### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

DARYL WHITE, JR.,	
Individually and on behalf of all	
others similarly situated,	
	) Civil Action No.:
Plaintiff,	Judge
V.	)
	)
JUST BORN, INC.	
	)
Defendant.	

### PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT - CLASS ACTION

Plaintiff Daryl White, Jr. ("Plaintiff"), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, alleges the following facts and claims upon personal knowledge, investigation of counsel, and information and belief.

### NATURE OF THE CASE

- 1. "Informed consumers are essential to the fair and efficient functioning of a free market economy. Packages . . . should enable consumers to obtain accurate information as to the quantity of the contents and should facilitate value comparisons." 15 U.S.C.A. § 1451.
- 2. The average consumer spends a mere 13 seconds making an in-store purchasing decision.<sup>1</sup> That decision is heavily dependent on a product's packaging, and particularly the package dimensions: "Faced with a large box and a smaller box, both with the same amount of

1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> http://www.nielsen.com/us/en/insights/news/2015/make-the-most-of-your-brands-20-second-windown.html (citing the Ehrenberg-Bass Institute of Marketing Science's report "Shopping Takes Only Seconds...In-Store and Online") (last accessed Feb. 9, 2017).

product inside . . . consumers are apt to choose the larger box because they think it's a better value."<sup>2</sup>

- 3. Plaintiff brings this class-action lawsuit based on Defendant's misleading, deceptive and unlawful conduct in packaging its Hot Tamales candy and Mike and Ike candy in opaque cardboard containers of identical dimensions: 3.25 inches x .75 inches x 6 inches (individually "Hot Tamales Products" and "Mike and Ike Products" and collectively "Products"). The Products are uniformly under-filled or "slack-filled." Specifically, approximately 65% of the Hot Tamales container is filled with candy, and the remaining 35% of the container is empty. Similarly, approximately 66% of the Mike and Ike container is filled with candy, and the remaining 34% of the container is empty. As more fully described herein, the slack-fill in the Products is non-functional, and therefore misleading and unlawful.
- 4. In purchasing the Products, consumers were denied the benefit of the bargain between what was represented, and what was received. Consumers would not have purchased the Products had they known that the containers were substantially empty, or would have purchased them on different terms.
- 5. Accordingly, Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated. Plaintiff seeks to represent a Nationwide Class and a Missouri Consumer Subclass (defined *infra*) (together referred to as "Classes"). Plaintiff is seeking damages, injunctive relief, disgorgement of Defendant's unjust enrichment, and all other remedies this Court deems appropriate.

2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> http://www.consumerreports.org/cro/magazine-archive/2010/january/shopping/product-packaging/overview/product-packaging-ov.htm (quoting Brian Wansink, professor and director of the Cornell Food and Brand Lab, who studies shopping behavior of consumers) (last accessed Feb. 9, 2017).

### **PARTIES**

- 6. Plaintiff Daryl White, Jr. is a resident of Belle, Missouri. On or around December 28, 2016, Plaintiff purchased a Hot Tamales Product and a Mike and Ike Product at a Dollar Store in Jefferson City, Missouri, for personal, family, or household purposes. The purchase price of each Product was approximately \$1.00. Plaintiff's claim is typical of all members of the Classes in this regard. In addition, the non-functional slack-fill contained in the Products purchased by Plaintiff is typical of the slack-fill contained in the Products purchased by members of the Classes.
- 7. Defendant Just Born, Inc. is a Pennsylvania corporation with its corporate headquarters located at 1300 Stefko Blvd., Bethlehem, PA. Defendant and its agents manufacture, market, distribute, label, promote, advertise and sell the Products.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 8. This is a class-action lawsuit seeking monetary damages and equitable relief pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23.
- 9. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(a) because the amount in controversy exceeds \$75,000 and the parties are citizens of different states. Furthermore, jurisdiction is conferred upon this Court pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act in that damages exceed \$5,000,000 in the aggregate, and the parties are citizens of different states. 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2).
- 10. This Court has personal jurisdiction because Defendant's contacts with the forum are continuous and substantial, and Defendant intentionally availed itself of the markets within Missouri through its sales of the Products to Missouri consumers.
  - 11. Plaintiff is a citizen of the State of Missouri.

12. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b) because Defendant engages in continuous and systematic business activities within the State of Missouri. Moreover, a substantial part of the events and omissions giving rise to the claims alleged herein occurred in this District.

### **ALLEGATIONS OF FACT**

### Federal and Missouri State Law Prohibit Non-Functional Slack-Fill

- 13. Defendant's deceptive and misleading conduct, as described herein, violates the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act ("FDCA") Section 403 (21 U.S.C. § 343); Section 403(d) (21 U.S.C. § 343(d)); and the Code of Federal Regulations Title 21 part 100, *et seq.*, as well as parallel Missouri statutes. As described in detail below, these violations contravene Missouri's Merchandising Practices Act ("MMPA"), which prohibits deceptive, fraudulent, misleading and unfair conduct in connection with the sale or advertisement of any merchandise in trade or commerce. § 407.020.43, RSMo.
  - 14. 21 C.F.R. § 100.100 prohibits nonfunctional slack-fill:

In accordance with section 403(d) of the act, a food shall be deemed to be misbranded if its container is so made, formed, or filled as to be misleading.

- (a) A container that does not allow the consumer to fully view its contents shall be considered to be filled as to be misleading if it contains nonfunctional slack-fill. Slack-fill is the difference between the actual capacity of a container and the volume of product contained therein. Nonfunctional slack-fill is the empty space in a package that is filled to less than its capacity for reasons other than:
  - (1) Protection of the contents of the package;
  - (2) The requirements of the machines used for enclosing the contents in such package;
  - (3) Unavoidable product settling during shipping and handling;
  - (4) The need for the package to perform a specific function (e.g., where packaging plays a role in the preparation or consumption of a food), where

- such function is inherent to the nature of the food and is clearly communicated to consumers:
- (5) The fact that the product consists of a food packaged in a reusable container where the container is part of the presentation of the food and has value which is both significant in proportion to the value of the product and independent of its function to hold the food, e.g., a gift product consisting of a food or foods combined with a container that is intended for further use after the food is consumed; or durable commemorative or promotional packages; or
- (6) Inability to increase level of fill or to further reduce the size of the package (e.g., where some minimum package size is necessary to accommodate required food labeling (excluding any vignettes or other nonmandatory designs or label information), discourage pilfering, facilitate handling, or accommodate tamper-resistant devices).
- 15. In addition, pursuant to 21 C.F.R. § 100.100, a container is presumptively misleading if it does not allow the consumer to fully view its contents and if it contains nonfunctional slack-fill.
- 16. In adopting 21 C.F.R. 100.100, the United States Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") stated: "Congress determined . . . that packages that are only partly filled (containing slack-fill) create a false impression as to the quantity of food they contain." Misleading Containers; Nonfunctional Slack-Fill, 58 Fed. Reg. 64123-01, 64128 (Dec. 6, 1993). "In fact, Congress stated in arriving at section 403(d) of the act that that section is 'intended to reach deceptive methods of filling where the package is only partly filled and, *despite the declaration of quantity of contents on the label*, creates the impression that it contains more food than it does." *Id.* at 64129 (internal citations omitted) (emphasis added).
- 17. Missouri state law also prohibits non-functional slack-fill and incorporates language identical to 21 U.S.C. § 343(d): "[F]ood shall be deemed to be misbranded: . . . . (4) If its container is so made, formed or filled as to be misleading." § 196.075, RSMo.

### **Defendant's Products Contain Substantial Slack-Fill**

- 18. Defendant manufactures, markets, promotes, labels, advertises, and sells a variety of confectionery products, including the Products at issue.
- 19. The Products are sold throughout the United States, including the State of Missouri, and are regularly sold at grocery stores, convenience stores, and other food retail outlets.
  - 20. The Hot Tamales Products are small, oblong-shaped candies.



- 21. The Hot Tamales Products are uniformly packaged in opaque cardboard containers that have the following dimensions: 3.25" x .75" x 6".
- 22. The Hot Tamales Products are also uniformly packaged with approximately 35% slack-fill. Because the containers are opaque, consumers, such as Plaintiff and members of the

Classes, could not see the contents of the container at the time of purchase, including the substantial, non-functional slack-fill.<sup>3</sup>



23. The Mike and Ike Products are also small, oblong-shaped candies, which are very similar in size and shape to the Hot Tamales Products.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> In order to more clearly depict the amount of slack-fill, the Hot Tamales Products' packaging has been cut open. No other modification was made to the container.



- 24. The Mike and Ike Products are uniformly packaged in non-transparent cardboard containers with the following dimensions: 3.25" x .75" x 6". The Mike and Ike container is identical in size, shape, and volume capacity to the Hot Tamales container.
- 25. The Mike and Ike Products are uniformly packaged with approximately 34% slack-fill. Because the containers are non-transparent, consumers, such as Plaintiff and members of the Classes, could not see the contents of the container at the time of purchase, including the substantial, non-functional slack-fill.<sup>4</sup>

8

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> In order to more clearly depict the amount of slack-fill, the Mike and Ike Products' packaging has been cut open. No other modification was made to the container.



- 26. As depicted, the Products are packaged in opaque, non-pliable cardboard containers, that do not allow consumers to view their contents.
- 27. Reasonable consumers attached importance to the Product containers' size as a basis for their purchasing decisions.

28. Defendant's misrepresentations and omissions are uniform because the Product containers are identical in size and the Hot Tamales and Mike and Ike Products are packaged in uniformly-sized containers, which have approximately 35% and 34% slack-fill, respectively.

### The Products' Slack-Fill is Non-Functional

29. The slack-fill in the Products is non-functional, and therefore unlawful, because it cannot be justified by any of the safe-harbor provisions contained in 21 C.F.R § 100.100(a).

### 21 C.F.R § 100.100(a)(1) [Protection of the Contents of the Package]

- 30. The slack-fill in the packaging of the Products does not protect the Product contents.
- 31. A classic example of slack-fill that is designed to protect the contents of a package is the empty space contained in bags of potato chips. The packages are filled with air to protect the fragile chips during shipment and in retail display.
- 32. By contrast, here, the substantial slack-fill may actually *increase* the risk of damaging the candy contained in the packaging. The more empty space there is in the Products' packaging, the more movement the Products will likely experience within the packaging, which increases the potential the candy pieces will be damaged.
- 33. Further, neither the Hot Tamales nor Mike and Ike candies are at significant risk of damage because they are small, hard, dense, and durable, and are not readily susceptible to cracking, breaking or crumbling (unlike, for example, potato chips packaged in a soft, malleable bag).
- 34. In addition, the rigid cardboard containers in which the Products are packaged provide significant protection to the candies.

35. Moreover, Hot Tamales and Mike and Ike candy are alternatively sold in soft, malleable bags, which offer little protection to the Products, thereby demonstrating the candies' inherent durability, as well as Defendant's implicit recognition of it.

### 21 C.F.R § 100.100(a)(2) [Requirements of Machines Used for Enclosing the Contents]

- 36. There is no machine requirement used for enclosing the Product contents that would justify the Products' substantial slack-fill.
- 37. In industry-standard packaging-line machinery, a candy container is held in a vertical position by a "cartoner" machine with the top end of the container remaining open. The container is moved in an intermittent manner such that the opening of the container is indexed directly below the filler. The filler typically consists of a hopper containing bulk quantities of product. The product is then conveyed from the hopper to the scale, which weighs the predetermined amount of product. Next, the product is dropped into the container through its open end, either directly through a chute into the container, or into a dispenser with a gate that opens when the container is in position.
- 38. After the container is filled, the cartoner machine conveys the container to the next station, where the container's top flaps are sealed. Thereafter, the container exits the cartoner machine to the tray or case packer.
- 39. The industry standard machines are capable of filling and enclosing the Products with far less slack-fill than the Products currently contain.
- 40. In fact, very similar candy products packaged and sold in very similar cardboard containers contain substantially less slack-fill than Defendant's Hot Tamales and Mike and Ike Products.

- 41. Defendant has also unequivocally demonstrated that it can increase the fill in the current Products' containers. Defendant sells a promotional Mike and Ike Product and a promotional Hot Tamales Product that contain 10% more candy than a typically filled container. Yet Defendant packages the Products containing 10% more candy in the *exact same size* container as the typically filled Products (3.25" x .75" x 6"), notwithstanding the increased fill.
- 42. Accordingly, the amount of slack-fill cannot be justified by the machines and equipment used to enclose the Products.

### 21 C.F.R § 100.100(a)(3) [Unavoidable Product Settling During Shipping and Handling]

- 43. Product "settling" accounts for approximately 1-2% of the slack-fill in the Hot Tamales and Mike and Ike Products' packaging; thus, the substantial slack-fill is not due to unavoidable product settling.
- 44. Due to the candies' size, shape and consistency, when placed in the packaging, the Hot Tamales and Mike and Ike candy pieces create minimal void patterns, and experience very little "settling."

### 21 C.F.R § 100.100(a)(4) [Need for the Package to Perform a Specific Function]

- 45. The Hot Tamales and Mike and Ike Products' packaging does not "perform a specific function," such as playing a role in the "preparation or consumption" of the candies (for example, cereal that is sold in a bowl-shaped container to which a consumer adds milk and that necessarily requires empty space to accommodate that purpose).
- 46. Nor is any such function "clearly communicated to consumers." The Products' packaging and labeling are silent as to any function beyond merely holding the candies.

## 21 C.F.R § 100.100(a)(5) [Reusable Container Where the Container Has Independent Value]

- 47. The Hot Tamales and Mike and Ike Products are not packaged in a container that is meant to be reused or otherwise used after the candies are consumed.
  - 48. Nor is the packaging a "durable commemorative or promotional package."
- 49. In addition, the packaging does not have any value that is both significant in proportion to the value of the Products and independent of its function to hold the food.
- 50. Rather, the packaging is a cardboard container that is expected to be discarded after the candies are consumed, and a reasonable consumer does not attach any independent value, monetary or otherwise, to the Products' packaging.

### 21 C.F.R § 100.100(a)(6) [Food Labeling and Packing Requirements]

- 51. As described herein, the level of fill in the Product containers can certainly be increased. Defendant has unequivocally demonstrated this by selling certain promotional Hot Tamales and Mike and Ike Products with increased fill levels in containers identical to the ones containing a reduced fill level.
- 52. Further, there is nothing unique or inherent to the small candy pieces (e.g., their shape, size, composition, etc.) that would prevent more of them from being placed in the packaging. Indeed, very similar candy products packaged in very similar packages contain substantially higher levels of fill than Defendant's Products.
- 53. There is also nothing unique or inherent to the candies that requires Defendant to package them in a specific packaging material, such as the cardboard containers at issue.

- 54. Nor is there an industry standard for packaging the Products in a container of a specific shape, size, or in one containing a specific number of candy pieces. In fact, Defendant can and has packaged the Hot Tamales and Mike and Ike candies in other packaging types, such as soft, malleable bags of varying sizes and shapes, as well as in smaller cardboard boxes.
- 55. Finally, the packaging could be reduced and still accommodate the required food labeling. Currently, the required food labeling is contained on roughly half of the surface area of one side of the container. In addition, similar candy products are packaged in containers smaller than Defendant's Products, and yet the smaller containers successfully accommodate the required food labeling.

### The Products' Packaging is Misleading to Reasonable Consumers

- 56. The Products' packaging is misleading to reasonable consumers, including Plaintiff and members of the Classes.
- 57. Reasonable consumers, such as Plaintiff, attached importance to the Product containers' size as a basis for their purchasing decisions. Plaintiff and members of the Classes were misled because they believed that they were purchasing more Product than was actually received. Had Plaintiff and members of the Classes known Defendant's packaging was substantially slack-filled, they would not have purchased the Products, or would have purchased them on different terms.
- 58. Plaintiff and members of the Classes suffered an ascertainable loss as a result of Defendant's unlawful conduct because the actual value of the Products as purchased was less than the value of the Products as represented.
- 59. Plaintiff would, however, likely purchase the Products in the future if the Products complied with the applicable laws.

### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

- 60. Plaintiff hereby re-alleges and incorporates the foregoing allegations as if set forth herein in their entirety.
- 61. Plaintiff brings this case as a class action that may be properly maintained under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 on behalf of himself and all persons in the United States who, within the relevant statute-of-limitation periods, purchased the Hot Tamales Products and/or the Mike and Ike Products ("Nationwide Class").
- 62. Plaintiff also seeks to represent a subclass defined as all Missouri citizens who, within the five years preceding the filing of this Complaint, purchased the Hot Tamales Products and/or the Mike and Ike Products for personal, family, or household purposes ("Missouri Consumer Subclass") (collectively, with the Nationwide Class, "Classes").
- 63. Excluded from the Classes are: (a) federal, state, and/or local governments, including, but not limited to, their departments, agencies, divisions, bureaus, boards, sections, groups, counsels, and/or subdivisions; (b) any entity in which Defendant has a controlling interest, to include, but not limited to, their legal representative, heirs, and successors; (c) all persons who are presently in bankruptcy proceedings or who obtained a bankruptcy discharge in the last three years; and (d) any judicial officer in the lawsuit and/or persons within the third degree of consanguinity to such judge.
- 64. <u>Numerosity Rule 23(a)(1).</u> Upon information and belief, the Classes consist of hundreds of thousands of purchasers dispersed throughout the United States, and the Subclass consists of thousands of purchasers throughout the State of Missouri. Accordingly, it would be impracticable to join all members of the Classes before the Court.

- 65. <u>Predominance and Commonality Rule 23(a)(2); (b)(3).</u> There are numerous and substantial questions of law or fact common to all members of the Classes that predominate over any individual issues. Included within the common questions of law or fact are:
  - a. Whether the Products' containers or packaging were made, formed, or filled as to be misleading;
  - b. Whether the Products contained non-functional slack-fill:
  - c. Whether Defendant violated the MMPA by selling the Products in containers with non-functional slack-fill;
  - d. Whether, and to what extent, injunctive relief should be granted to prevent such conduct in the future;
  - e. Whether Defendant has been unjustly enriched by the sale of the Products to the Plaintiff and members of the Classes;
  - f. Whether Plaintiff and members of the Classes have sustained damages as a result of Defendant's unlawful conduct; and
  - g. The proper measure of damages sustained by Plaintiff and members of the Classes.
- 66. <u>Typicality Rule 23(a)(3)</u>. The claims of the Plaintiff are typical of the claims of members of the Classes, in that he shares the above-referenced facts and legal claims or questions with members of the Classes, there is a sufficient relationship between the damage to Plaintiff and Defendant's conduct affecting members of the Classes, and Plaintiff has no interests adverse to the interests of other members of the Classes.
- 67. <u>Adequacy of Representation Rule 23(a)(4).</u> Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of members of the Classes and has retained counsel experienced and

competent in the prosecution of complex class actions including complex questions that arise in consumer protection litigation.

- 68. <u>Superiority Rule 23(b)(3)</u>. A class action is superior to other methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy, since individual joinder of all members of the Classes is impracticable and no other group method of adjudication of all claims asserted herein is more efficient and manageable for at least the following reasons:
  - a. The claims presented in this case predominate over any questions of law or fact, if any exists at all, affecting any individual member of the Classes;
  - Absent a Class, the members of the Classes will continue to suffer damage and Defendant's unlawful conduct will continue without remedy while Defendant profits from and enjoys its ill-gotten gains;
  - c. Given the size of individual Class members' claims, few, if any, members could afford to or would seek legal redress individually for the wrongs Defendant committed against them, and absent members have no substantial interest in individually controlling the prosecution of individual actions;
  - d. When the liability of Defendant has been adjudicated, claims of all members of the Classes can be administered efficiently and/or determined uniformly by the Court; and
  - e. This action presents no difficulty that would impede its management by the Court as a class action which is the best available means by which Plaintiff and members of the Classes can seek redress for the harm caused to them by Defendant.

- 69. Because Plaintiff seeks relief for all members of the Classes, the prosecution of separate actions by individual members would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the Classes, which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendant.
- 70. Further, bringing individual claims would overburden the Courts and be an inefficient method of resolving the dispute, which is the center of this litigation. Adjudications with respect to individual members of the Classes would, as a practical matter, be dispositive of the interest of other members of the Classes who are not parties to the adjudication and may impair or impede their ability to protect their interests. As a consequence, class treatment is a superior method for adjudication of the issues in this case.

# FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF Violation of Missouri's Merchandising Practices Act (for the Missouri Consumer Subclass)

- 71. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations of the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the Missouri Consumer Subclass for Defendant's violations of the MMPA. The MMPA "is designed to regulate the marketplace to the advantage of those traditionally thought to have unequal bargaining power as well as those who may fall victim to unfair practices." *Huch v. Charter Commc'ns Inc.*, 290 S.W. 3d 721, 725 (Mo. banc. 2009). The MMPA provides that it is unlawful to "act, use or employ . . . deception, fraud, false pretense, false promise, misrepresentation, unfair practice or the concealment, suppression, or omission of any material fact in connection with the sale or advertisement of any merchandise in trade or commerce . . . . " § 407.020.1, RSMo.

- 73. Defendant's conduct as described above constitutes the act, use or employment of deception, fraud, false pretenses, false promises, misrepresentation, unfair practices and/or the concealment, suppression, or omission of any material facts in connection with the sale or advertisement of any merchandise in trade or commerce in that Defendant incorporates substantial non-functional slack-fill into the Products' non-transparent packaging. Among other things, Plaintiff and members of the Classes were misled because they believed that they were purchasing more Product than was actually received. As such, the Products' containers are made, formed, or filled as to be misleading.
- 74. Defendant's misrepresentations and omissions as set forth in this Complaint are material in that they relate to matters that are important to consumers and/or are likely to affect the purchasing decisions or conduct of consumers, including Plaintiff and members of the Missouri Consumer Subclass.
- 75. In violation of the MMPA, Defendant employed fraud, deception, false promise, misrepresentation and/or the knowing concealment, suppression or omission of material facts in its sale and advertisement of the Products.
- 76. Plaintiff and members of the Missouri Consumer Subclass purchased the Products for personal, family, or household purposes.
- 77. Plaintiff and the Missouri Consumer Subclass members suffered an ascertainable loss as a result of Defendant's unlawful conduct because the actual value of the Products as purchased was less than the value of the Products as represented. Had Plaintiff and members of the Missouri Consumer Subclass known the truth about the Products, they would not have purchased the Products, or would have purchased the Products on different terms.

78. In addition, Defendant's conduct has caused Plaintiff and the Missouri Consumer Subclass members irreparable injury. As described herein, Defendant has engaged in unlawful and misleading conduct on a routine and automated basis, harming Missouri consumers in a uniform manner. Unless restrained and enjoined, Defendant will continue such conduct. As authorized under § 407.025.2, RSMo., Plaintiff requests injunctive relief, and such other equitable relief as the Court deems just and proper.

### SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Unjust Enrichment (for the Classes)

- 79. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations of the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 80. By purchasing the Products, Plaintiff and members of the Classes conferred a benefit on Defendant in the form of the purchase price of the slack-filled Products.
  - 81. Defendant had knowledge of such benefits.
- 82. Defendant appreciated the benefit because, were consumers not to purchase the Products, Defendant would not generate revenue from the sales of the Products.
- 83. Defendant's acceptance and retention of the benefit is inequitable and unjust because the benefit was obtained by Defendant's fraudulent and misleading representations and omissions.
- 84. Equity cannot in good conscience permit Defendant to be economically enriched for such actions at the Plaintiff's and members of the Classes' expense, and therefore restitution and/or disgorgement of such economic enrichment is required.

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all similarly situated persons, seeks judgment against Defendant, as follows:

- a. For an order certifying the Nationwide Class and the Missouri Consumer Subclass, under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure; naming Plaintiff as representative of all Classes; and naming Plaintiff's attorneys as Class Counsel to represent all Classes.
- b. For an order declaring that Defendant's conduct violates the statutes and laws referenced herein;
- c. For an order finding in favor of Plaintiff, and all Classes, on all counts asserted herein;
- d. For an order awarding all compensatory damages, in an amount to be determined by the Court and/or jury.
- e. For prejudgment interest on all amounts awarded;
- f. For interest on the amount of any and all economic losses, at the prevailing legal rate;
- g. For an order of restitution and all other forms of equitable monetary relief;
- h. For injunctive relief as pleaded or as the Court may deem proper;
- For an order awarding Plaintiff and all Classes their reasonable attorneys' fees, expenses and costs of suit; and
- j. For all such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

### Dated this 16th day of February 2017.

Daryl White, Jr., Individually, and on Behalf of a Class of Similarly Situated Individuals, Plaintiff

By: /s/ David L. Steelman

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JS 44 (Rev 09/10)

### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

### CIVIL COVER SHEET

This automated JS-44 conforms generally to the manual JS-44 approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974. The data is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. The information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law. This form is authorized for use only in the Western District of Missouri.

The completed cover sheet must be saved as a pdf document and filed as an attachment to the Complaint or Notice of Removal.

Plaintiff(s): Defendant(s):

First Listed Plaintiff: First Listed Defendant: Daryl White Jr; Just Born, Inc.;

1 Citizen of This State; 5 Incorporated and Principal Place of Business in Another State;

County of Residence: Outside This Pennsylvania

District County of Residence: Outside This District

**County Where Claim For Relief Arose:** Cole County

#### Plaintiff's Attorney(s): Defendant's Attorney(s):

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P.O. Box 1257 Rolla, Missouri 65402 **Phone:** 5733418336 **Fax:** 5733418548

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**Basis of Jurisdiction:** 4. Diversity of Citizenship

Citizenship of Principal Parties (Diversity Cases Only)

Plaintiff: 1 Citizen of This State

Defendant: 5 Incorporated and Principal Place of Business in Another State

Origin: 1. Original Proceeding

Nature of Suit: 370 Fraud Actions

Cause of Action: MMPA, Rev. Stat. MO Section 407.025 and Unjust Enrichment

Requested in Complaint

Class Action: Class Action Under FRCP23 Monetary Demand (in Thousands): 5100

Jury Demand: Yes

Related Cases: Is NOT a refiling of a previously dismissed action

Signature: /s/ David L. Steelman

**Date:** 2/16/2017

If any of this information is incorrect, please close this window and go back to the Civil Cover Sheet Input form to make the correction and generate the updated JS44. Once corrected, print this form, sign and date it, and submit it with your new civil action.