to the cocoa villages.

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26 ⁴⁵ Child Labour on Nestle Farms: Chocolate Giant’s Problems Continue: Auditors completing
27 their annual report continue to find evidence of child labour on Ivory Coast farms supplying Nestle,
28 Sept. 2, 2015, available at <http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2015/sep/02/child-labour-on-nestle-farms-chocolate-giants-problems-continue>.

1 The cooperatives and pisteurs sell to larger middlemen called traitants, who in turn sell to exporters,
2 who sell to traders who sell to processors.” “The beans from many different trees and farms are then
3 combined and increasingly larger quantities are sold from one buyer to the next until the beans reach
4 the shipping port. Here, beans from literally thousands of villages are combined into large shipments
5 to countries across the world.”⁴⁶

6 51. According to the World Cocoa Foundation, “47% of the total U.S. imports of cocoa
7 beans come from Cote d’Ivoire.”⁴⁷

8 52. Working with its office in the Ivory Coast, U.S. customs records show that Nestle
9 imports thousands of tons of raw cocoa beans and cocoa paste into the United States, using Nestle
10 USA Inc.’s Glendale, California, and Rochester Hills, Michigan, locations as well as its Mexican
11 subsidiary, Nestle Mexico S.A., as its U.S. consignees. Nestle uses these raw cocoa beans and cocoa
12 paste to manufacture its Chocolate Products, which are distributed to retail locations throughout the
13 country.

14 53. At the retail location, a consumer reviewing the packaging for Nestlé’s Chocolate
15 Products will find no disclosure of the likelihood that child or forced labor was used to produce the
16 cocoa beans in the supply chain for Nestlé’s Chocolate Products:



25 ⁴⁶ <http://www.nestlecocoplant.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/ABOUT-THE-NESTLE-COCOA-PLAN.pdf>.

26 ⁴⁷ http://worldcocoafoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/Economic_Profile_of_the_US_Chocolate_Industry_2011.pdf.

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54. And this lack of disclosure of the likelihood that child or forced labor was used to produce the cocoa beans in the supply chain for Nestlé’s Chocolate Products is even more egregious for those products labeled as part of Nestlé’s Cocoa Plan:



55. While the label innocuously states that “The Nestle Cocoa Plan works with UTZ Certified to help improve the lives of cocoa farmers and the quality of their products” – so as to not tip off the vast majority of consumers who do not know about the Worst Forms of Child Labor in the

1 supply chain. For those who are aware, UTZ is a certification that does not permit child labor.⁴⁸

2 56. Nestle states that it “works with partners UTZ Certified and Fairtrade to certify the
3 cocoa produced by Nestlé Cocoa Plan co-operatives as part of its efforts to promote sustainability
4 and tackle labour problems.”⁴⁹

5 57. By the end of 2013, Nestle claimed to have sourced enough UTZ certified cocoa
6 beans (7%) to produce its entire line of Crunch everyday bars, and in 2014, enough (30%) to produce
7 Toll House Milk Chocolate and Dark Chocolate Morsels, Buncha Crunch, Crunch Girl Scouts Candy
8 Bars, Butterfinger Peanut Butter Cups, Hot Cocoa and Nesquik Ready-to-Drink.⁵⁰ In the U.S.,
9 Nestle says it is “committed to increasing the quantities of Nestlé Cocoa Plan and UTZ certified
10 cocoa beans purchased each year, with an ultimate goal of sourcing all cocoa needed in the U.S. with
11 Nestlé Cocoa Plan.”⁵¹

12 58. But the farms supplying the Nestle Cocoa Plan cocoa beans were the one that the Fair
13 Labor Association audited and on which it found child and forced labor violations, as discussed
14 above. So the UTZ certification pursuant to Nestlé’s Cocoa Plan is patently deceptive.

15 59. In sum, nowhere on the packaging for any of the Chocolate Products is there any
16 disclosure to the consumer of the child and/or slave labor conditions used to produce the cocoa beans
17 in Nestlé’s Ivorian supply chain, as there should be on all of the Chocolate Products.

18 **C. Nestlé Recognizes that the Use of Child or Slave Labor in its Supply Chain Is Wrong.**

19 60. Nestlé identifies the protection of human rights in its business activities as one of its
20 ten Corporate Business Principles stating that it “fully support[s] the United Nations Global
21 Compact’s (UNGC) guiding principles on human rights and labour and aim[s] to provide an example
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23 _____
⁴⁸ <https://www.utzcertified.org/en/aboututzcertified/how-utz-works>.

24 ⁴⁹ <http://www.nestle.com/Media/NewsAndFeatures/fla-report-cocoa>;
25 <http://www.nestlecocoaplan.com/nestle-sets-out-actions-to-address-child-labour/>.

26 ⁵⁰ [http://www.nestleusa.com/asset-
library/documents/creatingsharedvalue/download_report/nusa_csv_report_2013%20final%20062414
%20digital.pdf](http://www.nestleusa.com/asset-library/documents/creatingsharedvalue/download_report/nusa_csv_report_2013%20final%20062414%20digital.pdf).

27 ⁵¹ <http://www.nestlecocoaplan.com/partners-focus-regions/>.

1 of good human rights and labour practices throughout our business activities.”⁵² In describing the
2 relationship with Nestlé’s suppliers, the Corporate Business Principles state: “We require our
3 suppliers, agents, subcontractors and their employees to demonstrate honesty, integrity and fairness,
4 and to adhere to our non-negotiable standards” found in Nestlé’s Supplier Code.⁵³

5 61. The first of four pillars contained in Nestlé’s Supplier Code is the enforcement of
6 human rights. As part of the first pillar on human rights, Nestlé explicitly forbids child labor by its
7 suppliers: “The use of child labour by the Supplier is strictly prohibited, in line with ILO
8 Convention 138 on the Minimum Age, and Convention 182 on the Elimination of the Worst Forms
9 of Child Labour.”⁵⁴

10 62. Likewise, as part of the first pillar on human rights, Nestlé’s explicitly forbids slave
11 labor by its suppliers: “The Supplier must under no circumstances use, or in any other way benefit,
12 from forced labour.”⁵⁵

13 63. As alleged herein, Nestlé’s use of Ivorian cocoa in the supply for its Chocolate
14 Products violates the first pillar of its Supplier Code in both respects.

15 64. Additionally, Nestlé’s Supplier Code of Conduct demands that suppliers are “capable
16 to disclose all the potential sources of primary origins...associated with deliveries made” and
17 “reserves the right to ask suppliers to create... full supply chain mapping back to origin to facilitate
18 assessment of upstream supply chain compliance.”⁵⁶ But Nestle does not actually ensure such
19 compliance.

20 65. In Nestlé’s comprehensive “Nestlé in Society Full Report 2014,” CEO of Nestlé S.A.
21 Paul Bulcke’s is quoted as stating to the United Nations Annual Forum on Business and Human
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23 ⁵² The Nestlé Corporate Business Principles, June 2010, 6, [http://www.nestle.com/asset-library/
24 documents/library/documents/corporate_governance/corporate-business-principles-en.pdf](http://www.nestle.com/asset-library/documents/library/documents/corporate_governance/corporate-business-principles-en.pdf) (last
visited Aug. 17, 2015).

25 ⁵³ *Id.* at 7.

26 ⁵⁴ The Nestlé Supplier Code of Conduct, Dec. 2013, 2, [http://www.nestle.com/asset-library/
27 documents/library/documents/suppliers/supplier-code-english.pdf](http://www.nestle.com/asset-library/documents/library/documents/suppliers/supplier-code-english.pdf) (last visited Aug. 17, 2015).

28 ⁵⁵ *Id.*

⁵⁶ *Id.* at 4.

1 Rights that “[h]aving the right policies, procedures and management systems is good and necessary
2 but it is not enough. It is the implementation, how you behave on the ground and the relationships
3 you establish with different stakeholders, which create the trust necessary to be successful over time,
4 as a company and as a society.”⁵⁷ Nestle has violated this trust with consumers.

5 66. In summary, although Nestlé recognizes that the use of child and/or slave labor in its
6 supply chain is wrong and its corporate business principles and supplier code explicitly forbid child
7 and slave labor by its suppliers, it materially omits to disclose to consumers at the point of purchase
8 the likelihood that its Chocolate Products are made from cocoa beans produced by Ivorian children
9 engaged in the Worst Forms of Child Labor.

10 **D. Nestlé’s Use of the Worst Forms of Child Labor in Its Chocolate Products Supply Chain
11 Is Material to Consumers**

12 67. Consumers have become sensitive to the human cost behind the products that they
13 buy. This sensitivity transcends industries and ranges from products as diverse as clothing to coffee.

14 68. A Harvard University study examined consumer willingness to pay a premium for
15 coffee certified as Fair Trade on eBay.⁵⁸ A Fair Trade certification requires, amongst other things,
16 that the producer not use forced and child labor in the production of its coffee.⁵⁹ The study found
17 that consumers in online auctions were willing to pay an average of 23% more for coffee certified as
18 Fair Trade.⁶⁰

19 69. A 2006 study by researchers at the University of Michigan analyzed consumer
20 purchases to determining consumer willingness to pay a premium for athletic socks marked with a
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23 ⁵⁷ Nestlé in Society Full Report 2014, 214, <http://storage.nestle.com/nestle-society-full-2014/index.html#195/z> (last visited Aug. 17, 2015).

24 ⁵⁸ See Michael J. Hiscox, Michael Broukhim, & Claire S. Litwin, *Consumer Demand for Fair
25 Trade: New Evidence From A Field Experiment Using eBay Auctions of Fresh Roasted Coffee*
26 (Mar. 16, 2011), [http://scholar.harvard.edu/files/hiscox/files/
consumerdemandfairlaborstandardsevidencecoffee.pdf](http://scholar.harvard.edu/files/hiscox/files/consumerdemandfairlaborstandardsevidencecoffee.pdf) (last visited Aug. 17, 2015).

27 ⁵⁹ *Id.* at 4.

28 ⁶⁰ *Id.* at 3, 23.

1 Good Working Conditions (“GWC”) label.⁶¹ The study concluded that 30% of consumers in a
 2 working class neighborhood of Detroit were willing to pay a 20% price premium (from \$1.00 to
 3 \$1.20) for GWC labeled socks compared to non-GWC labeled socks.⁶²

4 70. A 2011 study lead by researchers at Harvard University studied consumer willingness
 5 to pay a premium for polo shirts sold with an SA8000 certification on eBay.⁶³ The SA8000
 6 certification prohibits the use of child labor and forced labor and discrimination based on race,
 7 gender, and religion. The code mandates that workers be allowed to organize and bargain
 8 collectively with their employers. The SA8000 code also requires that workplaces satisfy minimum
 9 health and safety standards, pay minimum (living) wages, and that overtime work is voluntary,
 10 limited, and paid at a premium.⁶⁴ “On average, shoppers paid a 45% premium for labeled versus
 11 unlabeled shirts. The findings suggest that there is substantial consumer support for fair labor
 12 standards, even among price-sensitive eBay shoppers.”⁶⁵

13 71. Another survey by FishWise, a non-profit marine conservation organization, further
 14 elucidates consumer willingness to pay when there are human rights abuses in supply chains.
 15 Eighty-eight percent of consumers stated that they would stop buying a product if it was associated
 16 with human rights abuses.⁶⁶ The survey further revealed that 70% percent of consumers would pay
 17 more for a product certified to be free of human rights abuses.⁶⁷ FishWise noted that, “survey results
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 20 ⁶¹ Howard Kimeldorf, Rachel Meyers, Monica Prasad, & Ian Robinson, *Consumers with a*
 21 *Conscience: Will They Pay More?* (Winter 2006), 24 available at [http://www.npr.org/documents/](http://www.npr.org/documents/2013/may/consumer_conscience_study_ME_20130501.pdf)
 22 [2013/may/consumer_conscience_study_ME_20130501.pdf](http://www.npr.org/documents/2013/may/consumer_conscience_study_ME_20130501.pdf) (last visited Aug. 17, 2015).

21 ⁶² *Id.*

22 ⁶³ Michael J. Hiscox, Michael Broukhim, Claire S. Litwin. Andrea Woloski, *Consumer Demand*
 23 *For Fair Labor Standards: Evidence From a Field Experiment on eBay* (Apr. 2011), 3
 24 http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1811788 (last visited Aug. 17, 2015).

24 ⁶⁴ *Id.* (citing http://www.sa-intl.org/_data/n_0001/resources/live/2008StdEnglishFinal.pdf) (last
 25 visited Aug. 17, 2015).

25 ⁶⁵ Michael J. Hiscox, Michael Broukhim, Claire S. Litwin. Andrea Woloski, *Consumer Demand*
 26 *For Fair Labor Standards: Evidence From a Field Experiment on eBay* (Apr. 2011), 3, 22.

26 ⁶⁶ FishWise, *Trafficked II: An updated summary of human rights abuses in the seafood industry*
 27 (2014), at p. 6, available at <http://www.fishwise.org/services/human-rights>.

27 ⁶⁷ *Id.*

1 indicate that human rights are important to seafood consumers and many of them are willing to avoid
2 high risk products and pay more for those that are certified to be free of abuses.”⁶⁸

3 72. Nestlé is well aware of this consumer sensitivity and has mounted its extensive public
4 relations effort to position itself as a company that does not permit child and slave labor in its supply
5 chain. Its hollow public relations statements mask the tragic truth that millions of African children
6 are engaged in the Worst Forms of Child Labor. Had consumers known the truth, they would not
7 have purchased or paid as much for Nestlé’s Chocolate Products.

8 **V. CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

9 73. Under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff seeks certification of
10 a Class defined as follows:

11 All consumers who purchased Nestlé’s Chocolate Products in
12 California during the four years prior to the filing of the complaint.

13 74. Excluded from the Class are Defendants; the officers, directors or employees of
14 Defendants; any entity in which Defendants have a controlling interest; and any affiliate, legal
15 representative, heir or assign of Defendants. Also, excluded from the Class are any federal, state or
16 local governmental entities, any judicial officer presiding over this action and the members of his/her
17 immediate family and judicial staff, and any juror assigned to this action.

18 75. Plaintiff does not know the exact number of Class Members at the present time.
19 However, due to the nature of the trade and commerce involved, there appear to be millions of Class
20 Members such that joinder of all Class members is impracticable.

21 76. The Class is ascertainable by objective criteria permitting self-identification in
22 response to notice, and notice can be provided through techniques similar to those customarily used
23 in other consumer fraud cases and complex class actions, and through Nestlé’s business records.

24 77. There are questions of law and fact common to the Class. Defendants’ unlawful
25 omissions similarly impact Class Members, all of who purchased one or more Chocolate Products.

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⁶⁸ *Id.* at 7.

1 78. Plaintiff asserts claims that are typical of the Class. Plaintiff and all Class Members
2 have been subjected to the same wrongful conduct because they all have purchased Defendants'
3 Chocolate Products that were not disclosed as likely sourced from suppliers using child and/or forced
4 labor. As a result, and like other members of the Class, Plaintiff purchased and paid an amount for
5 Chocolate Products which she otherwise would not have paid.

6 79. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class.
7 Plaintiff is represented by counsel competent and experienced in both consumer protection and class
8 action litigation.

9 80. Class certification is appropriate because Defendants have acted on grounds that
10 apply generally to the Class, so that final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief is
11 appropriate respecting the Class as a whole.

12 81. Class certification is also appropriate because common questions of law and fact
13 substantially predominate over any questions that may affect only individual members of the Class,
14 including, *inter alia*, the following:

- 15 a. Whether Defendants failed to disclose the likelihood that the
16 Worst Forms of Child Labor were used in its Chocolate
17 Products supply chain;
- 18 b. Whether the likelihood that the Worst Forms of Child Labor
19 were used in Nestlé's Chocolate Products supply chain would
20 be material to a reasonable consumer;
- 21 c. Whether Defendants had a duty to disclose the likelihood that
22 the Worst Forms of Child Labor were used in its Chocolate
23 Products supply chain;
- 24 d. Whether Defendants' nondisclosures were likely to deceive a
25 reasonable consumer;
- 26 e. Whether Defendants' conduct violates the UCL, FAL and
27 CLRA;
- 28 f. Whether the challenged practices harmed Plaintiff and
 members of the Class; and
- g. Whether Plaintiff and members of the Class are entitled to
 restitutionary, injunctive, or other relief.

1 82. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient
2 adjudication of this controversy, since joinder of all the individual Class Members is impracticable.
3 Furthermore, because the restitution and/or damages suffered, and continue to be suffered, by each
4 individual Class Member may be relatively small, the expense and burden of individual litigation
5 would make it very difficult or impossible for individual Class Members to redress the wrongs done
6 to each of them individually and the burden imposed on the judicial system would be enormous.

7 83. The prosecution of separate actions by the individual Class Members would create a
8 risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications, which would establish incompatible standards of
9 conduct for Defendants. In contrast, the conduct of this action as a class action presents far fewer
10 management difficulties, conserves judicial resources and the parties’ resources, and protects the
11 rights of each Class Member.

12 **VI. CAUSES OF ACTION**

13 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

14 **VIOLATION OF THE CALIFORNIA UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW**
15 **(CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17200, et seq.)**

16 84. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs alleged herein.

17 85. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 prohibits any “unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent
18 business act or practice.” Defendants have engaged in unlawful, and unfair, and fraudulent business
19 acts and practices in violation of the UCL.

20 86. Defendants have violated the unlawful prong by virtue of its violations of the CLRA,
21 as described below.

22 87. Defendants have violated the unfair prong of section 17200 because the acts and
23 practices set forth in the Complaint offend established public policies against the use of child and
24 slave labor and the sale of products tainted by the use of child and slave labor and supporting truth in
25 advertising to consumers. Defendants’ participation in a supply chain involving the Worst Forms of
26 Child Labor is immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous and injurious to consumers. The harm
27 that these acts and practices cause greatly outweighs any benefits associated with them. Nestlé’s
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1 conduct also impairs competition within the market for chocolate products, and prevents Plaintiff and
2 Class Members from making fully informed decisions about the kind of chocolate products to
3 purchase or the price to pay for such products.

4 88. Defendants have violated the fraudulent prong of section 17200 because, as set forth
5 above, its material omissions were likely to deceive a reasonable consumer and the true facts would
6 be material to a reasonable consumer.

7 89. Defendants had a duty to disclose the likelihood of the child and/or slave labor in their
8 supply chain, arising from (1) their superior knowledge of Nestlé's supply chain and the practices of
9 its suppliers as compared to consumers, *e.g.* through Nestlé's years of experience marketing and
10 distributing Chocolate Products made from cocoa bean from the Ivory Coast; and (2) their partial
11 representations and/or misrepresentations to the contrary, *e.g.*, numerous corporate statements that
12 Nestlé does not permit the use of child and/or forced labor by its suppliers.

13 90. As alleged herein, Nestlé failed to disclose the likelihood of child and/or slave labor
14 in its supply chain for Chocolate Products. Nor does Nestle disclose that despite its awareness of
15 child and/or slave labor in its Chocolate Products supply chains, it has not required its suppliers to
16 remedy the ongoing human rights abuses.

17 91. These omissions would be material to a reasonable consumer.

18 92. Reasonable consumers are likely to be deceived by Defendants' material omissions.

19 93. Plaintiff has suffered injury in fact, including the loss of money, as a result of
20 Defendants' unlawful, unfair, and/or deceptive practices. Plaintiff and members of the Class were
21 directly and proximately injured by Nestlé's conduct and lost money as a result of Nestlé's material
22 omissions, because they would not have purchased nor paid as much for Chocolate Products had they
23 known the truth.

24 94. All of the wrongful conduct alleged herein occurred, and continues to occur, in the
25 conduct of Defendants' business. Defendants' wrongful conduct is part of a general practice that is
26 still being perpetuated and repeated throughout the State of California.

1 child and/or slave labor in its Chocolate Products supply chains, it has not required its suppliers to
2 remedy the ongoing human rights abuses.

3 105. These omissions would be material to a reasonable consumer.

4 106. Reasonable consumers are likely to be deceived by Defendants' material omissions.

5 107. Plaintiff and members of the Class were directly and proximately injured by Nestlé's
6 conduct and lost money as a result of Nestlé's material omissions, because they would not have
7 purchased nor paid as much for Nestlé's Chocolate Products had they known the truth.

8 108. In accordance with Civil Code § 1780 (a), Plaintiff and Class Members seek
9 restitutionary, injunctive and equitable relief for Nestlé's violations of the CLRA. Plaintiff requests
10 that this Court enter such orders or judgments as may be necessary to restore to any person in interest
11 any money which may have been acquired by means of such unfair business practices, and for such
12 other relief, including attorneys' fees and costs, as provided in Civil Code § 1780 and the Prayer for
13 Relief. In addition, after mailing appropriate notice and demand in accordance with Civil Code
14 § 1782(a) & (d), Plaintiff will amend this Class Action Complaint to include a request for damages.

15 109. Plaintiff includes an affidavit with this Complaint reflecting that venue in this District
16 is proper, to the extent such an affidavit is required by Cal. Civ. Code § 1780(d) in federal court.

17 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

18 **VIOLATIONS OF THE FALSE ADVERTISING LAW**
19 **(CAL. BUS. & PROF CODE §§ 17500, *et seq.*)**

20 110. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference all paragraphs alleged herein.

21 111. California Business & Professions Code §§ 17500, *et seq.* (the "FAL") broadly
22 proscribes deceptive advertising in this State. Section 17500 makes it unlawful for any corporation
23 intending to sell products or perform services to make any statement in advertising those products or
24 services concerning any circumstance or matter of fact connected with the proposed performance or
25 disposition thereof, which is untrue or misleading, and which is known, or which by the exercise of
26 reasonable care should be known, to be untrue or misleading, or not to sell those products or services
27 as advertised at the price stated therein, or as so advertised.

1 112. When the seller has a duty to disclose material facts about a product, the sale of the
2 product to consumers without disclosure of such material facts runs afoul of the FAL.

3 113. As alleged herein, Nestlé failed to disclose the likelihood of child and/or slave labor
4 in the supply chain for its Chocolate Products. Nor does Nestle disclose that despite its awareness of
5 child and/or slave labor in its Chocolate Products supply chains, it has not required its suppliers to
6 remedy the ongoing human rights abuses.

7 114. Defendants had a duty to disclose the likelihood of child and/or forced labor in its
8 supply chain, arising from (1) its superior knowledge of Nestlé's supply chain and the practices of its
9 suppliers as compared to consumers, *e.g.* through Nestlé's years of experience marketing and
10 distributing Chocolate Products made from Ivorian cocoa beans; and (2) its partial representations
11 and/or misrepresentations to the contrary, *e.g.*, numerous corporate statements that Nestlé does not
12 permit the use of child and/or forced labor by its suppliers.

13 115. These omissions would be material to a reasonable consumer.

14 116. Reasonable consumers are likely to be deceived by Defendants' material omissions.

15 117. Defendants knew or reasonably should know that the marketing and sale of its
16 Chocolate Products was and is deceptive.

17 118. Plaintiff has suffered injury in fact, including the loss of money, as a result of
18 Defendants' unlawful, unfair, and/or deceptive practices. Plaintiff and members of the Class were
19 directly and proximately injured by Nestlé's conduct and lost money as a result of Nestlé's material
20 omissions, because they would not have purchased nor paid as much for Nestlé's Chocolate Products
21 had they known the truth.

22 119. All of the wrongful conduct alleged herein occurred, and continues to occur, in the
23 conduct of Defendants' business. Defendants' wrongful conduct is part of a general practice that is
24 still being perpetuated and repeated throughout the State of California.

25 120. Plaintiff requests that this Court enter such orders or judgments as may be necessary
26 to enjoin Defendants from continuing their deceptive advertising, to restore to Plaintiff and members
27

1 of the Class any money that Defendants unlawfully acquired, and to provide such other relief as set
2 forth below.

3 121. Plaintiff is entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys’ fees under California Code of
4 Civil Procedure Section 1021.5 for the benefit conferred upon the general public of the State of
5 California by any injunctive or other relief entered herein.

6 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

7 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,
8 respectfully request that this Court enter a judgment against Defendants and in favor of Plaintiff, and
9 grant the following relief:

10 A. Determine that this action may be maintained as a class action with respect to the
11 Class identified herein and certify it as such under Rules 23(b)(2) and/or 23(b)(3), or alternatively
12 certify all issues and claims that are appropriately certified, and designate and appoint Plaintiff as
13 Class Representatives and their counsel as Class Counsel;

14 B. Declare, adjudge and decree the conduct of Defendants as alleged herein to be
15 unlawful, unfair and/or deceptive;

16 C. Enjoin Defendants from continuing the unfair and deceptive marketing and sale of
17 their Chocolate Products;

18 D. Award Plaintiff and the Class restitution of all monies paid to Defendants as a result
19 of their unfair and deceptive business practices;

20 E. Award Plaintiff and the Class reasonable attorneys’ fees, costs, and pre- and post-
21 judgment interest; and

22 F. Award Plaintiff and the Class such other further and different relief as the nature of
23 the case may require or as may be determined to be just, equitable, and proper by this Court.

24 **JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

25 Plaintiff, by counsel, requests a trial by jury for all claims so triable.
26
27
28

1 DATED: September 28, 2015

HAGENS BERMAN SOBOL SHAPIRO LLP

2 By: /s/ Elaine T. Byszewski

3 Elaine T. Byszewski (SBN 222304)
4 Christopher R. Pitoun (SBN 290235)
5 301 N. Lake Avenue, Suite 203
6 Pasadena, CA 91101
7 Telephone: (213) 330-7150
8 elaine@hbsslaw.com
9 christopherp@hbsslaw.com

10 Steve W. Berman (*pro hac vice*)
11 Ashley A. Bede (*pro hac vice*)
12 HAGENS BERMAN SOBOL SHAPIRO LLP
13 1918 Eighth Avenue, Suite 3300
14 Seattle, WA 98101
15 Telephone: (206) 623-7292
16 steve@hbsslaw.com
17 ashleyb@hbsslaw.com

18 *Attorneys for Plaintiffs and the Proposed Class*

DECLARATION RE CLRA VENUE

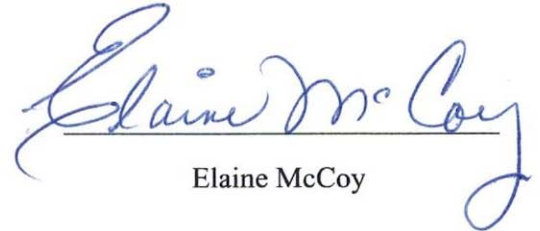
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I, Elaine McCoy, do hereby declare and state as follows:

1. I am a party plaintiff in the above captioned action. Pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1780(d), I make this declaration in support of the Class Action Complaint and the claim therein for relief under Cal. Civ. Code § 1780(a). I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein and, if necessary, could competently testify thereto.

2. This action for relief under Cal. Civ. Code § 1780(a) has been commenced in a county that is a proper place for trial of this action because Nestle, USA does business throughout the State of California.

This declaration is signed under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California this 24th day of September 2015.


Elaine McCoy

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

ELAINE MCCOY, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated

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

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) HAGENS BERMAN SOBOL SHAPIRO LLP 301 N. Lake Avenue, Suite 203, Pasadena, CA 91101 Telephone: (213) 330-7150

DEFENDANTS

NESTLÉ USA, INC., a Delaware Corporation, Nestle Mexico, S.A., a Mexican Corporation

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (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)

Table with columns for Plaintiff (PTF) and Defendant (DEF) citizenship: Citizen of This State, Citizen of Another State, Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country, Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State, Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State, Foreign Nation.

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

Large table with categories: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES.

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); CA Bus. & Prof. Codes §§ 17200, et seq., §§ 17500, et seq.; CA Civ. Code §§ 1750, et seq. Brief description of cause: Violations of above California Codes for nondisclosure of use of child/forced labor in supply chain for chocolate.

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

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

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE not yet assigned DOCKET NUMBER 3:15-cv-04450

DATE 09/28/2015 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/ Elaine T. Byszewski

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

(Place an "X" in One Box Only) SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND SAN JOSE EUREKA