	Case 3:17-cv-00442-WQH-JMA Docum	ent 1 Filed 03/03/17 PageID.1 Page 1 of 22								
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Naomi Spector (SBN 222573) Email: nspector@kamberlaw.com Christopher D. Moon (SBN 246622) Email: cmoon@kamberlaw.com KAMBERLAW, LLP 9404 Genesee Avenue, Suite 340 La Jolla, California 92037 Phone: 310.400.1051 Fax: 212.202.6364									
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9	IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT									
10	FUK THE SOUTHER	N DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA								
11 12	BRITTANY SEBASTIAN, individually, on behalf of herself and	Case No.: <u>'17CV442 WQHJMA</u>								
12	others similarly situated,	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR								
13	Plaintiff,	1. UNFAIR AND UNLAWFUL								
15	VS.	BUSINESS ACTS AND PRACTICES								
16	KIMBERLY-CLARK CORPORATION; KIMBERLY-	(CAL. BUS & PROF. CODE §17200 <i>ET SEQ</i> .);								
17	CLARK WORLDWIDE, INC.; and	2. DECEPTIVE ADVERTISING PRACTICES (CAL. BUS &								
18	KIMBERLY-CLARK GLOBAL SALES, LLC,	PROF.CODE §§ 17500, <i>ET SEQ</i> .);								
19	Defendants.	3. CONSUMER LEGAL REMEDIES ACT (CAL. CIV. CODE								
20		§ 1750, ET SEQ.);								
21		4. BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY; AND								
22		5. UNJUST ENRICHMENT.								
23		DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL								
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	CLASS A	ACTION COMPLAINT								

Plaintiff Brittany Sebastian, individually and on behalf of others similarly situated, by and through her undersigned counsel, hereby files this Class Action Complaint against Defendants Kimberly-Clark Corporation, Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc., and Kimberly-Clark Global Sales, LLC (collectively "Defendant" or "Kimberly-Clark") and states as follows:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

 This case arises out of Defendant's unlawful merchandising practices with respect to its Huggies Natural Care Baby Wipes, which are offered for sale in numerous configurations, including soft packages containing 32 or 56 wipes, "pop-up tubs" containing 40 or 64 wipes, "Clutch n' Clean" packages, and refill packages containing numerous wipes (collectively, the "Products"). Defendant falsely and deceptively labels and advertises the Products as being "natural," "gentle," "hypoallergenic," and made with the "simplest formula for a gentle clean." Contrary to these material representations and omissions, the Products contain non-natural, synthetic chemical ingredients, and Defendant's claims are therefore false, deceptive and misleading.

17 2. Among other synthetic ingredients, the Products contain phenoxyethanol. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") has stated that phenoxyethanol is "a 18 preservative that is primarily used in cosmetics and medications" and that can "depress 19 the central nervous system and may cause vomiting and diarrhea" in infants. 20 In 21 addition, the French Agence Nationale de Securite du Medicament et des Produits de Sante has cautioned consumers not to use wipes containing phenoxyethanol on 22 children under the age of three because of health concerns related to "reproductive and 23 developmental toxicity." 24

3. Plaintiff Brittany Sebastian ("Plaintiff") brings this action individually and
on behalf of those similarly situated. Plaintiff seeks to represent a National Class and a
California Subclass (defined *infra*.). Plaintiff seeks damages, interest thereon,
reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, restitution, other equitable relief, and

disgorgement of all benefits Defendant has enjoyed from its unlawful and/or deceptive business practices, as detailed herein. In addition, Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief to stop Defendant's unlawful conduct in the labeling and marketing of the Products. Plaintiff makes these allegations based on her personal knowledge as to herself and her own acts and observations and, otherwise, on information and belief based on investigation of her counsel.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

4. This Court has original jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d) because this is a class action in which: (1) there are over 100 members in the 9 10 proposed class; (2) members of the proposed class have a different citizenship from 11 Defendant; and (3) the claims of the proposed class members exceed \$5,000,000 in the aggregate. 12

5. 13 This Court has personal jurisdiction because Defendant's contacts with the forum are continuous and substantial, and Defendant intentionally availed itself of 14 the markets within California through its sales of the Products to California consumers. 15

16 6. 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 17 California. Moreover, a substantial part of the events and omissions giving rise to the 18 19 claims alleged herein occurred in this District. See also Declaration of Brittany Sebastian Regarding Venue Pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1780(d), attached hereto as 20 21 Exhibit A.

PARTIES

Plaintiff Brittany Sebastian is a resident of San Diego, California, who 23 7. 24 purchased Huggies Natural Care wipes during the class period, as described below. Plaintiff's claim is typical of all Class members in this regard. 25 In addition, the advertising and labeling on the package of the Product purchased by Plaintiff is typical 26 of the advertising and labeling of the Products purchased by members of the Class. 27

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8. Defendant Kimberly-Clark Corporation is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 401 North Lake Street, Neenah, Wisconsin 54956.

9. Defendant Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. and Defendant Kimberly-Clark Global Sales, LLC are Delaware corporations with principal offices at 351 Phelps Drive, Irving, Texas 75038. Upon information and belief, Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc. and Kimberly-Clark Global Sales, LLC are wholly-owned subsidiaries of Defendant Kimberly-Clark Corporation.

10. Defendant and its agents promoted, marketed and sold the Products at issue in this jurisdiction and in this judicial district. The unfair, unlawful, deceptive, and misleading advertising and labeling of the Products was prepared and/or approved 10 by Defendant and its agents, and was disseminated by Defendant and its agents 11 through labeling and advertising containing the misrepresentations alleged herein. 12

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

Contrary to Defendant's Representations that the Products Are A. Natural, the Products Contain Numerous Synthetic Ingredients, Including Phenoxyethanol, Which Is Potentially Toxic to Babies

17 11. Kimberly-Clark manufactures, markets, promotes, advertises, and sells 18 baby-care products, including under the "Huggies Natural Care" brand name. 19 According to the huggies.com website, the Products are "America's #1 branded baby 20 wipe," and are comprised of "gentle ingredients" for "sensitive skin."

21 12. Seeking to profit from consumers' desire for safer and natural products 22 free from synthetic and harmful ingredients, Kimberly-Clark markets and labels the 23 Products as, among other things "natural," "gentle" and "hypoallergenic."

13. Kimberly-Clark also advertises the Products as being "[h]ypoallergenic, fragrance and alcohol free, with a touch of aloe and Vitamin E, these wipes feature our simplest formula ever for a gentle clean."

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HUGGLES natural wipes lingettes care	(and the second
wipes lingettes Care Softer:	
fragrance free hypoallergenic	Ģ

15. Despite advertising the Products as being "natural," "gentle," "hypoallergenic" and made with a "simple formula," the wipes actually contain nonnatural, synthetic, and/or artificial ingredients, including phenoxyethanol, caprylyl glycol, cocamidopropyl betaine, and sodium citrate.

Huggies®	Natural	Care®	Wipes
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Solution Ingredients	Purpose
Water/Eau/Aqua	Helps clean skin
Phenoxyethanol	Helps keep wipes fresh
Butoxy PEG-4 PG- Amodimethicone	Helps wipe glide across baby's skir
Aloe Barbadensis Leaf Extract	Aloe Vera
Caprylyl Glycol	Helps keep skin soft and smooth
Cocamidopropyl Betaine	Helps clean skin
Malic Acid	Helps keep the wipes pH balanced
Sodium Citrate	Helps keep sheet white
Tocopheryl Acetate	Vitamin E

16. According to the FTC, phenoxyethanol is a preservative, which can depress the central nervous system and may cause vomiting and diarrhea in infants.¹

17. In addition, the FTC charged several companies with falsely claiming in online advertisements that their products were all-natural or 100% natural when those products contained non-natural, synthetic ingredients, including phenoxyethanol.² The charged companies were barred from making similar representations in the future.³

https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/cases/160412beyondcoastalcmpt.pdf; (last

¹http://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/2008/ucm116900.h tm (last accessed Nov. 17, 2016).

²³² https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2016/04/four-companies-agree-stopfalsely-promoting-their-personal-care/ (last accessed Nov. 17, 2016);

https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/cases/160412shikai-cmpt.pdf; (last accessed Nov. 17, 2016);

https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/cases/160412rockymountaincmpt.pdf;
 (last accessed Nov. 17, 2016);

<sup>https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/cases/160412edenbodyworkscmpt.pdf;
(last accessed Nov. 17, 2016);</sup>

18. Furthermore, a May 2012 report from the French Agence Nationale de Securite du Medicament et des Produits de Sante cautioned consumers not to use wipes containing phenoxyethanol on children under the age of three because of health concerns related to "reproductive and developmental toxicity."

19. The Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) on phenoxyethanol states that it can cause skin and lung irritation, and that it may also be toxic to the kidneys, nervous system, and liver, and repeated, long-term exposure can cause organ damage. The MSDS further states that the toxic effects can occur through inhalation, skin exposure, and ingestion.

20. According to Hazard Notifications from the Globally Harmonized System
 of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals (GHS), phenoxyethanol presents a
 category 2 danger for skin irritation, a category 4 danger for acute oral toxicity if
 swallowed, and a category 2A danger for causing serious eye damage or eye irritation.

14 21. In addition to phenoxyethanol, the Products contain other synthetic15 ingredients.

16 22. Caprylyl glycol is a synthetic skin conditioning agent and preservative.
17 As with phenoxyethanol, the FTC previously charged several companies with falsely
18 claiming in advertisements that their products were all-natural or 100% natural when
19 those products contained non-natural, synthetic ingredients, including caprylyl glycol.
20 The charged companies were barred from making similar representations in the future.

21 23. Cocamidopropyl betaine is a synthetic surfactant that has been associated
22 with skin irritation and allergic dermatitis. In fact, cocamidopropyl betaine was named
23 Allergen of the Year in 2004 by the American Contact Dermatitis Society.

accessed Nov. 17, 2016);

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https://www.ftc.gov/system/files/documents/cases/160412californianaturelcmpt exhibits.pdf (last accessed Nov. 17, 2016).

³ https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/press-releases/2016/07/ftc-approves-four-finalorders-barring-companies-making-false-all/ (last accessed Nov. 17, 2016).

24. Sodium citrate is a synthetic chemical that can be used as an emulsifier, acidity regulator, and preservative. Sodium citrate is recognized in Federal Regulations as a synthetic.⁴

Accordingly, because the Products contain phenoxyethanol, caprylyl 25. glycol, cocamidopropyl betaine, and sodium citrate, they are mislabeled, misleading, and misbranded under both federal and state law.

7 U.S.C. § 6502(21) defines the term "synthetic" as "a substance that is 26. formulated or manufactured by a chemical process or by a process that chemically changes a substance extracted from naturally occurring plant, animal, or mineral 10 sources, except that such term shall not apply to substances created by naturally 11 occurring biological processes."

Furthermore, Merriam-Webster defines "natural" as "existing in or 12 27. 13 produced by nature: not artificial."

In addition, the FTC has cautioned that "[m]arketers that are using terms 14 28. such as natural must ensure that they can substantiate whatever claims they are 15 conveying to reasonable consumers. If reasonable consumers could interpret a natural 16 claim as representing that a product contains no artificial ingredients, then the marketer 17 must be able to substantiate that fact."⁵ 18

19 29. Reasonable consumers, including Plaintiff, expect a product that is labeled or advertised as being "natural" to be free of synthetic, highly processed, and/or non-20 21 natural ingredients.

30. 22 Likewise, reasonable consumers, including Plaintiff, expect that baby care products that are labeled or advertised as being "natural," "gentle" 23 and 24 "hypoallergenic" to be free from harmful and/or potentially toxic ingredients.

⁴ See 7 C.F.R. §205.605(b).

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⁵ Guides for the Use of Environmental Marketing Claims, 75 FR 63552-01, 63586 (Oct. 15, 2010).

31. Consumers have become increasingly concerned about the effects of synthetic ingredients in personal-care products. Indeed, consumers, including Plaintiff, are willing to pay, and have paid, a premium for products advertised, marketed, and labeled as "natural" over products containing non-natural, synthetic ingredients.⁶

32. Kimberly-Clark materially misled and failed to adequately inform consumers, including Plaintiff, that the Products contain non-natural, synthetic ingredients.

8 33. Based on Defendant's uniform material misrepresentations and omissions,
9 consumers have purchased the Products to their detriment.

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B. <u>Plaintiff Purchased the Misbranded Product</u>

34. Plaintiff Brittany Sebastian purchased a soft package of Huggies Natural
Care wipes, containing 32 wipes, from a Target store in Encinitas, California between
August and November, 2016 for approximately \$1.47. Plaintiff purchased the Product
for personal and family use.

15 35. Plaintiff relied on Kimberly-Clark's representations in making the
16 decision to purchase the Product, including that the Product is "natural."

At the time Plaintiff purchased the Product, Plaintiff did not know, and
had no reason to know, that the Product labels and advertising were misleading,
deceptive and unlawful as set forth herein. Plaintiff would not have purchased the
Product, or would have purchased it on different terms, if she had known the truth.

37. It is possible, however, that Plaintiff would purchase the Products in the
future if they were properly labeled, and/or the ingredients complied with the labeling
and advertising statements, including that they only contained "natural" ingredients,
and no longer contained phenoxyethanol, caprylyl glycol, cocamidopropyl betaine, and
sodium citrate.

 ⁶ In 2010, for example, nationwide sales of natural products totaled \$117 billion.
 28 http://www.npainfo.org/NPA/About_NPA/NPA/AboutNPA/AbouttheNaturalProductsAssociati on.aspx?hkey=8d3a15abf44f-4473-aa6e-ba27ccebcbb8 (last visited Jan. 25, 2017).

CLASS DEFINITION AND CLASS ALLEGATIONS

38. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(b)(2) and 23(b)(3) on behalf of herself, on behalf of all others similarly situated, and as a member the Class defined as follows (collectively, the "Class"):

> All citizens of the United States who, within the relevant statute purchased limitations periods. Defendant's Products of ("Nationwide Class");

> All citizens of California who, within four years prior to the filing of this Complaint, purchased Defendant's Products ("California Subclass").

Excluded from the Class are: (i) Defendant, its assigns, successors, and 39. legal representatives; (ii) any entities in which Defendant has controlling interests; (iii) federal, state, and/or local governments, including, but not limited to, their departments, agencies, divisions, bureaus, boards, sections, groups, counsels, and/or subdivisions; (iv) all persons presently in bankruptcy proceedings or who obtained a bankruptcy discharge in the last three years; and (v) any judicial officer presiding over this matter and person within the third degree of consanguinity to such judicial officer.

40. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend or otherwise alter the class definition presented to the Court at the appropriate time, or to propose or eliminate sub-classes, in response to facts learned through discovery, legal arguments advanced by Defendant, or otherwise.

41. This action is properly maintainable as a class action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 for the reasons set forth below.

42. **Numerosity**: Members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Upon information and belief, the Class consist of hundreds of thousands of purchasers dispersed throughout the United States, and the Subclass likewise consists of hundreds of thousands of purchasers throughout the State of California. Accordingly, it would be impracticable to join all members of the Class before the Court. 10

43. Common Questions Predominate: There are numerous and substantial questions of law or fact common to all members of the Class that predominate over any individual issues. Included within the common questions of law or fact are:

- Whether, contrary to Defendant's uniform, material representations and omissions, the Products are not natural;
- Whether, contrary to Defendant's uniform, material representations and omissions, the Products are not comprised of "gentle ingredients," and/or hypoallergenic;
 - Whether Defendant engaged in unlawful, unfair or deceptive business practices by advertising and selling its Products;
- Whether Defendant violated California Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200, et seq.; Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500, et seq.; and the Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code § 1750, et seq.;
 - Whether Defendant committed a breach of express warranty;
 - Whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to equitable and/or injunctive relief;
- Whether Plaintiff and the Class members have sustained damage as a result of Defendant's unlawful conduct;
- The proper measure of damages sustained by Plaintiff and Class Members; and
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Whether Defendant was unjustly enriched by its deceptive practices.

Typicality: Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the members of 22 44. the Class she seeks to represent because Plaintiff, like the Class members, purchased 23 Defendant's misbranded Products. Defendant's unlawful, unfair and/or fraudulent 24 actions concern the same business practices described herein irrespective of where they 25 occurred or were experienced. Plaintiff and the Class sustained similar injuries arising 26 27 out of Defendant's conduct. Plaintiff's and Class Member's claims arise from the same practices and course of conduct and are based on the same legal theories. 28

45. Adequacy: Plaintiff is an adequate representative of the Class she seeks to represent because her interests do not conflict with the interests of the members of the Class Plaintiff seeks to represent. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of members of the Class and has retained counsel experienced and competent in the prosecution of complex class actions including complex questions that arise in consumer protection litigation.

Superiority and Substantial Benefit: A class action is superior to other 46. methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy, since individual joinder of all members of the Class is impracticable and no other group method of adjudication of all claims asserted herein is more efficient and manageable for at least 10 11 the following reasons:

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- The claims presented in this case predominate over any questions of a. law or fact, if any exists at all, affecting any individual member of the Class;
- Absent a Class, the members of the Class will continue to suffer b. damage and Defendant's unlawful conduct will continue without remedy while Defendant profits from and enjoys its ill-gotten gains;
- Given the size of individual Class members' claims, few, if any, 18 c. members could afford to or would seek legal redress individually 19 for the wrongs Defendant committed against them, and absent 20 21 members have no substantial interest in individually controlling the prosecution of individual actions; 22
 - When the liability of Defendant has been adjudicated, claims of all d. members of the Class can be administered efficiently and/or determined uniformly by the Court; and
 - action presents no difficulty that would impede its This e. management by the Court as a class action, which is the best available means by which Plaintiff and members of the Class can

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seek redress for the harm caused to them by Defendant.

47. Because Plaintiff seeks relief for all members of the Class, the prosecution of separate actions by individual members would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to individual members of the Class, which would establish incompatible standards of conduct for Defendant.

48. The prerequisites to maintaining a class action for injunctive or equitable relief pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(2) are met as Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive or equitable relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

49. The prerequisites to maintaining a class action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P.
23(b)(3) are also met as questions of law or fact common to Class members
predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, and a class action
is superior to other available methods for fairly and efficiently adjudicating the
controversy.

50. Plaintiff and Plaintiff's counsel are unaware of any difficulties that are
likely to be encountered in the management of this action that would preclude its
maintenance as a class action.

CAUSES OF ACTION

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION Unfair and Unlawful Business Acts and Practices (Business and Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.*) (*for the California Subclass*)

22 51. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained
23 in the preceding paragraphs of this complaint, as though fully set forth herein.

52. Defendant's conduct constitutes an unfair business act and practice
pursuant to California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq*. (the "UCL").
The UCL provides, in pertinent part: "Unfair competition shall mean and include
unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business practices and unfair, deceptive, untrue or
misleading advertising"

53. Plaintiff brings this claim seeking equitable and injunctive relief to stop Defendant's misconduct, as complained of herein, and to seek restitution of the amounts Defendant acquired through the unfair, unlawful, and fraudulent business practices described herein.

Defendant's knowing conduct, as alleged herein, constitutes an "unfair" 54. and/or "fraudulent" business practice, as set forth in California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200-17208.

55. Defendant's conduct was and continues to be unfair and fraudulent 9 because, directly or through its agents and employees, Defendant made uniform materially false representations and omissions that the Products were "natural," 10 "gentle," and "hypoallergenic," when in fact they were not. 11

Defendant is aware that the representations and omissions it has made 56. 12 about the Products were and continue to be false and misleading. 13

14 57. Defendant had an improper motive-to derive financial gain at the expense of accuracy or truthfulness-in its practices related to the labeling and 15 advertising of the Products. 16

There were reasonable alternatives available to Defendant to further 17 58. Defendant's legitimate business interests, other than the conduct described herein. 18

59. Defendant's misrepresentations of material facts, as set forth herein, also 19 constitute an "unlawful" practice because they violate California Civil Code §§ 1572, 20 21 1573, 1709, 1710, 1711, and 1770, as well as the common law.

Defendant's conduct in making the representations described herein 22 60. constitutes a knowing failure to adopt policies in accordance with and/or adherence to 23 applicable laws, as set forth herein, all of which are binding upon and burdensome to 24 This conduct engenders an unfair competitive advantage for 25 its competitors. Defendant, thereby constituting an unfair business practice under California Business 26 & Professions Code §§ 17200-17208. 27

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61. In addition, Defendant's conduct was, and continues to be, unfair, in that its injury to countless purchasers of the Products is substantial, and is not outweighed by any countervailing benefits to consumers or to competitors.

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62. Moreover, Plaintiff and members of the California Subclass could not have reasonably avoided such injury. Defendant's uniform, material representations and omissions regarding the Products were likely to deceive, and Defendant knew or should have known that its representations and omissions were untrue and misleading. Plaintiff purchased the Products in reliance on the representations made by Defendant, as alleged herein.

63. Plaintiff and members of the California Subclass have been directly and
proximately injured by Defendant's conduct in ways including, but not limited to, the
monies paid to Defendant for the Products that lacked the characteristics advertised,
interest lost on those monies, and consumers' unwitting support of a business
enterprise that promotes deception and undue greed to the detriment of consumers,
such as Plaintiff and Subclass members.

64. As a result of the business acts and practices described above, Plaintiff
and members of the California Subclass, pursuant to § 17203, are entitled to an Order
enjoining such future wrongful conduct on the part of Defendant and such other Orders
and judgments that may be necessary to disgorge Defendant's ill-gotten gains and to
restore to any person in interest any money paid for the Products as a result of the
wrongful conduct of Defendant.

65. Pursuant to Civil Code § 3287(a), Plaintiff and the California Subclass are
further entitled to pre-judgment interest as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's
unfair and fraudulent business conduct. The amount on which interest is to be
calculated is a sum certain and capable of calculation, and Plaintiff and the California
Subclass are entitled to interest in an amount according to proof.

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SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION Deceptive Advertising Practices (California Business & Professions Code §§ 17500, *et seq.*) (*for the California Subclass*)

66. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of this complaint, as though fully set forth herein.

67. California Business & Professions Code § 17500 prohibits "unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising"

68. Defendant violated § 17500 when it represented, through its false and misleading advertising and other express representations, that Defendant's Products possessed characteristics and value that they did not actually have.

69. Defendant's deceptive practices were specifically designed to induce reasonable consumers like Plaintiff to purchase the Products. Defendant's uniform, material representations and omissions regarding the Products were likely to deceive, and Defendant knew or should have known that its uniform representations and omissions were untrue and misleading. Plaintiff purchased the Products in reliance on the representations made by Defendant, as alleged herein.

70. Plaintiff and members of the California Subclass have been directly and proximately injured by Defendant's conduct in ways including, but not limited to, the monies paid to Defendant for the Products that lacked the characteristics advertised, interest lost on those monies, and consumers' unwitting support of a business enterprise that promotes deception and undue greed to the detriment of consumers, such as Plaintiff and Subclass members.

71. The above acts of Defendant, in disseminating material misleading and deceptive representations and statements throughout California to consumers, including Plaintiff and members of the California Subclass, were and are likely to deceive reasonable consumers in violation of § 17500.

72. In making and disseminating the statements alleged herein, Defendant knew or should have known that the statements were untrue or misleading, and acted in

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violation of § 17500.

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73. Defendant continues to engage in unlawful, unfair and deceptive practices in violation of §17500.

74. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unlawful conduct in violation of § 17500, Plaintiff and members of the California Subclass, pursuant to § 17535, are entitled to an Order of this Court enjoining such future wrongful conduct on the part of Defendant, and requiring Defendant to disclose the true nature of its misrepresentations.

9 75. Plaintiff and members of the California Subclass also request an Order
10 requiring Defendant to disgorge its ill-gotten gains and/or award full restitution of all
11 monies wrongfully acquired by Defendant by means of such acts of false advertising,
12 plus interests and attorneys' fees.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION Consumer Legal Remedies Act (Cal. Civ. Code § 1750, *et seq.*) (*for the California Subclass*)

76. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained
in the preceding paragraphs of this complaint, as though fully set forth herein.

18 77. Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to California's Consumer Legal
19 Remedies Act ("CLRA"), Cal. Civ. Code § 1750, *et seq*.

78. The CLRA provides that "unfair methods of competition and unfair or
deceptive acts or practices undertaken by any person in a transaction intended to result
or which results in the sale or lease of goods or services to any consumer are
unlawful."

24 79. The Products are "goods," as defined by the CLRA in California Civil
25 Code §1761(a).

80. Defendant is a "person," as defined by the CLRA in California Civil Code
§1761(c).

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81. Plaintiff and members of the California Subclass are "consumers," as defined by the CLRA in California Civil Code §1761(d).

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Purchase of the Products by Plaintiff and members of the California 82. Subclass are "transactions," as defined by the CLRA in California Civil Code §1761(e).

83. violated Section 1770(a)(5) by representing that the Kimberly-Clark Products have "characteristics, ... uses [or] benefits ... which [they] do not have" in that the Products are falsely labeled and advertised as being, among other things, "natural," "gentle," and "hypoallergenic." Defendant knew that consumers will often pay more for products with these attributes and has unfairly profited from its false and 10 misleading claims. 11

Similarly, Kimberly-Clark violated section 1770(a)(7) by representing that 12 84. the Products "are of a particular standard, quality, or grade . . . if they are of another" 13 by falsely and deceptively labeling and advertising the Products as, among other 14 things, "natural," "gentle," and "hypoallergenic." 15

In addition, Kimberly-Clark violated section 1770(a)(9) by advertising the 16 85. Products "with intent not to sell them as advertised" in that the Products are falsely 17 other things, 18 labeled and advertised as, among "natural," "gentle," and "hypoallergenic." 19

Defendant's uniform, material, representations and omissions regarding 20 86. 21 the Products were likely to deceive, and Defendant knew or should have known that its 22 representations and omissions were untrue and misleading.

23 87. Plaintiff and members of the California Subclass could not have reasonably avoided such injury. Plaintiff and members of the California Subclass were 24 unaware of the existence of facts that Defendant suppressed and failed to disclose; and, 25 Plaintiff and members of the California Subclass would not have purchased the 26 Products and/or would have purchased them on different terms had they known the 27 28 truth.

88. Plaintiff and members of the California Subclass have been directly and proximately injured by Defendant's conduct. Such injury includes, but is not limited to, the purchase price of the Products and/or the price of the Products at the prices at which they were offered.

Given that Defendant's conduct violated § 1770(a)(5), Plaintiff and 89. members of the California Subclass are entitled to seek and seek injunctive relief to put an end to Defendant's violations of the CLRA.

Moreover, Defendant's conduct is malicious, fraudulent, and wanton in 90. that Defendant intentionally misled and withheld material information from consumers to increase the sale of the Products. 10

11 91. Pursuant to California Civil Code § 1782(a), Plaintiff on her own behalf, and on behalf of members of the California Subclass, notified Defendant of the alleged 12 violations of the Consumer Legal Remedies Act. Despite giving Defendant 30-days 13 from the date of the notification letter to provide appropriate relief for violations of the 14 CLRA, Defendant has failed to provide any such relief. As such, Plaintiff also seeks 15 16 compensatory, monetary and punitive damages, in addition to equitable and injunctive relief, and requests that this Court enter such Orders or judgments as may be necessary 17 to restore to any person in interest any money which may have been acquired by means 18 of such unfair business practices, and for such other relief as is provided in California 19 Civil Code § 1780 and in the Prayer for Relief. 20

21 92. Plaintiff further requests that the Court enjoin Defendant from continuing to employ the unlawful methods, acts, and practices alleged herein pursuant to § 22 1780(a)(2). 23

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FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION **Breach of Express Warranty** (for the Nationwide Class and California Subclass)

26 Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations contained 93. 27 in the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint, as though fully set forth herein.

94. By advertising and selling the Products at issue, Defendant made promises and affirmations of fact on the Product's packaging, and through its marketing and advertising, as described above. This labeling and advertising constitutes express warranties and became part of the basis of the bargain between Plaintiff and members of the Class, and Defendant.

95. Defendant purports, through its advertising, to create express warranties that the Products are, among other things, "natural," "gentle" and "hypoallergenic."

Despite Defendant's express warranties about the nature of the Products, 96. the ingredients in the Products are not natural, gentle and/or hypoallergenic and the Products were, therefore, not what Defendant represented them to be. 10

11 97. Accordingly, Defendant breached express warranties about the Products and their qualities because the Products do not conform to Defendant's affirmations 12 13 and promises.

As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's breach of express 14 98. warranty, Plaintiff and members of the Class were harmed in the amount of the 15 purchase price they paid for the Products. Further, Plaintiff and members of the Class 16 have suffered and continue to suffer economic losses and other general and specific 17 damages including, but not limited to, the amounts paid for the Products, and any 18 interest that would have accrued on those monies, in an amount to be proven at trial. 19

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION **Unjust Enrichment** (for the Nationwide Class and California Subclass)

Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations of the preceding paragraphs 99. as if fully set forth herein.

100. By purchasing the Products, Plaintiff and members of the Class conferred a benefit on Defendant in the form of the purchase price of the Products.

101. Defendant had knowledge of such benefits.

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CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

102. Defendant appreciated the benefit because, were consumers not to purchase the Products, Defendant would not generate revenue from the sales of the Products.

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103. 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.

104. Equity cannot in good conscience permit Defendant to be economically enriched for such actions at the expense of Plaintiff and members of the Class, and therefore restitution and/or disgorgement of such economic enrichment is required

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all others similarly
situated, prays for judgment against Defendant as follows:

- A. For an order certifying the Nationwide Class and the California Subclass under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure; naming Plaintiff as representative of the Class and Subclass; and naming Plaintiff's attorneys as Class Counsel to represent the Class and Subclass;
 - B. For an order declaring that Defendant's conduct violates the statutes and laws referenced herein;
 - C. For an order awarding, as appropriate, compensatory and monetary damages, restitution or disgorgement to Plaintiff and the Class for all causes of action;

D. For an order requiring Defendant to immediately cease and desist from selling its misbranded Products in violation of law; enjoining Defendant from continuing to label, market, advertise, distribute, and sell the Products in the unlawful manner described herein; and ordering Defendant to engage in corrective action;

- E. For an order awarding attorneys' fees and costs;
- F. For an order awarding punitive damages;
- G. For an order awarding pre-and post-judgment interest; and

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

	Case 3:17-cv-00442-WQH-JMA	Document 1 Filed 03/03/17 PageID.22 Page 22 of 22
1	H. For such other and f	further relief as the Court deems just and proper.
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4	DATED: March 3, 2017	KAMBERLAW, LLP
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6		By: <u>/s/ Naomi B. Spector</u> Naomi B. Spector
7		Attorney for Plaintiff
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		CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

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JS 44 (Rev. 08/16)

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 BRITTANY SEBASTIAN, individually, on behalf of herself and others similarly situated (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff San Diego (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)				DEFENDANTS KIMBERLY-CLARK CORPORATION, KIMBERLY-CLARK WORLDWIDE, INC.; and KIMBERLY-CLARK GLOBAL SALES, LLC County of Residence of First Listed Defendant <u>Dela ware</u> (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.					
									ES, LLC
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name,)	Address, and Telephone Numbe	<i>T</i>)		Attorneys (If Known)		'17C	1112	WQHJ	IMA
Naomi Spector, Esq. and KamberLaw LLP, 9404 G			037 +			170	V 44Z	W QIIJ	
II. BASIS OF JURISDI	CTION (Place an "X" in (Ine Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF PI	RINCIPA	L PARTIES			
□ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	3 Federal Question (U.S. Government)	Not a Party)		(For Diversity Cases Only) PT en of This State		Incorporated or Pri of Business In T	incipal Place	Box for Defend PTF	dant) DEF D 4
2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizensh	ip of Parties in Item III)		en of Another State		of Business In A		•	X 5
				en or Subject of a reign Country	3 🗆 3	Foreign Nation		06	— 6
IV. NATURE OF SUIT			1		-	for: Nature of Sui			
CONTRACT 110 Insurance 120 Marine 130 Miller Act 140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment 151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits 160 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability 210 Land Condemnation 220 Foreclosure 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment 240 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability 290 All Other Real Property	PERSONAL INJURY 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product Liability 320 Assault, Libel &	PRTS PERSONAL INJUR BERSONAL INJUR BERSONAL INJUR BERSONAL INJUR BERSONAL PROVEL Liability BERSONAL PROPEI BERSONEL PROPEI BERSONEL PROPEI BERSONEL PROFINITIO BERSONEL PROFINITIO BERSONEL PROPEI BERSONEL PROFINITIO BERSONEL PROPEI BERSONEL PROFINITIO BERSONEL PROFINITION BERSONEL PROFINIT	Y 0 62 0 69 1 7 XTY 0 71 0 72 74 0 75 75 NS 0 79 e 0 46	CLABOR Other LABOR Other LABOR OFair Labor Standards Act Labor/Management Relations ORailway Labor Act Family and Medical Leave Act OCHER Labor Litigation Employee Retirement Income Security Act ImmiGRATION Name Conter Income Security Act Conter Income Secu	□ 422 Appe □ 423 With 28 U ■ 820 Copy □ 830 Paten □ 840 Trade ■ 861 HIA ■ 862 Black ■ 862 Black ■ 863 DIW ■ 864 SSID ■ 865 RSI (■ 870 Taxe or Du ■ 871 IRS- 26 U	ISC 157 RTY RIGHTS Trights tt emark SECURITY (1395ff) < Lung (923) C/DIWW (405(g)) 0 Title XVI (405(g)) AL TAX SUITS s (U.S. Plaintiff efendant)	□ 375 Fa □ 376 Qu 376 Qu 376 Qu 371 Qu 400 Stc 410 Art 430 Ba 450 Cc 450 Cc	nks and Bank mmerce sportation cketeer Influe rrupt Organiz insumer Credi ble/Sat TV curities/Comr change her Statutory gricultural Act vironmental N seedom of Info	et and et and et al and et
	a One Box Only) moved from 3 te Court	Remanded from Appellate Court	3 4 Rein Reop	in a finansie	r District	6 Multidistr Litigation Transfer		3 8 Multid Litigati Direct	ion -
VI. CAUSE OF ACTIC	28 U.S.C. Sectio	n 1332	re filing (1	(specify) Do not cite jurisdictional state					
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 2	IS A CLASS ACTION 3, F.R.Cv.P.		EMAND \$ Exceeds \$5M in agg		HECK YES only URY DEMAND:	if demande X Y		
VIII. RELATED CASE IF ANY	C(S) (See instructions):	JUDGE			DOCKE	T NUMBER			
DATE March 3, 2017	\mathcal{N}_{-}	SIGNATURE OF AT	TORNEY	OF RECORD					
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	~								
RECEIPT # AN	IOUNT	APPLYING IFP		JUDGE		MAG. JUI	DGE		

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 there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: <u>Nature of Suit Code Descriptions</u>.
- V. Origin. Place an "X" in one of the seven 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 – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.

Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket. **PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7.** Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statue.

- 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.

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Exhibit A

ĺ	Case 3:17-cv-00442-WQH-JMA Do	cument 1-2	Filed 03/03/17	PageID.26	Page 2 of 4
1 2 3 4 5	Naomi Spector (SBN 222573) Email: nspector@kamberlaw.com Christopher D. Moon (SBN 246622) Email: cmoon@kamberlaw.com KAMBERLAW, LLP 9404 Genesee Avenue, Suite 340 La Jolla, CA 92037 Phone: 310.400.1051 Fax: 212.202.6364	2)			
6 7	Attorneys for Brittany Sebastian, and All Others Similarly Situated				
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11	IN THE UNITE				
12	FOR THE SOUTH	ERN DISTI	RICT OF CAL	IFORNIA	
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14		Corre	No.: '17CV442		
15	BRITTANY SEBASTIAN, individually, on behalf of herself ar others similarly situated,	nd Case	INU.: 1707442		
16	Plaintiff,	DEC	LARATION O		IFF
17	VS.		TANY SEBAS		UANT
18	KIMBERLY-CLARK	тос	CIVIL CODE §	1780(d)	
19	CORPORATION; KIMBERLY-				
20 21	CLARK WORLDWIDE, INC.; and KIMBERLY-CLARK GLOBAL	d			
21	SALES, LLC,				
22	Defendants.				
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I, Brittany Sebastian, hereby declare:

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1. I am a named-plaintiff and a prospective class member in the above-entitled action.

2. I am an adult, over 18 years old. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein and could competently testify thereto if called upon to do so.

3. I am currently a resident of San Diego County, California. The Complaint filed 6 in this matter contains causes of action for violations of: (1) Unfair Competition Law, 7 Cal. Business & Professions Code §§ 17200 et seq. (the "UCL"); (2) False Advertising 8 Law, Cal. Business & Professions Code §§ 17500 et seq. (the "FAL"); (3) California's 9 Consumer Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civil Code §§ 1750 et seq. (the "CLRA"); (4) 10 Breach of Express Warranty; and (5) Unjust Enrichment. These causes of action arise 11 out of Defendant Kimberly-Clark Corporation's, Kimberly-Clark Worldwide, Inc.'s, 12 and Kimberly-Clark Global Sales, LLC's deceptive, unfair, and false merchandising 13 practices with respect to its Huggies Natural Care Baby wipes product ("Products" or 14 "Product"). 15

4. Civil Code § 1780(d) provides that a plaintiff seeking to bring a claim under
Section 1780(a) of the California Consumer Legal Remedies Act may commence that
action "in the county in which the person against whom it is brought resides, has his or
her principal place of business, or is doing business, or in the county where the
transaction or any substantial portion thereof occurred."

I purchased the Product at issue, Huggies Natural Care Baby wipes, in San
 Diego, California.

6. Accordingly, the Complaint filed in the above-entitled action, is filed in the proper venue pursuant to Civil Code § 1780(d).

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I declare under the penalty of perjury under laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Executed on March 2, 2017, in San Diego, California.

BSepasticin

BRITTANY SEBASTIAN