NEWPORT TRIAL GROUP A Professional Corporation FILED Scott J. Ferrell, Bar No. 202091 SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE sferrell@trialnewport.com Ryan M. Ferrell, Bar No. 258037 rferrell@trialnewport.com SEP 08 2015 4100 Newport Place, Suite 800 R.,Gonzalez Newport Beach, CA 92660 2015 Tel: (949) 706-6464 Fax: (949) 706-6469 R 6 Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class 7 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 8 FOR THE COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE 9 Case No.: RIC 1411347 10 STEPHEN COLUCCI, individually, and on behalf of all others similarly situated, 11 The Hon. Craig Riemer Department 5 Plaintiff, 12 SECOND AMENDED CLASS ACTION VS. 13 **COMPLAINT** PRIVATE LABEL NUTRACEUTICALS LLC dba MARITZMAYER LABORATORIES, a Georgia Limited Liability Company, JURY TRIAL DEMANDED 15 Defendants. Complaint: November 26, 2014 Trial: Not yet set 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

Plaintiff STEPHEN COLUCCI ("Plaintiff"), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, alleges the following on information and belief:

I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

- 1. Private Label Nutraceuticals LLC dba MaritzMayer Laboratories ("Defendant") manufactures, markets, and sells "Garcinia Cambogia 1300" ("1300") and Garcinia Cambogia 75 ("75") (collectively, the ("Products") as treatments for weight management. Defendant claims the Products "Supports Appetite Control" and "Inhibits Fat Production." In reality, the Products' ingredients have never been scientifically substantiated as being able to support appetite control or inhibit fat production, and certainly not to the extent claimed by Defendant. Defendant's statements about the Products' efficacy are false and misleading, and Defendant can point to no scientific evidence to support its unfounded claims. In reality, the scientific studies and meta-analyses of available studies regarding the ingredients in the Products, show results contrary to Defendant's claims. ^{1, 2}
- 2. Defendant's misrepresentations regarding the efficacy of the Products were designed to, and did, lead Plaintiff and others similarly situated (collectively the "Class") to believe that the Products were effective weight loss supplements that specifically supported appetite control and inhibited fat production. Plaintiff and members of the Class relied on Defendant's misrepresentations and would not have paid as much, if at all, for the Products but for Defendant's misrepresentations.
- 3. Plaintiff brings this class action lawsuit to enjoin the ongoing deception of consumers by Defendant, and to recover the money taken by this unlawful practice.

II. THE PARTIES

A. Plaintiff.

4. Plaintiff is a resident of Riverside, California and purchased 1300 in Riverside County in 2013. Plaintiff relied on Defendant's representations regarding the efficacy of 1300, as detailed

¹ Heymsfield SB, Allison DB, Vasselli JR, Pietrobelli A, Greenfield D, Nunez C. (1998). "Garcinia cambogia (hydroxycitric acid) as a potential antiobesity agent: a randomized controlled trial". JAMA 280 (19): 1596-600.

² Igho O, Shao K, Rachel P, Barbara W, Edzard E (2011). "The Use of Garcinia Extract Hydroxycitric

² Igho Ó, Shao K, Rachel P, Barbara W, Edzard E (2011). "The Use of Garcinia Extract Hydroxycitric Acid as a Weight loss Supplement: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Randomised Clinical Trials". J Obes. 2011 (622): 849.

to California's "long-arm" jurisdictional statute.

IV. FACTS

- 10. Defendant manufactures, markets, and sells the Products as weight loss supplements. Defendant advertises the Products using the following words and other similar words to the same effect:
 - Weight Management;
 - Supports Appetite Control;
 - Inhibits Fat Production; and
 - · Pure and Potent.
- Defendant's claims for the Products set forth in the preceding paragraph of this 11. complaint are false and misleading, Defendant did not have substantiation for these claims, and the scientific studies regarding the ingredients in the Products show results contrary to Defendant's claims. Contrary to Defendant's claims, the Products do not promote weight management; support appetite control, or inhibit fat production. Indeed, Defendant's claims in connection with the Products are inconsistent with and/or conflict with the guidelines and/or statements fo the U.S. Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") which, in an effort to promote real weight loss and to prevent Americans from being defrauded by "miracle pills," instructs that "[t]he only proven way to lose weight is either to reduce the number of calories you eat or to increacse the number of calories you burn off through exercise. Most experts recommend a combination of both." A true and correct copy of a brochure published by the FDA, The Facts About Weight Loss Products and Programs, FDA/FTC/NAAG http://www.attorneygeneral.gov/uploadedfiles/consumers/ Brochure*: 1992, available at: weight_loss.pdf.
- 12. Defendant at all times knew that the Products did not have the effects, properties, and/or characteristics claimed for it, but nevertheless manufactured, marketed, distributed, and/or sold the Products pursuant to the representations set forth above.
- 13. Plaintiff purchased 1300 for his own personal use in 2013. In so doing, Plaintiff relied on the representations contained in the marketing materials, advertisements, and labels for the product set forth above.

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- 14. Plaintiff purchased and consumed 1300 as directed, but the product has not worked as advertised. Specifically, Plaintiff has found that 1300 does not promote weight management, support appetite control, or inhibit fat production, and that Defendant's representations about the product set forth herein are false and misleading. Plaintiff has thus suffered injury-in-fact and damage, including but not limited to, the purchase price of the product.
- 15. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that Defendant continued to market and sell the Products in the manner described herein after knowing that its marketing and representations were false and misleading, as set forth herein. Defendant's conduct and actions alleged herein were despicable, and were done maliciously, oppressively and/or fraudulently, with a willful and conscious disregard of Plaintiff and class members' rights.
- 16. Defendant's exaggerated and/ or blatant misrepresentations regarding the efficacy of the Products were designed to, and did, lead Plaintiff and others similarly situated (collectively the "Class") to believe that the Products were effective weight management supplements that would support appetite control and inhibit fat production. Plaintiff and members of the Class relied on Defendant's misrepresentations and would not have paid as much, if at all, for the Products but for Defendant's misrepresentations.
- 17. Defendant sells the Products for approximately \$2.00 to \$4.00 based on the preceding false advertising claims. As a result, Defendant has wrongfully taken hundreds of thousands of dollars from California consumers.
- 18. Accordingly, Plaintiff brings this lawsuit to enjoin the ongoing deception of thousands of California consumers by Defendant, and to recover the funds taken by this unlawful practice.

V. <u>CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS</u>

19. Plaintiff brings this class action for damages and other monetary relief on behalf of the following class:

All persons who are domiciled or reside in the United States of America, who purchased 1300 or 75 in the United States for personal use between November 26, 2010 and the Opt-Out Date, and were domiciled or resided in United States at the time of purchase.

- Excluded from the Class are governmental entities, Defendant, any entity in which 20. Defendant has a controlling interest, and Defendant's officers, directors, affiliates, legal representatives, employees, co-conspirators, successors, subsidiaries, and assigns, and individuals bound by any prior settlement involving the Products. Also excluded from the Class is any judge, justice, or judicial officer presiding over this matter and the members of their immediate families and
- The proposed Class is so numerous that individual joinder of all its members is impracticable. Due to the nature of the trade and commerce involved, however, Plaintiff believes that the total number of Class members is at least in the tens of thousands and members of the Class are numerous and geographically dispersed across California and the United States. While the exact number and identities of the Class members are unknown at this time, such information can be ascertained through appropriate investigation and discovery. The disposition of the claims of the Class members in a single class action will provide substantial benefits to all parties and to the Court.
- There is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and fact involved affecting the plaintiff class and these common questions predominate over any questions that may affect individual Class members. Common questions of fact and law include, but are not limited to,

 - Whether Defendant's efficacy claims are properly substantiated;
 - Whether Defendant has falsely represented that the Products have uses and
 - Whether Defendant knew that its efficacy claims were false;
 - Whether Defendant's conduct constitutes a violation of the Consumers Legal Remedies Act (Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750, et seq.);
 - Whether Defendant's conduct constitutes a violation of California's false advertising law (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500, et seq.);
 - Whether Defendant's conduct constitutes an unfair, unlawful, and/or fraudulent business practice in violation of California's unfair competition law (Cal. Bus.

& Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq.);

- h. Whether Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to compensatory damages, and if so, the nature of such damages;
- i. Whether Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to restitutionary relief; and
- j. Whether Plaintiff and Class members are entitled to injunctive relief.
- 23. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of the Class. Plaintiff and all members of the Class have been similarly affected by Defendant's common course of conduct since they all relied on Defendant's representations concerning the Products and purchased them based on those representations.
- 24. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and protect the interests of the Class. Plaintiff has retained counsel with substantial experience in handling complex class action litigation. Plaintiff and his counsel are committed to vigorously prosecuting this action on behalf of the Class and have the financial resources to do so. Plaintiff has retained a law firm who is widely recognized as one of the most successful and effective class action litigators in California, and whose victories have been publicized on CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, and nearly every major California newspaper. The firm has also been certified as lead class counsel in similar class actions.
- 25. Plaintiff and the members of the Class suffered, and will continue to suffer, harm as a result of Defendant's unlawful and wrongful conduct. A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of the present controversy. Individual joinder of all members of the class is impracticable. Even if individual class members had the resources to pursue individual litigation, it would be unduly burdensome to the courts in which the individual litigation would proceed. Individual litigation magnifies the delay and expense to all parties in the court system of resolving the controversies engendered by Defendant's common course of conduct. The class action device allows a single court to provide the benefits of unitary adjudication, judicial economy, and the fair and efficient handling of all class members' claims in a single forum. The conduct of this action as a class action conserves the resources of the parties and of the judicial system and protects the rights of the class members. Furthermore, for many, if not most, a class action is the only feasible mechanism that allows an opportunity for legal redress and justice.

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26. Adjudication of individual class members' claims with respect to Defendant would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other members not parties to the adjudication, and could substantially impair or impede the ability of other class members to protect their interests.

VI. <u>CAUSES OF ACTION</u>

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF THE CONSUMERS LEGAL REMEDIES ACT

(CAL. CIV. CODE §§ 1750, ET SEQ.)

(By Plaintiff and on Behalf of the Class Against Defendant)

- 27. Plaintiff incorporates by this reference the allegations contained in the paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein.
- 28. Plaintiff has standing to pursue this cause of action because Plaintiff has suffered injury in fact and has lost money as a result of Defendant's actions as set forth herein. Specifically, Plaintiff purchased 1300 in reliance on Defendant's marketing claims with respect to efficacy. Plaintiff used 1300 as directed, but it did not work as advertised and was not of the quality and standard advertised by Defendant.
- 29. Defendant has engaged in and continues to engage in business practices in violation of California Civil-Code §§ 1750, et seq. (the "Consumers Legal Remedies Act") by making false and unsubstantiated representations concerning the efficacy of the Products. These business practices are misleading and/or likely to mislead consumers and should be enjoined.
- 30. Defendant has engaged in deceptive acts or practices intended to result in the sale of the Products in violation of Civil Code § 1770. Defendant knew and/or should have known that its representations of fact concerning the efficacy of the Products were material and likely to mislead the public. Defendant affirmatively misrepresented that the Products were of a certain standard and quality with certain benefits which it did not have.
- 31. Defendant's conduct alleged herein violates the Consumers Legal Remedies Act, including but not limited to, the following provisions: (1) using deceptive representations in connection with goods or services in violation of Civil Code § 1770(a)(4); (2) representing that goods or services have sponsorship, approval, characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities which

they do not have in violation of Civil Code § 1770(a)(5); and/or (3) advertising goods or services with intent not to sell them as advertised in violation of Civil Code § 1770(a)(9). As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct, as set forth herein, Defendant has received ill-gotten gains and/or profits, including but not limited to, money. Therefore, Defendant has been unjustly enriched.

- 32. There is no other adequate remedy at law, and Plaintiff and Class members will suffer irreparable harm unless Defendant's conduct is enjoined.
- 33. Concurrently with the filing of Plaintiff's original Complaint, Plaintiff's counsel mailed to Defendant, by certified mail, return receipt requested, the written notice required by Civil Code Section 1782(a) on November 24, 2014. A copy of that letter was attached thereto as Exhibit Three. Defendant failed to respond with appropriate corrective measures as set forth in the letter and in the California Consumer Legal Remedies Act within thirty days. As such, Plaintiff now amends his complaint, pursuant to Civil Code § 1782(d), to seek damages under the California Consumer Legal Remedies Act.
- 34. The declaration of venue required by Civil Code § 1780(d) is attached hereto as Exhibit One.
- 35. Defendant's wrongful business practices constituted, and constitute, a continuing course of conduct in violation of the Consumer Legal Remedies Act since Defendant is still representing that the Products have characteristics, uses, benefits, and abilities which are false and misleading, and have injured Plaintiff and the Class.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA'S FALSE ADVERTISING LAW

(CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §§ 17500, ET SEO.)

(By Plaintiff and on Behalf of the Class Against Defendant)

- 36. Plaintiff incorporates by this reference the allegations contained in the paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein.
- 37. Plaintiff has standing to pursue this cause of action because Plaintiff has suffered injury in fact and has lost money as a result of Defendant's actions as set forth herein. Specifically, Plaintiff purchased 1300 in reliance on Defendant's marketing claims. Plaintiff used 1300 as directed, but it

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THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

UNLAWFUL, FRAUDULENT & UNFAIR BUSINESS PRACTICES

(CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §§ 17200, ET SEQ.)

(By Plaintiff and on Behalf of the Class Against Defendant)

- 45. Plaintiff incorporates by this reference the allegations contained in the paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein.
- 46. Plaintiff has standing to pursue this cause of action because Plaintiff has suffered injury in fact and has lost money as a result of Defendant's actions as set forth herein. Specifically, Plaintiff purchased 1300 in reliance on Defendant's marketing claims. Plaintiff used 1300 as directed, but it did not work as advertised and were not of the standard, quality and grade advertised.
- 47. Defendant's actions as alleged in this Complaint constitute an unfair or deceptive business practice within the meaning of California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq., in that Defendant's actions are unfair, unlawful, and fraudulent, and because Defendant has made unfair, deceptive, untrue, or misleading statements in advertising media, including the Internet, within the meaning of California Business and Professions Code §§ 17200, et seq.
- 48. Defendant knew or should have known by exercising reasonable care that its representations were false and/or misleading. During the Class Period, Defendant engaged in unfair, unlawful, and fraudulent business practices in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, et seq., by misrepresenting in its advertising and marketing of the Products to Plaintiff, Class members, and the consuming public that, the Products were effective.
- 49. Each of the aforementioned representations alleged in this Complaint was false and misleading because the Products are not of the standard, quality or grade advertised.
- 50. Defendant's business practices, as alleged herein, are unfair because they offend established public policy and/or are immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous, and/or substantially injurious to consumers in that consumers are misled by the claims made with respect to the Products as set forth herein.
- 51. Defendant's business practices, as alleged herein, are unlawful because they violate the Consumer Legal Remedies Act and False Advertising Law.

66.

the following words and similar words to the same effect:

As stated above, these false claims, included on each package of the Products contained

1	Defendant;									
2	4.	For an injunction ordering Defendant to cease and desist from engaging in the unfair,								
3	unlawful, and/or fraudulent practices alleged in the Complaint;									
4	5.	5. For both pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the maximum allowable rate on								
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6	6.	For Plaintiff's costs of the proceedings herein;								
7	7.	For reasonable attorneys' fees as allowed by statute; and								
8	8.	3. For any and all such other and further relief that this Court may deem just and proper.								
9	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL									
10	Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by jury of all claims and causes of action so triable in this									
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13	Dated: Septe	ember 3, 2015	NEWPORT TRIAL GROUP A Professional Corporation							
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PROOF OF SERVICE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ORANGE

I am employed in the County of Orange, State of California. I am over the age of 18 and not a party to the within action; my business address is 4100 Newport Place, Suite 800, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

On August 31, 2015, I served the foregoing document described as **SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT** on the following person(s) in the manner indicated:

SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST

- (BY MAIL) I am familiar with the practice of Newport Trial Group for collection and processing of correspondence for mailing with the United States Postal Service. Correspondence so collected and processed is deposited with the United States Postal Service that same day in the ordinary course of business. On this date, a copy of said document was placed in a sealed envelope, with postage fully prepaid, addressed as set forth herein, and such envelope was placed for collection and mailing at Newport Trial Group, Newport Beach, California, following ordinary business practices.
- (BY FEDERAL EXPRESS) I am familiar with the practice of Newport Trial Group for collection and processing of correspondence for delivery by overnight courier. Correspondence so collected and processed is deposited in a box or other facility regularly maintained by Federal Express that same day in the ordinary course of business. On this date, a copy of said document was placed in a sealed envelope designated by Federal Express with delivery fees paid or provided for, addressed as set forth herein, and such envelope was placed for delivery by Federal Express at Newport Trial Group, Newport Beach, California, following ordinary business practices.
- (BY FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION) On this date, at the time indicated on the transmittal sheet, attached hereto, I transmitted from a facsimile transmission machine, which telephone number is 16 | (949) 706-6469, the document described above and a copy of this declaration to the person, and at the facsimile transmission telephone numbers, set forth herein. The above-described transmission was reported as complete and without error by a properly issued transmission report issued by the facsimile transmission machine upon which the said transmission was made immediately following the transmission.
 - (BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE) I am causing the document(s) to be served by email or electronic transmission via One Legal sent on the date shown below to the email addresses of the persons listed in the attached service list.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that this declaration was executed on August 31, 2015, at Newport Beach, California.

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5	San Diego, California 92101 Tel: (619) 238-1900					•						
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