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*and All Others Similarly Situated*

19 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

20 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

21 **RICHARD QUINTERO**, Individually and on  
22 behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

23 Plaintiff,

24 v.

25 **GENERAL MOTORS COMPANY**, a  
Delaware Corporation; and DOES 1-10,  
26 inclusive,

27 Defendants.

Case No. 5:15-cv-2530

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR:

1. Breach of Express Warranty;
2. Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 2301;
3. Negligent Misrepresentation;
4. Violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200, et seq.;
5. Violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500;
6. Violation of Cal. Civ. Code § 1750, et seq.;

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 Plaintiff RICHARD QUINTERO (“Plaintiff”), by and through the undersigned counsel,  
2 brings this class action complaint against Defendant GENERAL MOTORS COMPANY (“GM”)  
3 and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, (collectively, “Defendants”) on behalf of all persons in the  
4 United States who are current or former owners and/or lessees of model year 2014 GMC Sierra  
5 1500 Series or Chevrolet Silverado 1500 pickup trucks (“Class Vehicles”). All allegations in this  
6 Complaint are based upon information and belief except for those allegations which pertain to  
7 Plaintiff, which are based upon Plaintiff’s personal knowledge. Plaintiff’s information and belief  
8 are based upon, *inter alia*, the investigation conducted to date by Plaintiff and his counsel. Each  
9 allegation in this Complaint has evidentiary support or is likely to have evidentiary support upon  
10 further investigation and discovery.

### 11 **INTRODUCTION**

12 1. In or about July 2013, Plaintiff visited his local GMC dealership to purchase a new  
13 pickup truck. Plaintiff intended to purchase a 2013 model year GMC Sierra 1500. Upon reviewing  
14 the options available to him, Plaintiff realized the 2013 model’s towing capacity was a mere 6,900  
15 pounds, versus the 8,800-pound towing capacity and 14,400 pound Gross Combined Weight  
16 Rating<sup>1</sup> (“GCWR”) advertised for the 2014 model. Relying on the advertised towing capacity and  
17 GCWR of the 2014 model, Plaintiff proceeded to purchase a 2014 GMC Sierra 1500 Crew Cab  
18 5.3L V8 pickup truck. The 2014 GMC Sierra 1500 is mechanically identical in all relevant  
19 respects to the 2014 Chevrolet Silverado 1500.

20 2. Prior to purchasing his 2014 GMC Sierra, Plaintiff owned a trailer with a “dry  
21 weight” or Unloaded Vehicle Weight (“UVW”) of around 5,000 pounds, which he used to haul a  
22 golf cart weighing approximately 1,000 pounds. Shortly after he purchased his 2014 GMC  
23 Sierra—a vehicle with supposedly “class leading trailering” capability according to Defendants, as  
24 explained below—and eager to use his new pickup to its full potential, Plaintiff decided it was  
25 time to upgrade his toy-hauler trailer. Relying on the advertised 8,800-pound towing capacity of  
26 his 2014 GMC Sierra, Plaintiff and his wife invested thousands of dollars in the purchase of a new

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>1</sup> Gross Combined Weight Rating is the total allowable weight of the completely loaded vehicle  
and trailer, including any passengers, cargo, equipment, and conversions.

1 trailer with an UVW of 6,700 pounds. Combined with the 1,000 pounds in cargo he planned to  
 2 carry in the trailer, the 7,700 pound Gross Trailer Weight was well within his 2014 GMC Sierra's  
 3 advertised 8,800-pound towing capacity.

4 3. Then, in September 2014, GM sent a letter to Plaintiff and Class Members  
 5 informing them that the advertised maximum trailer weight and Gross Vehicle Weight Rating  
 6 values ("Towing Capacity") for the 2014 GMC Sierra and the 2014 Chevrolet Silverado were  
 7 inaccurate. Included with the letter was an owner's manual supplement that revised downward—  
 8 by as much as 2,000 pounds and thereby reducing its capabilities by more than 20%—the Towing  
 9 Capacity of Class Vehicles. According to Defendants' new disclosure, Plaintiff's 2014 GMC  
 10 Sierra was capable of safely towing just 6,700 pounds and had a Gross Combined Weight Rating  
 11 of 12,000 pounds—far from the 8,800 pound towing capacity and 14,400-pound GCWR that  
 12 Defendants used to advertise and sell the vehicles to Plaintiff and Class Members.

13 4. This Towing Capacity reduction followed uniform and pervasive representations to  
 14 the contrary from Defendant to Plaintiff and Class Members. Prior to GM's precipitous  
 15 recalculation, GM expressly and repeatedly touted the Towing Capacity of Class Vehicles, and its  
 16 representatives confirmed that Towing Capacity is a material, and often dispositive, consideration  
 17 for pickup truck consumers: "trailer towing is number 1 to truck owners.... It's just the key  
 18 element."<sup>2</sup>

19 5. Had Plaintiff and Class Members known the 2014 GMC Sierra's and the 2014  
 20 Chevrolet Silverado's actual towing capability at the time of purchase, and the safety hazard posed  
 21 by towing loads in excess of a vehicle's capacity, they would not have bought the Class Vehicles  
 22 or would have paid much less for them. As such, Plaintiff and Class Members have not received  
 23 the value of their bargain in purchasing their Class Vehicles and have suffered damage.

#### 24 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

25 6. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because Defendants have  
 26 conducted and continue to conduct business in the State of California, and because Defendants

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
 28 <sup>2</sup> See Chevrolet, *Truck Towing Capabilities: 2014 Silverado*, YOUTUBE (Mar. 26, 2014),  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRXK35dPXbE&feature=youtu.be>.

1 have committed the acts and omissions complained of herein in the State of California.

2 7. Venue as to Defendants is also proper in this judicial district. A significant number  
3 of Class Vehicles and other GM automobiles are sold in this district, Defendants have dealerships  
4 in this district, and much of Defendants' acts and omissions complained of herein occurred in Los  
5 Angeles County, California.

6 8. This Court has jurisdiction over this action under the Class Action Fairness Act, 28  
7 U.S.C. § 1332(d). Upon information and belief, there are well over 100 members in the proposed  
8 class; the aggregated claims of the individual class members exceed the sum or value of  
9 \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs; and this is a class action in which Defendants and class  
10 members are citizens of different states.

11 **PARTIES**

12 9. Plaintiff Richard Quintero is a California citizen who resides in Chino, California.  
13 In June 2013, Plaintiff purchased a 2014 GMC Sierra 1500 Crew Cab 5.3L V8 pickup truck from  
14 Mark Christopher Auto Center in Ontario, California. Plaintiff purchased his 2014 GMC Sierra  
15 primarily for personal, family, or household use, and paid approximately \$46,844.42. The vehicle  
16 was manufactured, sold, distributed, advertised, marketed, and warranted by GM, and bears  
17 Vehicle Identification No. 3GTP1VEC1EG107749.

18 10. Defendant General Motors Company ("GM") is a Delaware corporation with its  
19 principal place of business in Michigan. GM manufactured, marketed, distributed, and warranted  
20 the mechanically identical 2014 model year GMC Sierra 1500 and Chevrolet Silverado 1500. GM  
21 designs, builds, markets, and sells the Class Vehicles throughout the United States, including  
22 California.

23 11. Plaintiff is unaware of the true names and capacities of individuals and/or entities  
24 sued herein under the fictitious names DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, or, to the extent that the  
25 names of such individuals or entities may be known to Plaintiff, Plaintiff does not know whether a  
26 viable cause of action lies as against such individuals or entities, or Plaintiff is unable to allege the  
27 elements of such a cause of action at this time, prior to discovery. Plaintiff reserves the right to  
28 amend the instant Complaint to allege the true names and capacities of such fictitiously-named

1 defendants when the same become known or when it has been ascertained with reasonable  
2 certainty that a cause of action hereunder can be satisfactorily stated and maintained against them.

3 12. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based upon such information and belief  
4 alleges, that each of the Defendants named in this Complaint, including DOES 1 through 10,  
5 inclusive, is, and at all times relevant hereto was, the agent, servant, employee, and/or joint  
6 venturer of each of the other Defendants and that each Defendant was acting within the course and  
7 scope of his, her, or its authority as an agent, servant, employee, and/or joint venturer.  
8 Consequently, all Defendants are jointly and severally liable to Plaintiff and Class Members for  
9 the damages sustained as alleged herein.

10 13. As used herein, the term “Defendants” shall mean to refer, unless otherwise  
11 specified, collectively to Defendants GM, and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive.

12 **SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS**

13 14. Towing capacity is a central feature of truck advertising campaigns, and has been a  
14 major point of competition among top manufacturers like GM in recent years. To that end,  
15 manufacturers set towing capacity targets based on customer research and competitive needs.

16 15. Mired in bankruptcy, a government bailout, and controversy surrounding the  
17 deadly effects of an ignition-switch defect in its smaller cars, GM had ceded significant market  
18 share to Ford and Dodge trucks in the years leading up to the 2014 Sierra’s release. GM was  
19 counting on the mechanically identical redesigned 2014 Chevy Silverado and 2014 GMC Sierra to  
20 help claw back market share and to prove to the world that GM—having just emerged from  
21 government ownership—could stand on its own.

22 16. What’s more, GM had invested significant resources into redesigning its 2014  
23 Sierra and needed to recoup costs. “Our engineers and designers left nothing on the table when  
24 developing this latest Sierra pickup,” said Tony DiSalle, vice president of GMC Marketing. All  
25 the while, GM continued to reassure potential buyers that, “These trucks have all the power and  
26 capability that’s expected in today’s market.”

27 17. Playing to the “power and capability” expected by consumers, Towing Capacity  
28 was a central feature of the marketing materials for the 2014 GMC Sierra, which GM North

1 America President Mark Reuss described as “work horses” designed to maximize power and  
 2 towing capacity. To that end, representations regarding the 2014 GMC Sierra’s exceptional towing  
 3 capacity appeared in advertising available on websites, in print at dealerships, and in television  
 4 commercials:

5           a.       2014 GMC Sierra Brochure: “Pull up to 12,000 lbs. Leave worry behind.  
 6 The 2014 Sierra is all about strength, thanks to meticulous attention to detail throughout its  
 7 drivetrain, suspension and body structure. It’s strong enough to achieve a best-in-class standard V-  
 8 6 engine trailer weight rating of up to 7600 lbs. On models with available 6.2L V-8 and Max  
 9 Trailering Package, it produces a class-leading rating of up to 12,000 lbs., while the 5.3L V-8  
 10 comes in at 11,500 lbs. and Denali at 9,800 lbs. Before Sierra is even in motion, systems are  
 11 monitoring conditions and preparing the truck to overachieve.”

12           b.       2014 Silverado Brochure: “[A]vailable class leading trailering,” with a  
 13 footnote stating “[w]ith 2WD Double Cab, available 5.3L V-8 engine and Max Trailering Package  
 14 (available Fall 2013).”

15           c.       2014 Silverado television advertisement titled “Truck Towing Capabilities  
 16 – 2014 Silverado” in which GMC Trailer Engineer, Robert Krause, states: “Trailer towing is  
 17 number 1 to truck owners.... It’s just the key element.” The following is then displayed: “Best in  
 18 Class Towing. Up to 12,000 lbs.,” followed by, in smaller letters at the bottom of the screen,  
 19 “2WD Double or Crew Cab with available 6.2L V8 engine and Max Trailer Package. Maximum  
 20 trailer weight ratings are calculated assuming a properly equipped base vehicle, plus driver. See  
 21 dealer for details. Class is half-ton full-size pick-ups.” *See Chevrolet, Truck Towing Capabilities:*  
 22 *2014 Silverado*, YOUTUBE (Mar. 26, 2014),  
 23 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRXK35dPXbE&feature=youtu.be>.

24           d.       2014 Silverado TV Ad titled “All-New 2014 Silverado 1500 – Over 13  
 25 Million Miles of Total Testing,” states that the truck has “Best in Class Towing.” *See Chevrolet,*  
 26 *All-New 2014 Silverado Testing*, YOUTUBE (Dec. 13, 2014),  
 27 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cg93XMNjDrE>.

28 ///

1           18. To facilitate the success of the 2014 GMC Sierra's launch, GM also released its  
2 first free iOS (iPhone and iPad) app, which prominently featured the 2014 GMC Sierra and was  
3 "designed to give GMC customers a better understanding of trailering techniques and capabilities"  
4 and to help "identify the appropriate GMC model for specific trailering needs." In other words, the  
5 app was intended to drive sales of the 2014 GMC Sierra and other GMC trucks. Consumers could  
6 access towing capacity information either by selecting a specific GMC model or by entering their  
7 trailering needs to identify the right GMC model for the job. Like other marketing materials, as  
8 well as the Owners' Manual, the GMC Trailering app included incorrect and misleading  
9 information regarding the 2014 GMC Sierra's towing capacity.

10           19. The 2014 GMC Sierra quickly became GM's best-selling model of vehicle, helping  
11 to propel the automaker to its highest sales since 2007. In July 2013, GMC Sierra sales were up by  
12 53% over July 2012, with an average of just 14 "days to turn" from delivery to sale, compared to  
13 competitors' 76-day average. Indeed, the truck brand emerged as GM's healthiest since the  
14 automaker's exit from bankruptcy, and began commanding the biggest jumps in transaction prices  
15 of any GM brand. In fact, a few months into its release, GM was able to raise the prices of its 2014  
16 GMC Sierra and Chevy Silverado trucks while maintaining a steady increase in sales.

17           20. Unfortunately for Plaintiff and Class Members, GM's marketing claims and  
18 technical specifications regarding the 2014 GMC Sierra's Towing Capacity grossly overstated the  
19 vehicle's actual ability to safely and reliably trailer heavy loads. In September 2014, Jim Moloney,  
20 GM's then General Director of Customer and Relationship Services, sent Plaintiff and Class  
21 Members a letter ("Notice Letter") advising them of the Class Vehicles' actual Towing Capacity.  
22 The Notice Letter also stated that exceeding the new, lower, load capacity than was originally  
23 advertised could result in harm to the Class Vehicle. A copy of the Notice Letter is attached as  
24 **Exhibit 1** and is incorporated herein as if set forth in full.

25           21. The Notice Letter enclosed a supplement to the original Owner's Manual (relevant  
26 pages of which are attached hereto as **Exhibit 2** and which are incorporated herein as if set forth in  
27 full) that showed reductions in Class Vehicles' maximum trailer weight and the Gross Vehicle  
28 Weight Rating by, as in Plaintiff's case, as much as 2,000 pounds.



22. A comparison of the Advertised versus Actual towing capacity specifications for the 2014 GMC Sierra and 2014 Chevrolet Silverado is as follows:

<b>Vehicle</b>	<b>Axle Ratio</b>	<b>Advertised Max. Trailer Weight</b>	<b>Actual Max. Trailer Weight</b>	<b>Advertised GCWR*</b>	<b>Actual GCWR*</b>
1500 Series 2WD Regular Cab Standard Box					
5.3L V8	3.08	9,300 lbs.	7,200 lbs.	14,000 lbs.	12,000 lbs.
1500 Series 2WD Extended Cab Standard Box					
5.3L V8	3.08	8,900 lbs.	6,900 lbs.	14,000 lbs.	12,000 lbs.
6.2L V8	3.73	12,000 lbs.	12,000 lbs.	17,700 lbs.	17,500 lbs.
1500 Series 2WD Crew Cab Standard Box					
5.3L V8	3.08	8,700 lbs.	6,700 lbs.	14,000 lbs.	12,000 lbs.
6.2L V8	3.73	12,000 lbs.	12,000 lbs.	17,700 lbs.	17,500 lbs.
1500 Series 2WD Crew Cab Short Box					
<b>5.3L V8<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>3.08</b>	<b>8,800 lbs.</b>	<b>6,800 lbs.</b>	<b>14,000 lbs.</b>	<b>12,000 lbs.</b>
6.2L V8	3.73	12,000 lbs.	12,000 lbs.	17,700 lbs.	17,500 lbs.
1500 Series 2WD Regular Cab Long Box					
5.3L V8	3.08	9,200 lbs.	7,200 lbs.	14,000 lbs.	12,000 lbs.
1500 Series 4WD Regular Cab Standard Box					
5.3L V8	3.08	9,100 lbs.	7,100 lbs.	14,000 lbs.	12,000 lbs.
1500 Series 4WD Extended Cab Standard Box					
5.3L V8	3.08	8,600 lbs.	6,600 lbs.	14,000 lbs.	12,000 lbs.
6.2L V8	3.73	12,000 lbs.	11,800 lbs.	17,700 lbs.	17,500 lbs.
1500 Series 4WD Crew Cab Standard Box					
5.3L V8	3.08	8,500 lbs.	6,500 lbs.	14,000 lbs.	12,000 lbs.
6.2L V8	3.73	12,000 lbs.	11,700 lbs.	17,700 lbs.	17,500 lbs.

<sup>3</sup> Plaintiff's GMC Sierra 1500 fell into this category.



1           23.     Despite the admission within the Notice Letter that “[u]se of higher than  
2 recommended maximum trailer weight could result in a powertrain cooling system overheat  
3 condition if operating the vehicle under certain high ambient temperature and road grade  
4 conditions”—a significant safety concern—and the warning that “GCWR for the vehicle should  
5 not be exceeded,” GM did not issue a recall of Class Vehicles or even reprint the complete  
6 owners’ manual to ensure accurate information remained with the vehicle at all times. Rather, GM  
7 simply enclosed a one-page insert and left it up to Plaintiff and Class Members to open the letter,  
8 review its contents, and place the insert at the appropriate place within the existing manual.

9           24.     Whereas the 2014 GMC Sierra and 2014 Chevrolet Silverado first went on sale in  
10 May of 2013, GM continued to provide false and misleading Towing Capacity statistics for the  
11 Class Vehicles through at least September 2014, and these inaccurate figures remained on the  
12 GMC website through at least September 2014.

13           25.     GM intended for potential buyers to rely on its Towing Capacity information in  
14 making the decision to purchase a Class Vehicle. In fact, GMC’s Vice President of Marketing,  
15 Tony DiSalle, noted the importance of Towing Capacity when the 2014 Sierra’s towing  
16 specifications were released: “Trailerage is a fundamental capability that customers invest in and  
17 depend on when they purchase a truck.”<sup>4</sup>

18           26.     Indeed, accurate information regarding towing capacity has been a focal point of  
19 the automotive industry for some time. In 2008, the Society of Automotive Engineers’ (SAE) first  
20 published its standard “Performance Requirements for Determining Tow-Vehicle Gross  
21 Combination Weight Rating and Trailer Weight Rating,” known as J2807. The SAE J2807  
22 categorizes towing performance into three measurable attributes: climbing, acceleration, and  
23 launching. Each category has specified performance standards that must be met before a  
24 manufacturer can advertise the truck’s ability to handle a given amount of weight. Despite  
25 knowledge of the importance of providing accurate Towing Capacity statistics to potential buyers,

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>4</sup> Press Release, GMC News, Sierra Trailering Tech Enhances Safety and Performance (May 31,  
28 2013), *available at* <http://media.gm.com/media/us/en/gm/news.detail.html/content/Pages/news/us/en/2013/May/0531-gmc-sierra-trailerage.html>.

1 GM reneged on its December 2011 agreement to adopt SAE J2807 by the 2013 model year.

2 27. Rather than follow the SAE J2807 standard, GM developed and followed its own  
3 towing capacity testing regimens, which were designed to manipulate Towing Capacity figures in  
4 order to maintain and improve its market share, at the cost of consumers. In almost all cases, the  
5 SAE J2807 standard leads to lower Towing Capacity numbers than the tests developed by GM to  
6 fuel its marketing campaigns.

7 28. Not only did GM refuse to adopt the SAE J2807 standard for fear that it might  
8 reduce Towing Capacity numbers on Class Vehicles, it manipulated the outcomes of its own  
9 internal testing to produce larger Towing Capacity numbers even though it knew it was not testing  
10 under real-world conditions. For example, GM skewed maximum payload results by removing  
11 heavy items from its trucks, such as the rear bumper, in order to lower vehicles' curb weight.

12 29. Most tellingly, GM spokesperson Tom Wilkinson admitted that the company did in  
13 fact conduct SAE J2807 standard testing, but chose instead to publish the inflated results of its  
14 own internal testing protocols. In discussing GM's refusal to adopt the standard testing for  
15 marketing its 2013 line of trucks, Wilkinson admitted: "We already validate the trucks to [the  
16 J2807 standard]. It's just a matter of adjusting the numbers."

17 30. In other words, GM knew, or should have known, at the time it made the  
18 representations regarding the original Towing Capacity statistics that these statements were untrue  
19 or misleading. GM also knew its statements were material, and intended for Plaintiff and Class  
20 Members to rely on its representations regarding Towing Capacity when deciding to enter into  
21 contracts to purchase Class Vehicles. If Plaintiff and Class Members had known the true facts,  
22 they would not have purchased the Class Vehicles or they would have paid much less for them and  
23 as a direct result of Defendants' action, have suffered damage.

24 **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

25 31. As detailed in the individual counts below, Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of  
26 himself and all similarly situated consumers, pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23.  
27 Plaintiff seeks to represent the following class and sub-class under Rule 23(b)(3) and Rule  
28 23(c)(4), defined as follows:

1 A. The Nationwide Class

2 All persons who purchased or leased a 2014 model year GMC Sierra  
3 and/or a Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Series pickup truck in the United  
States on or before September 30, 2014.

4 B. The California Sub-Class:

5 All persons who purchased or leased a 2014 model year GMC Sierra  
6 and/or a Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Series pickup truck in California  
on or before September 30, 2014.

7 32. Excluded from the proposed Nationwide Class and the proposed California Sub-  
8 Class are any entity in which GM has a controlling interest, and officers or directors of GM; any  
9 affiliate, parent, or subsidiary of GM; any officer, director, or employee of GM; any successor or  
10 assignee of GM; Plaintiff's counsel and anyone employed by counsel for Plaintiff in this action;  
11 any judge to whom this case is assigned, his or her spouse, and any members of their respective  
12 staffs, as well as the spouses of such persons; and anyone who purchased a Class Vehicle for the  
13 purpose of resale.

14 33. At all relevant times, Plaintiff has been within the Nationwide Class and within the  
15 California Sub-Class.

16 34. **Numerosity.** The members of the Nationwide Class and the California Sub-Class  
17 are so numerous that their individual joinder is impracticable. Plaintiff is informed and believes  
18 that there are at least thousands of purchasers in the Nationwide Class and the California Sub-  
19 Class. Inasmuch as the Class Members may be identified through business records regularly  
20 maintained by GM and its employees and agents, and through the media, the number and identities  
21 of Class Members can be ascertained.

22 35. **Existence and Predominance of Common Questions.** Common questions of law  
23 and fact exist as to all members of the proposed Nationwide Class and the California Sub-Class  
24 and predominate over questions affecting only individual Class Members, and answers to these  
25 common questions are apt to drive the resolution of this litigation.

26 36. Those common questions applicable to all classes include:

27 a. Whether the Class Vehicles achieve Towing Capacity materially lower than  
28 that originally advertised and represented by Defendants;

1                   b.       Whether Defendants' statements regarding Towing Capacity of Class  
2 Vehicles made materially false, unfair, or deceptive statements regarding the expected Towing  
3 Capacity of the Class Vehicles;

4                   c.       Whether Defendants knew or should have known that its statements  
5 regarding Towing Capacity of Class Vehicles were materially false, unfair, or deceptive;

6                   d.       Whether Defendants' statements regarding Towing Capacity of Class  
7 Vehicles were material;

8                   e.       Whether Defendants violated 15 U.S.C. section 2301, *et seq.*;

9                   f.       Whether as a result of Defendants' actions and inactions Plaintiff and the  
10 Class were damaged; and

11                  g.       Whether Defendants should be financially responsible to Class Members for  
12 restitution and/or damages arising out of its false, unfair, and deceptive statements regarding  
13 expected Towing Capacity of Class Vehicles.

14       37.     Additional common questions applicable to the California Sub-Class include:

15                  a.       Whether Defendants violated California Business and Professions Code  
16 section 17200, *et seq.*;

17                  b.       Whether Defendants violated California Business and Professions Code  
18 section 17500;

19                  c.       Whether Plaintiff and the Class suffered harm as a result of Defendants'  
20 violations of the California Business and Professions Code;

21                  d.       Whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to restitution under the  
22 California Business and Professions Code and whether an injunction should be issued;

23                  e.       Whether Defendants violated California Civil Code section 1750, *et seq.*;

24                  f.       Whether Plaintiff and the Class suffered harm as a result of Defendant's  
25 violation of the California Civil Code; and

26                  g.       Whether an injunction should be issued under the California Business and  
27 Professions and Civil Codes.

28     ///

1           38.     **Typicality**. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the proposed classes.  
2 Plaintiff and Class Members were and are similarly or identically harmed by the same unlawful,  
3 deceptive, unfair, systematic, and pervasive pattern of misconduct engaged in by Defendants.  
4 Plaintiff has no interests antagonistic to those of Class Members, and Defendants have no defenses  
5 unique to Plaintiff.

6           39.     **Adequacy**. Plaintiff is an adequate representative of the proposed Nationwide  
7 Class and the California Sub-Class because his interests do not conflict with Class Members'  
8 interests, Plaintiff has retained counsel competent and experienced in complex class action  
9 litigation, and Plaintiff intends to prosecute this action vigorously.

10          40.     **Superiority and Predominance**. A class action is superior to other available  
11 means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this dispute because Defendants have acted or  
12 refused to act on grounds generally applicable to each Class Member, thereby making appropriate  
13 final injunctive or corresponding declaratory relief on a class-wide basis. In addition, without class  
14 certification, the prosecution of separation actions by individual class members would risk:

15               a.     Inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members,  
16 which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendants;

17               b.     Adjudication with respect to individual members which would, as a  
18 practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of the other members not parties to the adjudication  
19 or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests; and

20               c.     Unnecessary delay and expense to all parties and to the courts.

21          41.     **Notice**. Plaintiff contemplates that the nature of the notice to be provided to Class  
22 Members can be in the form of e-mail, mail, and published notice.

23          42.     Plaintiff does not anticipate any difficulty in the management of this litigation.

24                               **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**  
25                               **(By Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class Against All Defendants**  
                                     **for Breach of Express Warranty)**

26          43.     Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1  
27 through 42.

28     ///

1           44. Plaintiff brings this cause of action against Defendants on behalf of himself and  
2 members of the Nationwide Class because materially identical common laws are in effect in states  
3 that are part of the proposed Nationwide Class. In the alternative, Plaintiff brings this cause of  
4 action on behalf of himself and members of the California Sub-Class only.

5           45. GM sold the Class Vehicles warranting that the Class Vehicles were of a certain  
6 quality and standard which they did not meet. In particular, GM affirmed, promised, and/or  
7 described the Class Vehicles as being capable of safely and reliably towing trailers and cargo of a  
8 certain weight.

9           46. As set forth above, GM's various advertisements and the Owner's Manual for Class  
10 Vehicles affirmed and described the Class Vehicles as being capable of meeting certain Max.  
11 Trailer Weight and Gross Combined Weight Ratings, i.e. Towing Capacity.

12           47. Those affirmations/descriptions of the Towing Capacity of Class Vehicles formed  
13 part of the basis of Plaintiff's and Class Members' bargain in purchasing the Class Vehicles.

14           48. GM breached this warranty by selling Class Vehicles that were not capable of  
15 safely and reliably towing trailers and cargo of the stated weight, and in fact had a Towing  
16 Capacity up to 2,000 pounds below the capacity originally described to Plaintiff and Class  
17 Members.

18           49. Plaintiff and Class Members were harmed by GM's breach of warranty in that had  
19 they known the Class Vehicles could not perform as warranted they would have either not  
20 purchased the Class Vehicles or would have paid a lower price for the Class Vehicles.

21           50. GM's breach of its express warranty regarding the Towing Capacity of Class  
22 Vehicles was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiff and Class Members to suffer economic  
23 damages.

24           51. GM's misrepresentation regarding the Towing Capacity of Class Vehicles was  
25 material to Plaintiff and Class Members, and would have been material to a reasonable consumer.

26           52. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and on behalf of Class Members, seeks actual  
27 damages in an amount to be stated according to proof at trial.

28 ///

**SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**(By Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class Against All Defendants**  
**for Violation of 15 U.S.C. section 2301, et seq.)**

53. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 52.

54. Plaintiff brings this cause of action against Defendants on behalf of himself and members of the Nationwide Class.

55. The Class Vehicles are consumer products as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 2301(6).

56. Plaintiff and Class Members are consumers as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 2301(3).

57. GM is a supplier and warrantor as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 2301(4)(5).

58. GM sold the Class Vehicles warranting that the Class Vehicles were of a certain quality and standard which they did not meet. In particular, GM sold the Class Vehicles with a warranty that the vehicles were capable of safely and reliably towing trailers and cargo of a certain weight.

59. GM breached this warranty by selling Class Vehicles that were not capable of safely and reliably towing trailers and cargo of the stated weight, and in fact had a Towing Capacity up to 2,000 pounds below the capacity originally stated to Plaintiff and Class Members.

60. Defendants' breach of its express warranties regarding the Towing Capacity of Class Vehicles was a substantial factor in causing Plaintiff and Class Members to suffer economic damages.

61. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and on behalf of Class Members, seeks actual damages in an amount to be stated according to proof at trial.

**THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**  
**(By Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class Against All Defendants**  
**for Negligent Misrepresentation)**

62. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1 through 42.

63. Plaintiff brings this cause of action against Defendants on behalf of himself and members of the Nationwide Class because materially identical common laws are in effect in states that are part of the proposed Nationwide Class. In the alternative, Plaintiff brings this cause of



1 action on behalf of himself and members of the California Sub-Class only.

2 64. Defendants had a duty to provide honest and accurate information to its ultimate  
3 customers, Plaintiff and Class Members, so that they could make informed decisions on the  
4 substantial purchase of an automobile which, after purchasing a home, is the largest single  
5 purchase normally made by the public.

6 65. Defendants made untrue representations to Plaintiff and Class Members concerning  
7 the Towing Capacity of Class Vehicles, as alleged herein.

8 66. Defendants knew, or in the exercise of reasonable diligence should have known,  
9 that the Towing Capacity representations were false at the time it made them, yet intended for  
10 Plaintiff and Class Members to rely on these representations.

11 67. Defendants knew, or in the exercise of reasonable diligence should have known,  
12 that a reasonable consumer would be misled by Defendants' untrue representations.

13 68. Plaintiff and the Class Members reasonably and justifiably relied on GM's  
14 misrepresentations, and suffered economic damages as a result.

15 69. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and on behalf of Class Members, seeks actual  
16 damages in an amount to be stated according to proof at trial.

17 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
18 **(By Plaintiff and the California Sub-Class Against All Defendants**  
**for Violation of California Business & Professions Code section 17200, *et seq.*)**

19 70. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1  
20 through 42.

21 71. Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of himself and members of the  
22 California Sub-Class against Defendants.

23 72. California Business and Professions Code section 17200, the Unfair Competition  
24 Law prohibits, among other things, any "unfair" or "unlawful" business act or practice.

25 73. Defendants have engaged in unlawful and unfair business acts and practices in  
26 violation of consumer rights under the Unfair Competition Law, as alleged herein. Defendants'  
27 deceptive, untrue, and misleading advertising is described throughout this Complaint and includes  
28 misrepresenting and falsely advertising to Plaintiff and Class Members the Towing Capacity of the

1 Class Vehicles as is proven by the letter ultimately sent to consumers setting forth the true Towing  
2 Capacity of the Class Vehicles.

3 74. Defendants violated the “unfair” prong of the Unfair Competition Law because  
4 Defendants’ misrepresentations and omissions regarding the Towing Capacity of Class Vehicles  
5 offended established public policy regarding truthful advertising, caused harm to consumers,  
6 impaired competition within the automobile industry, and prevented Plaintiff and Class Members  
7 from making fully informed decisions about whether to purchase a Class Vehicle and about what  
8 price to pay for a Class Vehicle. The harm suffered by Plaintiff and the Class greatly outweighs  
9 any benefits associated with Defendants’ practices as complained of herein.

10 75. Defendants violated the “unlawful” prong of the Unfair Competition Law because  
11 Defendants’ misrepresentations and omissions regarding the Towing Capacity of Class Vehicles  
12 violated California law, including but not limited to California’s False Advertising Law (Cal. Bus.  
13 & Prof. Code § 17500), the Consumers Legal Remedies Act (Cal. Civ. Code § 1750, *et seq.*) and  
14 15 U.S.C. § 230, *et seq.*, as set forth herein.

15 76. Plaintiff and members of the California Sub-Class suffered an injury in fact,  
16 including the loss of money or property, as a result of Defendants’ unfair, unlawful or deceptive  
17 practices. In purchasing his Class Vehicle, Plaintiff relied on the misrepresentations and/or  
18 omissions of Defendants with respect to the towing capacity as set forth herein. Defendants’  
19 representations turned out not to be true because the towing capacity was overstated and had  
20 Plaintiff known this, he would not have purchased his vehicle or paid as much for it.

21 77. Plaintiff overpaid for his vehicle and did not receive the benefit of his bargain. One  
22 way to partially measure this overpayment and lost benefit of the bargain at the time his purchase  
23 occurred is by the value consumers place on the vehicles now that the Towing Capacity has been  
24 downgraded. This decline in value partially measures Plaintiff’s overpayment at the time of sale.

25 78. Plaintiff has standing under the Unfair Competition Law because he has suffered  
26 injury in fact, and has lost money or property, as a result of Defendants’ unfair, unlawful, and/or  
27 deceptive practices as outlined above.

28 ///

1           79. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and on behalf of the California Sub-Class, seeks  
2 restitution, injunctive relief, and all other allowable relief under Business and Professions Code  
3 sections 17200 and 17203.

4                                   **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**  
5                                   **(By Plaintiff and the California Sub-Class Against All Defendants**  
6                                   **for Violation of California Business & Professions Code section 17500)**

7           80. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1  
8 through 42, above.

9           81. Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of himself and all members of the  
10 California Sub-Class against Defendants.

11           82. California Business and Professions Code section 17500 states: “It is unlawful for  
12 any . . . corporation . . . with intent directly or indirectly to dispose of real or personal property . .  
13 . to induce the public to enter into any obligation relating thereto, to make or disseminate or cause  
14 to be made or disseminated . . . from this state before the public in any state, in any newspaper or  
15 other publication, or any advertising device, . . . or in any other manner or means whatever,  
16 including over the Internet, any statement . . . which is untrue or misleading, and which is known,  
17 or which by the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to be untrue or misleading.”

18           83. Defendants engaged in advertising and marketing to the public and offered Class  
19 Vehicles for sale throughout California.

20           84. Defendants caused to be made or disseminated statements throughout California  
21 regarding the Towing Capacity of Class Vehicles with intent to directly or indirectly induce  
22 consumers like Plaintiff and Class Members to purchase Class Vehicles.

23           85. Defendants’ statements regarding the Towing Capacity of Class Vehicles were  
24 false, misleading, and likely to deceive the public and/or have deceived the public by falsely  
25 representing the characteristics of Class Vehicles, as set forth above.

26           86. At the time Defendants made and disseminated the statements alleged herein,  
27 Defendants knew or should have known that the statements were untrue or misleading, and  
28 Defendants acted in violation of California Business and Professions Code section 17500.

///



1           95. Plaintiff's and each Class Member's purchase of a Class Vehicle constitutes a  
2 "transaction" within the meaning of California Civil Code section 1761(e).

3           96. The Class Vehicles are "goods" within the meaning of California Civil Code  
4 section 1761(a).

5           97. Defendants' statements regarding the Towing Capacity of Class Vehicles violated  
6 the Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code section 1750, *et seq.*, in at least the following  
7 respects:

8               a. it represented that Class Vehicles had characteristics and benefits (*i.e.*,  
9 towing capabilities) that they did not actually have, in violation of Section 1770(a)(5);

10              b. it represented that Class Vehicles are of a particular standard, quality, or  
11 grade (*i.e.*, of a particular towing capacity) that they are not, in violation of Section 1770(a)(7);  
12 and

13              c. it advertised Class Vehicles with an intent not to sell them as advertised  
14 (*i.e.*, with inflated Towing Capacity), in violation of Section 1770(a)(9).

15           98. Defendants falsely represented material facts regarding Class Vehicles' Towing  
16 Capacity, information that is relied upon by consumers, including Plaintiff and Class Members, in  
17 making purchasing decisions.

18           99. Defendants' statements regarding the Towing Capacity of Class Vehicles  
19 materially and adversely affected the purchasing decisions of Plaintiff and Class Members. Had  
20 Plaintiff and Class Members known the true Towing Capacity, they would not have purchased the  
21 Class Vehicles or they would have paid much less for them.

22           100. Defendants' affirmative misrepresentations and material omissions, and  
23 Defendants' publication of these material inaccuracies regarding the Towing Capacity of Class  
24 Vehicles constitute unfair, deceptive, and misleading business practices in violation of California  
25 Civil Code section 1770(a).

26           101. Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and on behalf of the California Sub-Class, seeks  
27 injunctive relief, only, under California Civil Code section 1780.

28 ///

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:

- a. For an order certifying the proposed Nationwide Class and the proposed California Sub-Class, appointing Plaintiff as Class Representative, and designating Plaintiff's counsel of record as Class Counsel;
- b. For an injunction requiring Defendants to issue a recall of all Class Vehicles to correct its misrepresentations and material omissions in the Owner's Manual, and to disseminate a corrective informational campaign to ensure all owners and lessees are aware of the true Towing Capacity of Class Vehicles;
- c. As to the California Sub-Class, for an award of restitution;
- d. For actual damages as to the First, Second, and Third Causes of Action;
- e. For an award of attorneys' fees and costs, as allowed by law;
- f. For pre-judgment and post-judgment interest to the extent allowed by law; and
- g. For such other and further relief as the Court deems appropriate.

DATED: December 11, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

BOUCHER LLP

By: 

Raymond P. Boucher  
Maria L. Weitz

MORGAN & MORGAN COMPLEX  
LITIGATION GROUP

John A. Yanchunis  
Marcio W. Valladares  
Patrick A. Barthle II

KIESEL LAW

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and the Proposed Class*

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

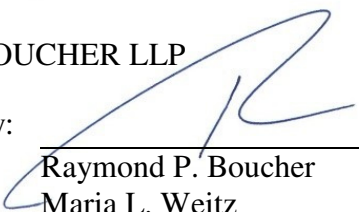
Plaintiff, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, hereby demands a trial by jury on all claims so triable.

DATED: December 11, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

BOUCHER LLP

By:

  
Raymond P. Boucher

Maria L. Weitz

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18 *Attorneys for Plaintiff Richard Quintero*  
*and All Others Similarly Situated*

19 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

20 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

21 RICHARD QUINTERO, Individually and on  
22 behalf of All Others Similarly Situated,

23 Plaintiff,

24 v.

25 GENERAL MOTORS COMPANY, a  
Delaware Corporation; and DOES 1-10,  
26 inclusive,

27 Defendants.

Case No. 5:15-cv-02530

**PLAINTIFF RICHARD QUINTERO'S  
DECLARATION RE: CONSUMERS  
LEGAL REMEDIES ACT VIOLATIONS  
[Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. section 1780(d)]**

**DECLARATION OF RICHARD QUINTERO**

I, RICHARD QUINTERO, declare as follows:

1. I am a Plaintiff in this action. I make this affidavit as required by California Civil Code section 1780(d). I have personal knowledge of the following facts and, if called as a witness, could and would competently testify thereto.

2. In <sup>July</sup>~~June~~ 2013, I purchased a 2014 GMC Sierra 1500 Crew Cab 5.3L V8 pickup truck, which is among the class of vehicles that are the subject of this action, from Mark Christopher Auto Center in the Ontario, California.

3. I am informed and believe, based upon my counsel's investigation into this matter and my own personal experience, that Defendant General Motors Company at all relevant times has transacted substantial business throughout the Central District of California, including the sale of the vehicles that are the subject of this action.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States and the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 7 day of December, 2015, at Chino, California.

  
RICHARD QUINTERO