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*Attorneys for Plaintiff and
Proposed Class Counsel*

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

MONICA RAEL, on behalf of herself
and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

THE CHILDREN’S PLACE, INC., a
DELAWARE corporation, and DOES 1-
50, inclusive,

Defendant.

Case No. '16CV0370 GPC JMA

CLASS ACTION

COMPLAINT

- 1. Violation of California’s Unfair Competition Laws (“UCL”); California Business & Professions Code Sections 17200, et seq.**
- 2. Violation of California’s False Advertising Laws (“FAL”); California Business & Professions Code Sections 17500, et seq.**
- 3. Violations of California Consumer Legal Remedies Act (“CLRA”); Civ. Code § 1750, et seq.**

IDEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 Plaintiff MONICA RAEL brings this action on behalf of herself and all others
2 similarly situated against Defendant The Children’s Place, Inc. (“Defendant”), and states:

3 **I. NATURE OF ACTION**

4 1. This is a class action regarding Defendant’s false and misleading
5 advertisement of “market” prices, and corresponding phantom “savings” on children’s
6 apparel, accessories, footwear and other items sold in its “Retail” and “Outlet” stores.
7 During the Class Period (defined below), Defendant advertised false price discounts for
8 merchandise sold throughout its retail and outlet stores.

9 2. During the Class Period, Defendant continually mislead consumers by
10 advertising children’s apparel, accessories, footwear and other items at discounted,
11 “savings” prices. Defendant would compare the “sale” prices to false “market” prices,
12 which were misrepresented as the “market” retail prices from which the “savings” was
13 discounted. The advertised discounts were nothing more than mere phantom markdowns
14 because the represented market prices were artificially inflated and were never the
15 original prices for children’s apparel, accessories, footwear and other items sold at
16 Defendant’s retail and outlet stores. In addition, the represented “market” prices were not
17 the prevailing marketing retail prices within three months next immediately preceding the
18 publication of the advertised former prices, as required by California law.

19 3. Defendant conveys its deceptive pricing scheme to consumers through
20 promotional materials, in-store displays, and print advertisements. For example, in
21 Defendant’s retail stores, the pricing scheme is prominently displayed, advertising deep
22 discounts on various items throughout the store.

23 4. The “market price” never existed and/or did not constitute the prevailing
24 market retail prices for such products within the three months next immediately preceding
25 the publication of the sales tag. Defendant sells its own, exclusive, branded products.
26 There is no other “market price” for the products being sold other than the price set at
27 Defendant’s retail and outlet stores. The difference between the “sale” and “regular”
28 prices is a false savings percentage used to lure consumers into purchasing products they

1 believe are significantly discounted.

2 5. Through its false and misleading marketing, advertising and pricing scheme,
3 Defendant violated, and continues to violate California law prohibiting advertising goods
4 for sale as discounted from former prices which are false, and prohibiting misleading
5 statements about the existence and amount of price reductions. Specifically, Defendant
6 violated, and continues to violate, California's Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et*
7 *seq* (the "UCL"), California's Business & Professions Code §§ 17500, *et seq* (the "FAL"),
8 the California Consumers' Legal Remedies Act, California Civil Code §§ 1750, *et seq*
9 (the "CLRA"), and the Federal Trade Commission Act ("FTCA"), which prohibits "unfair
10 or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce" (15 U.S.C. § 45(a)(1)) and false
11 advertisements. 15 U.S.C. § 52(a).

12 6. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself and other similarly situated
13 consumers who have purchased one or more children's apparel, accessories, footwear and
14 other items at Defendant's retail and outlet stores that were deceptively represented as
15 discounted from false former prices in order to halt the dissemination of this false,
16 misleading, and deceptive price scheme, correct the false and misleading perception it has
17 created in the minds of consumers, and obtain redress for those who have purchased this
18 product. Plaintiff seeks restitution and other equitable remedies, including an injunction
19 under the UCL and FAL; and restitution, damages and an injunction under the CLRA.

20 **II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

21 7. This Court has original jurisdiction of this Action pursuant to the Class
22 Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C §1332 (d)(2). The matter in controversy, exclusive of
23 interest and costs, exceeds the sum or value of \$5,000,000 and at least some members of
24 the proposed Class have a different citizenship from Defendant.

25 8. The Southern District of California has personal jurisdiction over the
26 Defendant named in this action because Defendant is a corporation or other business
27 entity authorized to conduct and does conduct business in the State of California.
28 Defendant is registered with the California Secretary of State to do sufficient business

1 with sufficient minimum contacts in California, and/or otherwise intentionally avails itself
2 of the California market through the ownership and operation of over 80 retail stores
3 within the State of California.

4 9. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because Defendant transacts
5 substantial business in this District and a substantial part of the events or omissions giving
6 rise to Plaintiff's claims arose here.

7 **III. PARTIES**

8 **Plaintiff**

9 10. MONICA RAEL resides in San Diego, California. Plaintiff, in reliance on
10 Defendant's false and deceptive advertising, marketing and "discount" pricing schemes,
11 purchased a pair of cargo pants for nephew for approximately \$8.07 on or around
12 November 24, 2015, at a Children's Place retail store, located in San Diego, California.
13 The cargo pants were advertised as having an original price of approximately "\$14.95".
14 That price was discounted and represented to Plaintiff as: "50% off" according to the
15 price tag and related signage. However, this product was never offered for sale at
16 approximately \$14.95 at Defendant's retail store, nor was it offered at that price within the
17 90 day time period immediately preceding Plaintiff's purchase. Therefore, Ms. Rael was
18 damaged by her purchase of the product.

19 **Defendant**

20 11. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and upon such information and belief
21 alleges, Defendant The Children's Place, Inc., is a Delaware Corporation with its principal
22 executive offices in Secaucus, New Jersey. Defendant operates Children's Place retail and
23 outlet stores as well as the childrensplace.com website, and advertises, markets,
24 distributes, and/or sells children's apparel, accessories, footwear and other items in
25 California and throughout the United States.

26 12. Plaintiff does not know the true names or capacities of the persons or entities
27 sued herein as DOES 1-50, inclusive, and therefore sues such Defendants by such
28 fictitious names. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and upon such information and belief

1 alleges, that each of the DOE Defendants is in some manner legally responsible for the
2 damages suffered by Plaintiff and the Class members as alleged herein. Plaintiff will
3 amend this Complaint to set forth the true names and capacities of these Defendants when
4 they have been ascertained, along with appropriate charging allegations, as may be
5 necessary.

6 **IV. FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

7 13. On or around November 24, 2015, Plaintiff went shopping at a Children's
8 Place retail store for clothing and related apparel for her family. Upon examining a pair of
9 children's cargo pants, she observed that they were advertised at 50% off. Plaintiff
10 observed signage within the store and the price tag on the pants which represented that the
11 pants were "50% off". Believing that she was receiving a significant value by purchasing
12 the pants for \$7.47 that were originally priced at approximately \$14.95, she decided to
13 purchase the pants and proceeded to the cash register where she did in fact purchase the
14 pants.

15 14. Specifically, relying upon Defendant's misrepresentations and false and
16 deceptive advertising, Plaintiff purchased the pants for \$8.07. The price tag indicated the
17 "Original" or "Market" price of the pants was, "\$14.95," and that it was being offered at a
18 discount, described as: "50% off." These purported "market" prices and corresponding
19 price "discounts" and savings were false and misleading, as the prevailing retail price for
20 the pants during the three months immediately prior to Plaintiff's purchase was not the
21 \$14.95 "market" price advertised by Defendant.

22 15. Plaintiff would not have purchased the pants without the misrepresentations
23 made by Defendant. As a result, Plaintiff has been personally victimized by and suffered
24 economic injury as a direct result of Defendant's unlawful, unfair and fraudulent conduct.

25 16. Defendant knows that its comparative price advertising is false, deceptive,
26 misleading and unlawful under California law.

27 17. Defendant fraudulently concealed from and intentionally failed to disclose to
28 Plaintiff and other members of the proposed class the truth about its advertised price and

1 former prices.

2 18. At all relevant times, Defendant has been under a duty to Plaintiff and the
3 proposed class to disclose the truth about its false discounts.

4 19. Plaintiff relied upon Defendant's artificially inflated "market" price and false
5 discounts when purchasing the pants at Defendant's retail store. Plaintiff would not have
6 made such purchases but for Defendant's representations of fabricated original "market"
7 prices and false discounts.

8 20. Plaintiff and the Class reasonably and justifiably acted and relied on the
9 substantial price differences that Defendant advertised, and made purchases believing that
10 they were receiving a substantial discount on an item of greater value than it actually was.
11 Plaintiff, like other class members, was lured in, relied on, and damaged by these pricing
12 schemes that Defendant carried out.

13 21. Defendant intentionally concealed and failed to disclose material facts
14 regarding the truth about false former price advertising in order to provoke Plaintiff and
15 the proposed class to purchase Children's Place branded products in its retail and outlet
16 store and/or on its Internet website.

17 **V. CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

18 22. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated
19 Class members pursuant to Rule 23(a), (b)(2) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil
20 Procedure and seeks certification of the following Class against Defendant for violations
21 of California state laws:

22 All persons who, within the applicable statute of limitations preceding the
23 filing of this action, purchased one or more items offered at a purported
24 discount from an "original" or "regular" or "manufacturer's suggested" retail
25 price at one of Defendant's retail stores.

26 Excluded from the Class are Defendant, as well as its officers, employees, agents or
27 affiliates, and any judge who presides over this action, as well as all past and present
28 employees, officers and directors of Defendant. Plaintiff reserves the right to expand,

1 limit, modify, or amend this class definition, including the addition of one or more
2 subclasses, in connection with her motion for class certification, or at any other time,
3 based upon, *inter alia*, changing circumstances and/or new facts obtained during
4 discovery.

5 23. ***Numerosity:*** The class members are so numerous that joinder of all members
6 is impracticable. Plaintiff is informed and believes that the proposed Class contains
7 hundreds of thousands of individuals who have been damaged by Defendant’s conduct as
8 alleged herein. The precise number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiff.

9 24. ***Existence and Predominance of Common Questions of Law and Fact:***
10 This action involves common questions of law and fact, which predominate over any
11 questions affecting individual Class members. These common legal and factual questions
12 include, but are not limited to, the following:

- 13 a. Whether, during the Class Period, Defendant used false “market” or
14 “original” price labels and falsely advertised price discounts on its
15 Children’s Place branded products it sold in its retail and outlet stores;
- 16 b. Whether, during the Class Period, the “original” or “market” prices
17 advertised by Defendant were the prevailing market prices for the
18 respective Children’s Place branded products during the three months
19 period preceding the dissemination and/or publication of the advertised
20 former prices;
- 21 c. Whether Defendant’s alleged conduct constitutes violations of the laws
22 asserted;
- 23 d. Whether Defendant engaged in unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent
24 business practices under the laws asserted;
- 25 e. Whether Defendant engaged in false or misleading advertising;
- 26 f. Whether Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to damages and/or
27 restitution and the proper measure of that loss; and
- 28 g. Whether an injunction is necessary to prevent Defendant from

1 continuing to use false, misleading or illegal price comparison.

2 25. **Typicality:** Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the
3 Class because, *inter alia*, all Class members have been deceived (or were likely to be
4 deceived) by Defendant's false and deceptive price advertising scheme, as alleged herein.
5 Plaintiff is advancing the same claims and legal theories on behalf of herself and all
6 members of the class.

7 26. **Adequacy:** Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the
8 members of the Class. Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in complex consumer
9 class action litigation, and Plaintiff intends to prosecute this action vigorously. Plaintiff
10 has no antagonistic or adverse interest to those of the Class.

11 27. **Superiority:** The nature of this action and the nature of laws available to
12 Plaintiff and the Class make the use of the class action format a particularly efficient and
13 appropriate procedure to afford relief to her and the class for the wrongs alleged. The
14 damages or other financial detriment suffered by individual Class members is relatively
15 modest compared to the burden and expense that would be entailed by individual
16 litigation of their claims against Defendant. It would thus be virtually impossible for
17 Plaintiff and Class members, on an individual basis, to obtain effective redress for the
18 wrongs done to them. Absent the class action, Class members and the general public
19 would not likely recover, or would not likely have the chance to recover, damages or
20 restitution, and Defendant will be permitted to retain the proceeds of its fraudulent and
21 deceptive misdeeds.

22 28. All Class members, including Plaintiff, were exposed to one or more of
23 Defendant's misrepresentations or omissions of material fact claiming that former
24 "original" advertised prices were in existence. Due to the scope and extent of Defendant's
25 consistent false "discount" price advertising scheme, disseminated in a years-long
26 campaign to California consumers via a number of different platforms – in-store displays,
27 print advertisements, etc. – it can be reasonably inferred that such misrepresentations or
28 omissions of material fact were uniformly made to all members of the Class. In addition,

1 it can be reasonably presumed that all Class members, including, Plaintiff affirmatively
2 acted in response to the representations contained in Defendant’s false advertising scheme
3 when purchasing Children’s Place branded merchandise at Defendant’s retail and outlet
4 stores.

5 29. Defendant keeps extensive computerized records of its customers through,
6 *inter alia*, customer loyalty programs, co-branded credit cards and general marketing
7 programs. Defendant has one or more databases through which a significant majority of
8 Class members may be identified and ascertained, and it maintains contact information,
9 including email and home addresses, through which notice of this action could be
10 disseminated in accordance with due process requirements.

11 **VI. CAUSES OF ACTION**

12 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**
13 **Violation Unfair Competition Law**
14 **Business and Professions Code § 17200 et seq.**

15 30. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations contained in every preceding
16 paragraph as if fully set forth herein.

17 31. The UCL defines unfair business competition to include any “unlawful,
18 unfair or fraudulent” act or practice, as well as any “unfair, deceptive, untrue or
19 misleading” advertising. Cal. Bus. Prof. Code § 17200.

20 32. The UCL imposes strict liability. Plaintiff need not prove that Defendant
21 intentionally or negligently engaged in unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business practices –
22 but only that such practices occurred.

23 33. A business act or practice is “unfair” under the UCL if it offends an
24 established public policy or is immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous or
25 substantially injurious to consumers, and that unfairness is determined by weighing the
26 reasons, justifications and motives of the practice against the gravity of the harm to the
27 alleged victims.

28 34. Defendant’s actions constitute “unfair” business acts or practices because, as
alleged above, Defendant engaged in misleading and deceptive price comparison

1 advertising that represented false “regular” prices and “discount” prices that were nothing
2 more than fabricated “regular” prices leading to phantom markdowns. Defendant’s acts
3 and practices offended an established public policy, and engaged in immoral, unethical,
4 oppressive, and unscrupulous activities that are substantially injurious to consumers.

5 35. The harm to Plaintiff and Class members outweighs the utility of
6 Defendant’s practices. There were reasonably available alternatives to further
7 Defendant’s legitimate business interests, other than the misleading and deceptive conduct
8 described herein.

9 36. A business act or practice is “fraudulent” under the UCL if it is likely to
10 deceive members of the consuming public.

11 37. A business act or practice is “unlawful” under the UCL if it violates any
12 other law or regulation.

13 38. Defendant’s acts and practices alleged above have deceived Plaintiff and are
14 highly likely to deceive members of the consuming public. Plaintiff relied on Defendant’s
15 fraudulent and deceptive representations regarding its “market” prices, the corresponding
16 discounts for the Children’s Place branded products which Defendant sells at its retail and
17 outlet stores and on its website. These misrepresentations played a substantial role in
18 Plaintiff’s decision and that of the proposed class to purchase the products at steep
19 discounts, and Plaintiff would not have purchased the pants without Defendant’s
20 misrepresentations.

21 39. The FTCA prohibits “unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting
22 commerce” (15 U.S.C. § 45(a)(1)) and prohibits the dissemination of any false
23 advertisements. 15 U.S.C. § 52(a). Under the FTC false former pricing schemes, similar
24 to the ones implemented by Defendant, are described as deceptive practices that would
25 violate the FTCA:

26 (a) One of the most commonly used forms of bargain advertising is to offer a
27 reduction from the advertiser’s own former price for an article. If the former
28 price is the actual, bona fide price at which the article was offered to the

1 public on a regular basis for a reasonably substantial period of time, it
2 provides a legitimate basis for the advertising of a price comparison. Where
3 the former price is genuine, the bargain being advertised is a true one. If, on
4 the other hand, the former price being advertised is not bona fide but
5 fictitious – for example, where an article price, inflated price was established
6 for the purpose of enabling the subsequent offer of a large reduction – the
7 “bargain” being advertised is a false one; the purchaser is not receiving the
8 unusual value he expects.

9 (b) A former price is not necessarily fictitious merely because no sales at the
10 advertised price were made. The advertiser should be especially careful,
11 however, in such a case, that the price is one at which the product was openly
12 and actively offered for sale, for a reasonably substantial period of time, in
13 the recent, regular course of her business, honestly and in good faith – and, of
14 course, not for the purpose of establishing a fictitious higher price on which a
15 deceptive comparison might be based.

16 40. California law also expressly prohibits false former pricing schemes. Cal.
17 Bus. & Prof. Code §17501, entitled “*Value determinations; Former price advertisement,*”
18 States:

19 For the purpose of this article the worth or value of any thing advertised is
20 the prevailing market price, wholesale if the offer is at wholesale, retail if the
21 offer is at retail, at the time of publication of such advertisement in the
22 locality wherein the advertisement is published.

23 **No price shall be advertised as a former price of any advertised thing,**
24 **unless the alleged former price was the prevailing market price as above**
25 **defined within three months next immediately preceding the publication**
26 **of the advertisement** or unless the date when the alleged former price did
27 prevail is clearly, exactly and conspicuously stated in the advertisement.
28 [Emphasis added.]

1 41. As detailed in Plaintiff’s Third Cause of Action below, Cal. Civ. Code §
2 1770(a)(9), prohibits a business from “[a]dvertising goods or services with intent not to
3 sell them as advertised,” and subsection (a)(13) prohibits a business from “[m]aking false
4 or misleading statements of fact concerning reasons for, existence of, or amounts of price
5 reductions.”

6 42. Defendant’s practices, as set forth above, have mislead Plaintiff, the
7 proposed class, and the general public in the past and will continue to misled in the future.
8 Consequently, Defendant’s practices constitute an unlawful an unfair business practice
9 within the meaning of the UCL.

10 43. Defendant’s violation of the UCL through its unlawful, unfair and fraudulent
11 business practices are ongoing and present a continuing threat that members of the public
12 will be deceived into purchasing products based on price comparisons of arbitrary and
13 inflated “regular” prices to “sale” prices that created merely phantom markdowns and lead
14 to financial damage for consumers, like Plaintiff and the proposed Class

15 44. Pursuant to the UCL, Plaintiff is entitled to preliminary and permanent
16 injunctive relief ordering Defendant to cease this unfair competition, as well as
17 disgorgement and restitution to Plaintiff and the Class of all of Defendant’s revenues
18 associated with its unfair competition, or such portion of those revenues as the Court may
19 find equitable.

20 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**
21 **Violation of the California False Advertising Law,**
22 **California Business & Professions Code § 17500, *et seq.***

23 45. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations contained in every preceding
24 paragraph as if fully set forth herein.

25 46. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500 provides that “[i]t is unlawful for
26 any...corporation...with intent...to dispose of...personal property...to induce the public
27 to enter into any obligation relating thereto, to make or disseminate or cause to be made or
28 disseminated...from this state before the public in any state, in any newspaper or other
publication, or any advertising device, or by public outcry or proclamation, or in any other

1 manner or means whatever, including over the Internet, any statement...which is untrue or
2 misleading, and which is known, or which by the exercise of reasonable care should be
3 known, to be untrue or misleading...” [Emphasis added].

4 47. The “intent” required by Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500 is the intent to
5 dispose of property, and not the intent to mislead the public in the disposition of such
6 property.

7 48. Similarly, this section provides, “no price shall be advertised as a former
8 price of any advertised thing, unless the alleged former prices was the prevailing market
9 price...within three months next immediately preceding the publication of the
10 advertisement or unless the date when the alleged former price did prevail is clearly,
11 exactly, and conspicuously stated in the advertisement.” Cal Bus. & Prof. Code § 17501.

12 49. Defendant’s routine of advertising discounted prices from false “market”
13 prices associated with its Children’s Place branded store products which were never the
14 true prevailing “market” prices of those products and were materially greater than the true
15 prevailing prices was an unfair, untrue and misleading practice. This deceptive marketing
16 practice gave consumers the false impression that the products were regularly sold on the
17 market for a substantially higher price than they actually were. Therefore, leading to the
18 false impression that the Children’s Place branded products were worth more than they
19 actually were.

20 50. Defendant misled consumers by making untrue and misleading statements
21 and failing to disclose what is required as stated in the Code, as alleged above.

22 51. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant’s misleading and false
23 advertisements Plaintiff and Class members have suffered injury in fact and have lost
24 money. As such, Plaintiff requests that this Court order Defendant to restore this money
25 to Plaintiff and all Class members, and to enjoin Defendant from continuing these unfair
26 practices in violation of the California law in the future. Otherwise, Plaintiff, Class
27 members and the broader general public will be irreparably harmed and/or denied an
28 effective and complete remedy.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION
Violation of the Consumers Legal Remedies Act (“CLRA”),
California Civil Code § 1750, et seq.

52. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations contained in every preceding paragraph as if fully set forth herein.

53. This cause of action is brought pursuant to the Consumers Legal Remedies Act (CLRA), California Civil Code § 1750, et seq. and similar laws in other states. Plaintiff and each member of the proposed class are “consumers” as defined by California Civil Code § 1761(d). Defendant’s sale of the Children’s Place branded products at its retail and outlet stores and online to Plaintiff and the Class were “transactions” within the meaning of California Civil Code § 1761(e). The products purchased by Plaintiff and the Class are “goods” within the meaning of California Civil Code § 1761(a).

54. Defendant violated and continues to violate the CLRA by engaging in the following practices proscribed by California Civil Code § 1770(a) in transactions with Plaintiff and the Class which were intended to result in, and did result in, the sale of Children’s Place branded products:

- a. Advertising goods or services with intent not to sell them as advertised;
- b. Making false or misleading statements of fact concerning reasons for, existence of, or amounts of price reductions.

55. Pursuant to § 1782(a) of the CLRA, on February 11, 2016, Plaintiff’s counsel notified Defendant in writing by certified mail of the particular violations of § 1770 of the CLRA and demanded that it rectify the problems associated with the actions detailed above and give notice to all affected consumers of Defendant’s intent to act. If Defendant fails to respond to Plaintiff’s letter or agree to rectify the problems associated with the actions detailed above and give notice to all affected consumers within 30 days of the date of written notice, as proscribed by § 1782, Plaintiff will move to amend her Complaint to pursue claims for actual, punitive and statutory damages, as appropriate against Defendant. As to this cause of action, at this time, Plaintiff seeks only injunctive relief.

1 **VII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

2 56. Wherefore, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and on behalf of the other members
3 of the Class, requests that this Court award relief against Defendant as follows:

- 4 a. An order certifying the class and designating MONICA RAEL as the
5 Class Representative and her counsel as Class Counsel;
- 6 b. Awarding Plaintiff and the proposed Class members damages;
- 7 c. Awarding restitution and disgorgement of all profits and unjust
8 enrichment that Defendant obtained from Plaintiff and the Class
9 members as a result of its unlawful, unfair and fraudulent business
10 practices described herein;
- 11 d. Awarding declaratory and injunctive relief as permitted by law or
12 equity, including: enjoining Defendant from continuing the unlawful
13 practices as set forth herein, and directing Defendant to identify, with
14 Court supervisions, victims of its misconduct and pay them all money
15 they are required to pay;
- 16 e. Order Defendant to engage in a corrective advertising campaign;
- 17 f. Awarding attorneys' fees and costs; and
- 18 g. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem necessary or
19 appropriate.

20 **VIII. DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

21 57. Plaintiff hereby demands a jury trial for all of the claims so triable.
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1 Dated: February 11, 2016
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**CARLSON LYNCH SWEET
KILPELA & CARPENTER, LLP**

3 /s/ Todd D. Carpenter

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18 *Attorneys for Plaintiff*
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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

Monica Rael, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated

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

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Todd D. Carpenter (CA SBN 234464) 402 West Broadway 29th Floor, San Diego, California 92101 619-756-6994

DEFENDANTS

THE CHILDREN'S PLACE, INC., a DELAWARE corporation, and DOES 1- 50, inclusive,

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)

'16CV0370 GPC JMA

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 and business location (This State, Another State, Foreign Country).

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. Sec 1332(d)(2), 15 U.S.C. Sec 45 (a)(1) and 15 U.S.C Sec 52(a) Brief description of cause: False and Misleading Advertising

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

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

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

DATE 02/11/2016 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD s/ TODD D. CARPENTER

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

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

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

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.

CARLSON LYNCH SWEET KILPELA & CARPENTER

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Attorney for Plaintiff

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MONICA RAEL on behalf of herself
and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

THE CHILDREN’S PLACE, INC., a
DELAWARE corporation, and DOES
1-50, inclusive,

Defendant.

Case No.: '16CV0370 GPC JMA

**DECLARATION OF TODD D.
CARPENTER RE: JURISDICTION**

I, Todd D. Carpenter, declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney duly licensed to practice before all of the courts of the State of California. I am a Partner and part-owner of Carlson Lynch Sweet Kilpela & Carpenter, LLP, and the counsel of record for Plaintiff in the above-entitled action.

2. The Children’s Place, Inc., has done and is doing business in the Southern District of California. Such business includes the marketing, distributing, and sale of children’s apparel, accessories, footwear and other items.

3. Furthermore, Plaintiff Monica Rael purchased a pair of pants from Defendant in the Southern District of California.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that

1 the foregoing is true and correct.

2 Executed this Thursday, February 11, 2016 in San Diego, California.

3
4 Dated: February 11, 2016

**CARLSON LYNCH SWEET
KILPELA & CARPENTER, LLP**

/s/ Todd D. Carpenter

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Attorney for Plaintiff

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