	Case 3:19-cv-01711 Document 1	Filed 04/02/19 Page 1 of 25				
1 2 3 4	GUTRIDE SAFIER LLP ADAM J. GUTRIDE (State Bar No. 181446) SETH A. SAFIER (State Bar No. 197427) MARIE A. MCCRARY (State Bar No. 26267 TODD KENNEDY (State Bar No. 250267) 100 Pine Street, Suite 1250 San Francisco, CA 94111	0)				
5	Telephone: (415) 271-6469 Facsimile: (415) 449-6469					
6	Attorneys for Plaintiffs					
7	ι ινιτείς στα τε	ES DISTRICT COURT				
8		RICT OF CALIFORNIA				
9 10						
10	NICOLE LOCKHART, BOBBI	C.A. No.:				
12	O'SULLIVAN, and ALEXIS JADE HUNTER, on behalf of themselves, the	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT				
13	general public, and those similarly situated,	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED				
14	Plaintiffs,					
15	V. DEVEDACE MADVETING USA INC					
16 17	BEVERAGE MARKETING USA, INC., HORNELL BREWING CO., INC, ARIZONA BEVERAGE COMPANY LLC, ARIZONA BEVERAGES USA					
18						
19	Defendants.					
20						
21						
22						
23						
24						
25						
26						
27						
28						
	Class A	- 1 - .ction Complaint				

1

2 **INTRODUCTION** 3 1. Plaintiffs Nicole Lockhart, Bobbi O'Sullivan, and Alexis Jade Hunter, by and 4 through their counsel, bring this class action against Beverage Marketing USA, Inc., Hornell 5 Brewing Co., Inc., AriZona Beverage Company LLC, AriZona Beverages USA LLC, and 6 AriZona Iced Tea LLC (collectively, "Defendants") on behalf of themselves, the general public, 7 and those similarly situated for violations of California's Consumer Legal Remedies Act 8 ("CLRA"), California Civil Code §§ 1750 et seq.; False Advertising Law ("FAL"), Cal. Bus. & 9 Prof. Code §§ 17200 et seq.; Unfair Competition Law ("UCL"), Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500 10 et seq.; common law fraud, deceit and/or misrepresentation; and unjust enrichment/restitution. 11 The following allegations are based upon information and belief, including the investigation of 12 Plaintiffs' counsel, unless stated otherwise 13 2. Defendants are among the world's largest producers of canned and bottled 14 beverages. Defendants' beverages are sold throughout the United States and California in 15 convenience stores and supermarkets such as Walmart, Kroger, Safeway, Costco, and Target. 16 3. Defendants' flagship product is "Green Tea with Ginseng and Honey" (the 17 "Product") Defendants claim on their website that the Product is "America's best-selling green 18 tea." 19 4. To sell the Product, Defendants represent to consumers that it contains ginseng in 20 an amount sufficient to provide energy to those who drink it. For example, on the 23-ounce can 21 and gallon jug containers of the Product, they represent that the drink contains "Ginseng for 22 energy." In addition, the Product title on the front of the containers has only six words, with 23 "ginseng" appearing in capital letters: "Green Tea With GINSENG and HONEY." 24 5. Consumers are familiar with the well-publicized benefits of consuming ginseng. 25 Ginseng is believed to be a cure for low energy, and is purported to have other health benefits. 26 6. Defendants themselves credit the presence of ginseng for the success of the 27 Product. On the primary webpage that Defendants designed for the Product, Defendants ask the 28 - 2 -

## Case 3:19-cv-01711 Document 1 Filed 04/02/19 Page 3 of 25

question "Ever wonder how it became so popular?" They answer it by saying that the Product contain "100% natural green tea," as well as "just the right amount of ginseng," as well as premium honey.<sup>1</sup>

7. The Product, however, does not contain any detectible amounts of ginseng, if indeed it contains any ginseng at all. Accordingly, Defendants' representations that (i) the Product has enough ginseng to provide energy; and (ii) the Product has "just the right amount of ginseng," are demonstrably false.

8 8. Defendants apparently decided to use, at best, a miniscule, scientifically
9 undetectable amount of ginseng in the Product (or, more likely, to entirely omit ginseng from the
10 Product), to increase their revenues. Over the past decade, demand for ginseng has skyrocketed
11 while supply has dwindled, causing prices to surge above \$1,000 per pound. Ginseng is so
12 coveted in the marketplace that certain species of ginseng have been harvested to the edge of
13 extinction. Defendants know that if they were to use enough ginseng in the Product to actually
14 provide energy to consumers, their revenues (and competitive advantage) would suffer.

9. Defendants never disclosed to consumers that the Product does not contain enough
 ginseng to provide energy. Defendants' misrepresentations and omissions have misled millions of
 consumers and caused them to pay a premium for the Product.

## PARTIES

10. Nicole Lockhart is, and at all times alleged in this Class Action Complaint was, an individual and resident of Huntington Beach, California.

21
 21
 22
 an individual and resident of Petaluma, California.

Alexis Jade Hunter is, and at all times alleged in this Class Action Complaint was,
 an individual and a resident of Hawthorne, California.

25 26

18

19

20

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

13. Defendant Beverage Marketing USA, Inc. is a corporation existing under the laws

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See https://www.drinkarizona.com/product/green-tea-with-ginseng-honey (last accessed March 28, 2019).

#### Case 3:19-cv-01711 Document 1 Filed 04/02/19 Page 4 of 25

1	of the State of the New York, having its principal place of business at 60 Crossways Park Drive,
2	Suite 400, Woodbury, NY 11797.
3	14. Defendant Hornell Brewing Co., Inc. is a corporation existing under the laws of
4	the State of the New York, having its principal place of business at 60 Crossways Park Drive,
5	Suite 400, Woodbury, NY 11797.
6	15. Defendant AriZona Beverages USA LLC is a company existing under the laws of
7	the State of New West having its minute of the other of the inner of CO Comparison Dark Drive State

the State of New York, having its principal place of business at 60 Crossways Park Drive, Suite 8 400, Woodbury, NY 11797.

16. Defendant AriZona Beverage Company LLC is a company existing under the laws of the State of New York, having its principal place of business at 60 Crossways Park Drive, Suite 400, Woodbury, NY 11797.

17. Defendant AriZona Iced Tea LLC is a company existing under the laws of the State of New York, having its principal place of business at 700 Columbia Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231.

15 18. At all times herein mentioned, each of the Defendants was the agent, servant, 16 representative, officer, director, partner or employee of the other defendants and, in doing the 17 things herein alleged, was acting within the scope and course of his/her/its authority as such, and 18 with the permission and consent of each Defendant.

19 19. At all times herein mentioned, each of the Defendants was a member of, and 20 engaged in, a joint venture, partnership and common enterprise, and acted within the course and 21 scope of, and in pursuance of, said joint venture, partnership and common enterprise. 22

20. At all times herein mentioned, the acts and omissions of each of the Defendants concurred and contributed to the various acts and omissions of each and all of the other Defendants in proximately causing the injuries and damages as herein alleged.

25 21. At all times herein mentioned, each of the Defendants ratified each and every act or omission complained of herein.

27 28

26

23

24

9

10

11

12

13

14

22. At all times herein mentioned, each of the Defendants aided and abetted the acts and omissions of each and all of the other Defendants in proximately causing the damages, and other injuries, as herein alleged.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

23. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2). The amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and this action is a class action in which at least one member of the class is a citizen of a State different from the defendants.

24. The injuries, damages and/or harm upon which this action is based occurred or arose out of activities engaged by Defendants within, affecting, and emanating from California. Defendants intentionally advertised the Product in California, representing that it contained "Ginseng for energy," causing a significant portion of reasonable consumers to believe that the Product contained enough ginseng to provide them with energy. Defendants distributed the Product in California knowing it would be sold at retail to consumers such as Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs purchased the Product in California based on Defendants' misrepresentations.

25. Each Defendant regularly conducts and/or solicits business in, engages in other
 persistent courses of conduct in, and/or derives substantial revenue from products provided to
 persons in California.

26. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claims occurred in the State of California, including within this District.

21 22

23

18

19

20

27. In accordance with California Civil Code Section 1780(d), Plaintiffs concurrently file herewith declarations establishing that, in 2008, they purchased the Product in California. (*See* Exhibits A, B and C.)

## 24 25

## SUBSTANTIVE ALLEGATIONS

26 28. The non-alcoholic beverages market is fiercely competitive. Beverage producers
27 continually attempt to gain market share in various ways, including by touting the ingredients in
28 their products and the positive ways that those ingredients will affect the consumer.

- 29. Operating under the brand name "AriZona," Defendants are large companies that produce, market, and distribute non-alcoholic beverages for sale to consumers.
- 30. Defendants understand that consumers are increasingly health-conscious and interested in consuming beverages that are healthy. At the same time, with the recent explosion of the energy drink market, Defendants also understand that consumers are increasingly interested in consuming beverages that provide energy, including by natural means.
- 31. By deciding to advertise the Product—their flagship beverage—as containing ginseng, Defendants have been able to capitalize on both of these market trends. Defendants effectively represent to consumers that they can consume a healthy beverage, while at the same time gaining energy from the ginseng, a natural product. Defendants know, however, that their representations are false; the Product does not contain enough ginseng to provide energy to consumers, if indeed it contains any ginseng at all.

## A. Defendants' Misrepresentations

32. Defendants repeatedly represent to consumers on the Product itself that it contains ginseng. The front of the label for the gallon jug of the Product states as follows:



ĺ	Case 3:19-cv-01711 Document 1 Filed 04/02/19 Page 7 of 25
1	
2	33. Likewise, the front of the label for the 23-ounce can appears as follows:
3	and the second sec
4	C T
5	GreenTea
6	With GINSENG
7	and HONEY
8	and FICINE 0
9	34. As can be seen in the two photographs above, the title of the product is "Green Tea
10	With GINSENG and HONEY," clearly representing to consumers that the product contains
11	ginseng.
12	35. Defendants also repeatedly represent to consumers that the amount of ginseng in
13	the Product is enough to provide energy to those who drink it. The back of the label for the gallon
14 15	jug of the Product appears as follows:
15 16	Enjoy America's best selling
10	ready-to-drink green tea! AriZona Green TeaWhere great taste and goodness
18	Come together Groop tog for
19	its health benefits, Ginseng for energy and nature's natural sweetener, honey.
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	
	- 7 - Class Action Complaint
	Class Action Complaint

	Case 3:19-cv-01711 Document 1 Flied 04/02/19 Page 8 01 25			
1	36. Similarly, the back of the label for the 23-ounce can of the Product appears as			
2	follows:			
3				
4				
5	Arizona.			
6	GREENTEA			
7	With GINSENG and HONEY Enjoy America's best selling			
8	Arizona Green Tea Whore great			
9 10	Green And goodness Green As to gether.			
11	Ginseng for energy and nature's natural sweetener, honey.			
12	37. As can be seen in the two photographs above, the containers for the Product			
13	prominently state that the Product contains "Ginseng for energy."			
14	38. The representation that the Product contains "Ginseng for energy" was uniformly			
15	communicated to Plaintiffs and every other person who purchased the Product during the			
16	proposed class period			
17	39. Defendants' website also represents to consumers that the Product contains a			
18	substantial amount of ginseng. On the primary webpage that Defendants designed for the Product,			
19	Defendants ask the question "Ever wonder how it became so popular?" They answer it by saying			
20	that the Product contains "100% natural green tea," as well as "just the right amount of ginseng,"			
21	as well as premium honey.			
22	40. The Product, however, does not contain any detectible amounts of ginseng, if			
23	indeed it contains any ginseng at all.			
24	41. Plaintiffs' counsel retained two respected food laboratories to conduct three tests			
25	of the Product for ginsenosides—the main chemical constituent of ginseng. Although various			
26	samples of the Product were tested using incredibly sensitive equipment, <sup>2</sup> none of the three tests			
27 28	<sup>2</sup> A ginsenoside would have been detected if it equaled or exceeded 0.624 mcg/g—equivalent to 0.624 parts per million.			
	- 8 - Class Action Complaint			
	Class Action Comptaint			

### Case 3:19-cv-01711 Document 1 Filed 04/02/19 Page 9 of 25

were able to detect *any* amount of ginsenosides in the Product. Thus, the testing confirmed that the Product contains either no ginseng at all, or, at best, an amount of ginseng that is so miniscule that it cannot be detected even by scientific tests and could not provide energy to a consumer.

- 42. The laboratories also tested several competing products made by other beverage producers. Like the Product, those competing products were advertised as containing ginseng.The labs confirmed that products made by competing brands, such as Republic of Tea and Starbucks, do contain ginseng.
- 43. Defendants' representations misled reasonable consumers into believing that the Product contains sufficient ginseng to provide energy to those who consume it.
- 10

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

## **B.** Consumer Demand for Ginseng

44. For thousands of years, ginseng has been used in Chinese medicine to treat
 numerous ailments. Ginseng is believed to boost both physical and mental energy.<sup>3</sup> In one study,
 for example, ginseng was shown to have antifatigue effects in patients with idiopathic chronic
 fatigue.<sup>4</sup> It is believed that main chemical constituents of ginseng, ginsenosides, is responsible for
 ginseng's positive effects.<sup>5</sup>

- 16 45. The ginseng plant is slow-growing and takes years to mature. In recent years, the
  17 demand for ginseng among has skyrocketed while supply has dwindled, causing prices to surge
  18 above \$1,000 per pound.<sup>6</sup> The plant is so coveted that certain species of ginseng have been
  19 harvested to the edge of extinction.<sup>7</sup>
- 20
  46. Defendants decided to use a miniscule, scientifically undetectable amount of
  21
  21
  22
- <sup>3</sup> See, e.g., https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/262982.php (last accessed March 29, 2019)
- <sup>4</sup> See Kim HG et al., Antifatigue effects of Panax ginsing C.A. Meyer: a randomized, double blind, placebo-controlled trial, PLoS One (April 17, 2013).
- <sup>5</sup> *See, e.g.*, https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/262982.php; Kim HG et al.
- <sup>6</sup> *See, e.g.*, https://www.nationalgeographic.com.au/people/as-demand-for-ginseng-soars-poachers-threaten-its-survival.aspx (last accessed March 29, 2019).
- $\frac{7}{5} See id.$

23

- 9 -

Defendants knew that if they were to use enough ginseng in the Product to actually provide energy to consumers, their revenues would suffer.

3

4

5

1

2

47. Defendants' advertising and labeling of the Product as containing "Ginseng for energy" is false, misleading, and intended to induce consumers to purchase the Product, at a premium price, while ultimately failing to meet consumer expectations.

6 7

8

9

48. Defendants engaged in the practices complained of herein to further their private interests of: (i) increasing sales of the Product, while decreasing the sales of competing beverages; and/or (ii) commanding a higher price for the Product because consumers will pay more for beverages containing ginseng in sufficient quantities to provide energy.

10 11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

## C. Plaintiffs' Experiences

49. Plaintiff Lockhart has purchased the Product many times within California over the past three years. For example, she purchased the gallon jug in July 2018 at Ralph's grocery store in Fountain Valley, California. She has purchased both the gallon jug and the 23-ounce can of the Product. Before purchasing the Product, she read and relied on Defendants' representation that the Product contains "Ginseng for energy." Ms. Lockhart believed this meant that the Product contained ginseng and that consuming it would provide the energy associated with ginseng consumption. At the time of each purchase, Ms. Lockhart did not know that the Product did not contain an amount of ginseng capable of providing any energy, if it contained any at all.

50. As a result of Defendants' misrepresentations and omissions, the Product has no, or, at, a minimum, a much lower, value to Ms. Lockhart. Had Ms. Lockhart known that the product does not contain enough ginseng to provide energy (or that the product does not contain any ginseng at all), she would not have purchased it or, at a minimum, would have paid less for it. Accordingly, Ms. Lockhart was injured by paying more money for the Product than she would have paid were it not for Defendants' misrepresentations.

- 25 26
- 26
- 27 28

51.

years. For example, she purchased the gallon jug of the Product in July 2018 at Safeway near her

home in Petaluma, California. Before purchasing the product, she read and relied on Defendants'

Plaintiff O'Sullivan purchased the Product within California within the past three

### Case 3:19-cv-01711 Document 1 Filed 04/02/19 Page 11 of 25

representation that the Product contains "Ginseng for energy." Ms. O'Sullivan believed this meant that the Product contained ginseng and that consuming it would provide the energy associated with ginseng consumption. At the time of each purchase, Ms. O'Sullivan did not know that the Product did not contain an amount of ginseng capable of providing any energy, if it contained any at all.

6 7

8

9

10

11

1

2

3

4

5

52. As a result of Defendants' misrepresentations and omissions, the Product has no, or, at, a minimum, a much lower, value to Ms. O'Sullivan. Had Ms. O'Sullivan known that the product does not contain enough ginseng to provide energy (or that the product does not contain any ginseng at all), she would not have purchased it or, at a minimum, would have paid less for it. Accordingly, Ms. O'Sullivan was injured by paying more money for the Product than she would have paid were it not for Defendants' misrepresentations.

12

53. Plaintiff Hunter purchased the Product within California within the past three 13 years. For example, she purchased the gallon jug of the Product in July 2018 at Ralph's grocery 14 store in Hawthorne, California. Before purchasing the product, she read and relied on Defendants' 15 representation that the Product contains "Ginseng for energy." Ms. Hunter believed this meant 16 that the Product contained ginseng and that consuming it would provide the energy associated 17 with ginseng consumption. At the time of each purchase, Ms. Hunter did not know that the 18 Product did not contain an amount of ginseng capable of providing any energy, if it contained any 19 at all.

20 54. As a result of Defendants' misrepresentations and omissions, the Product has no, 21 or, at, a minimum, a much lower, value to Ms. Hunter. Had Ms. Hunter known that the product 22 does not contain enough ginseng to provide energy (or that the product does not contain any 23 ginseng at all), she would not have purchased it or, at a minimum, would have paid less for it. 24 Accordingly, Ms. Hunter was injured by paying more money for the Product than she would have 25 paid were it not for Defendants' misrepresentations.

55. Plaintiffs continue to desire to purchase teas with quantities of ginseng sufficient to provide energy, including brands marketed and sold by Defendants. If Defendants' Product

28

26

## Case 3:19-cv-01711 Document 1 Filed 04/02/19 Page 12 of 25

17

18

24

25

26

were reformulated to include a level ginseng sufficient to provide energy, Plaintiffs would likely purchase Defendants' products again in the future. Plaintiffs regularly visit stores where Defendants' beverages are sold. Because Plaintiffs do not know the formula for Defendants' Product and cannot test whether or not the beverages are made using ginseng before purchasing, Plaintiffs will be unable to rely on Defendants' labels when shopping for beverages in the future absent an injunction that prohibits Defendants from labeling their beverages with the phrase "Ginseng for energy" unless the Product is actually made using a level of ginseng sufficient to produce an effect. Further, because green tea contains caffeine, it would be particularly difficult for Plaintiffs to determine, after consuming a future formula of the beverage, whether any resulting feeling of energy is attributable solely to caffeine or to instead to ginseng that may be in the formula. Likewise, because of changes in the market, Plaintiffs do not know at any given time, which brands are owned by Defendants and whether their representations about ginseng are truthful. Thus, Plaintiffs are likely to be repeatedly presented with false or misleading information when shopping for green tea and other soft drinks, making it difficult to make informed purchasing decisions. Should Defendants begin to market and sell a new brand of soft drink, Plaintiffs could be at risk for buying another one of Defendants' products in reliance on the same or similar misrepresentation.

## **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

19 56. Plaintiffs bring this action against Defendants, on behalf of themselves and all
 20 others similarly situated, as a class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil
 21 Procedure. Plaintiffs seek to represent the following groups of similarly situated persons, defined
 22 as follows:
 23

All persons who, between April 1, 2015 and the present, purchased the gallon jug or 23-ounce can of Arizona Green Tea with Ginseng and Honey in California (the "Class").

27 57. Plaintiffs and members of the proposed class have been economically damaged by
28 their purchase of the Product because the advertising for the Product was and is untrue and/or

## Case 3:19-cv-01711 Document 1 Filed 04/02/19 Page 13 of 25

misleading under California law; therefore, the Product is worth less than what Plaintiffs and members of the Class paid for them and/or Plaintiffs and members of the Class did not receive what they reasonably intended to receive.

- 58. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unfair and wrongful conduct, as set forth herein, Plaintiffs and the class members: (1) were misled into purchasing the Product; (2) received a product that failed to meet their reasonable expectations and Defendants' promises; (3) paid a premium sum of money for a product that was not as represented and, thus, were deprived of the benefit of the bargain because the purchased product had less value than what was represented by Defendants; and (4) ingested a substance that was other than what was represented by Defendants and that Plaintiffs and class members did not expect.
- 59. This action is properly brought and may be maintained as a class action because it satisfies all of the prerequisites of Rule 23.
- 60.Numerosity: Plaintiffs do not know the exact size of the class, but it far exceeds1000 persons.
- 61. <u>Typicality</u>: Plaintiffs are typical of the class because they were subject to the
  fraudulent scheme of Defendants as every other class member. They purchased the Product based
  on Defendants' false representation that it contains "Ginseng for energy." Like all other class
  members, they paid a premium as a result of that misrepresentation and suffered economic injury
  as a result. Thus, Plaintiffs and the class members sustained the same injuries and damages
  arising out of Defendants' conduct in violation of the law. The injuries and damages of each class
  member were caused directly by Defendants' wrongful conduct in violation of law as alleged.
- Adequacy: Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of all class
  members because it is in their best interests to prosecute the claims alleged herein to obtain full
  compensation due to them for the unfair and illegal conduct of which they complain. Plaintiffs
  have no interests that are in conflict with, or antagonistic to, the interests of class members.
  Plaintiffs have retained highly competent and experienced class action attorneys to represent their
  interests and those of the class. By prevailing on their claims, Plaintiffs will establish Defendants'
- 28

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

## Case 3:19-cv-01711 Document 1 Filed 04/02/19 Page 14 of 25

1

2

3

4

14

15

16

17

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

liability to all class members. Plaintiffs and their counsel have the necessary financial resources to adequately and vigorously litigate this class action, and Plaintiffs and counsel are aware of their fiduciary responsibilities to the class members and are determined to diligently discharge those duties by vigorously seeking the maximum possible recovery for class members.

5 63. Commonality and Predominance: This action involves common questions the 6 common answers of which will drive the resolution of this case for all class members because 7 each class member's claim derives from the deceptive, unlawful and/or unfair statements and 8 omissions that led consumers to believe that the Product contains ginseng. The Product contained 9 the representation "Ginseng for energy" throughout the class period. The Product's formula 10 likewise remained unchanged. Thus, all of the central issues in this case will be resolved via 11 common proof for all class members, establishing that common issues predominate over any 12 individual issues. The questions of law and fact common to the Class are: 13

- a) whether the Product contains ginseng and, if so in what quantity;
  b) whether Defendants unfairly, unlawfully and/or deceptively misrepresented that the Product contains sufficient "Ginseng for energy";
  - whether the use of the phrase "Ginseng for energy" on the display panel of the Product violated Federal and/or California state law;
- 18
  d) whether the advertising of the product as having "Ginseng for energy"
  19
  20
  20
  similar products that do not make such a claim;

 e) whether Defendants' advertising and marketing regarding the Product sold to the class members was likely to deceive the class members and/or was unfair;

- f) whether the "Ginseng for energy" claim on Product packaging and advertising is material to a reasonable consumer's decision to purchase the Product;
  - g) whether Defendants engaged in the alleged conduct knowingly, recklessly,

or negligently;

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

- h) the amount of profits and revenues earned by Defendants as a result of their conduct;
- whether class members are entitled to restitution, injunctive and other
   equitable relief and, if so, what is the nature (and amount) of such relief;
   and
- j) whether class members are entitled to payment of actual, incidental,
   consequential, exemplary and/or statutory damages plus interest thereon,
   and if so, what is the nature of such relief.

10 64. Superiority: There is no plain, speedy, or adequate remedy other than by 11 maintenance of this class action. The prosecution of individual remedies by members of the class 12 will tend to establish inconsistent standards of conduct for Defendants and result in the 13 impairment of class members' rights and the disposition of their interests through actions to 14 which they were not parties. Class action treatment will permit a large number of similarly 15 situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, 16 and without the unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions 17 would engender. Furthermore, as the damages suffered by each individual member of the class 18 may be relatively small, the expenses and burden of individual litigation would make it difficult 19 or impossible for individual members of the class to redress the wrongs done to them, while an 20 important public interest will be served by addressing the matter as a class action.

65. Plaintiffs 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.

## PLAINTIFFS' FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

## (Violation of the Consumers Legal Remedies Act (the "CLRA"), California Civil Code § 1750, *et seq*.)

66. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate the paragraphs of this Class Action Complaint as if set forth herein.

## Case 3:19-cv-01711 Document 1 Filed 04/02/19 Page 16 of 25

67. Defendants' actions, representations and conduct have violated, and continue to violate the CLRA, because they extend to transactions that are intended to result, or which have resulted, in the sale of goods to consumers.

68. Plaintiffs and class members are "consumers" as that term is defined by the CLRA in California Civil Code § 1761(d).

6

7

1

2

3

4

5

69. The Products that Plaintiffs (and other similarly situated class members) purchased from Defendants were "goods" within the meaning of California Civil Code § 1761(a).

70. Defendants' acts and practices, set forth in this Class Action Complain, led
 Plaintiffs and similarly situated consumers to falsely believe that the Product contained sufficient
 ginseng to provide energy to those who drink it. In truth, the Product does not contain any
 detectible amounts of ginseng (if indeed they contain any ginseng at all), so Defendants' claim
 that consumers can obtain energy from ginseng in the Product is false.

- 13 71. By engaging in the actions, representations and conduct set forth in this Class 14 Action Complaint, Defendants have violated, and continue to violate, \$ 1770(a)(5), \$ 1770(a)(7),15 § 1770(a)(8), and § 1770(a)(9) of the CLRA. In violation of California Civil Code §1770(a)(5), 16 Defendants' acts and practices constitute improper representations that the goods they sell have 17 sponsorship, approval, characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities, which they do not 18 have. In violation of California Civil Code §1770(a)(7), Defendants' acts and practices constitute 19 improper representations that the goods they sell are of a particular standard, quality, or grade, 20 when they are of another. In violation of California Civil Code §1770(a)(8), Defendants 21 disparaged and continue to disparage the goods, services, or business of another by false or 22 misleading representation of fact. In violation of California Civil Code §1770(a)(8), Defendants 23 falsely or deceptively market and advertise that, unlike other green teas, their Product contains 24 sufficient ginseng to provide energy to those who consume it. Finally, in violation of California 25 Civil Code §1770(a)(9), Defendants advertise and continue to advertise goods or services with 26 intent not to sell them as advertised.
- 27 28

72. Plaintiffs request that this Court enjoin Defendants from continuing to employ the

## Case 3:19-cv-01711 Document 1 Filed 04/02/19 Page 17 of 25

unlawful methods, acts and practices alleged herein pursuant to California Civil Code § 1780(a)(2). If Defendants are not restrained from engaging in these types of practices in the future, Plaintiffs and the other members of the Class will continue to suffer harm.

4 73. On October 22, 2018 and October 26, 2018, Plaintiffs provided Defendants with 5 notice and demand that they correct, repair, replace or otherwise rectify the unlawful, unfair, false 6 and/or deceptive practices complained of herein. (See Exhibit D.) The October 22 notice was sent 7 via certified mail, return receipt requested, to AriZona Beverage Company LLC and AriZona 8 Beverages USA LLC, c/o National Registered Agents, Inc., 111 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 9 10011. The October 26 notice was sent to (i) AriZona Beverages USA LLC, c/o Martin 10 Cunningham, 60 Crossways Park Drive West, Woodbury, NY 11797; and (ii) Hornell Brewing 11 Co., Inc., c/o National Registered Agents, Inc., 111 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 1001. (See 12  $(id_i)^8$  Despite receiving the aforementioned notices and demands, Defendants did not respond in 13 any way. Defendants also failed to take any action in response to the notice and demand, as they 14 did not identify similarly situated customers, notify them of their right to correction, repair, 15 replacement or other remedy, and/or to provide that remedy. Accordingly, Plaintiffs seek, 16 pursuant to California Civil Code § 1780(a)(3), on behalf of themselves and those similarly 17 situated class members, compensatory damages, punitive damages and restitution of any ill-gotten 18 gains due to Defendants' acts and practices. 19 Plaintiffs also requests that this Court award their costs and reasonable attorneys' 74. 20

fees pursuant to California Civil Code § 1780(d).

## 22

21

1

2

3

## PLAINTIFFS' SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

23

## (False Advertising, Business and Professions Code § 17500, et seq. ("FAL"))

24 75. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the paragraphs of this Class Action
25 Complaint as if set forth herein.

26 76. Beginning at an exact date unknown to Plaintiffs, but within three (3) years
27 preceding the filing of the Class Action Complaint, Defendants made untrue, false, deceptive

- <sup>28</sup> <sup>8</sup> Hornell is the parent corporation of the AriZona limited liability companies.
  - 17 -

## Case 3:19-cv-01711 Document 1 Filed 04/02/19 Page 18 of 25

1 and/or misleading statements in connection with the advertising and marketing of the Product. 2 77. Defendants made representations and statements (by omission and commission) 3 that led reasonable consumers to believe that the Product that they were purchasing contained 4 sufficient ginseng to provide energy to those who drink it. 5 78. In truth, the Product does not contain any detectible amounts of ginseng (if indeed 6 it contains any ginseng at all), so Defendants' claim that consumers can obtain energy from 7 ginseng in the Product is false. 8 79. Plaintiffs and those similarly situated relied to their detriment on Defendants' 9 false, misleading and deceptive advertising and marketing practices, including each of the 10 misrepresentations and omissions set forth in Section A of the Substantive Allegations above. 11 Had Plaintiffs and those similarly situated been adequately informed and not intentionally 12 deceived by Defendants, they would have acted differently by, without limitation, refraining from 13 purchasing the Product or paying less for it. 14 80. Defendants' acts and omissions are likely to deceive the general public. 15 81. Defendants engaged in these false, misleading and deceptive advertising and 16 marketing practices to increase their profits. Accordingly, Defendants engaged in false 17 advertising, as defined and prohibited by section 17500, et seq. of the California Business and 18 Professions Code. 19 82. The aforementioned practices, which Defendants used, and continue to use, to 20 their significant financial gain, also constitutes unlawful competition and provides an unlawful 21 advantage over Defendants' competitors as well as injury to the general public. 22 83. As a direct and proximate result of such actions, Plaintiffs and the other class 23 members have suffered, and continue to suffer, injury in fact and have lost money and/or property 24 as a result of such false, deceptive and misleading advertising in an amount which will be proven 25 at trial, but which is in excess of the jurisdictional minimum of this Court. 26 84. Plaintiffs seek, on behalf of themselves and those similarly situated, full restitution 27 of monies, as necessary and according to proof, to restore any and all monies acquired by 28

Defendants from Plaintiffs, the general public, or those similarly situated by means of the false, misleading and deceptive advertising and marketing practices complained of herein, plus interest thereon.

4 85. Plaintiffs seek, on behalf of themselves and those similarly situated, a declaration 5 that the above-described practices constitute false, misleading and deceptive advertising. 6 86. Plaintiffs seek, on behalf of themselves and those similarly situated, an injunction 7 to prohibit Defendants from continuing to engage in the false, misleading and deceptive 8 advertising and marketing practices complained of herein. Such misconduct by Defendants, 9 unless and until enjoined and restrained by order of this Court, will continue to cause injury in 10 fact to the general public and the loss of money and property in that Defendants will continue to 11 violate the laws of California, unless specifically ordered to comply with the same. This 12 expectation of future violations will require current and future consumers to repeatedly and 13 continuously seek legal redress in order to recover monies paid to Defendants to which they are 14 not entitled. Plaintiffs, those similarly situated and/or other consumers nationwide have no other 15 adequate remedy at law to ensure future compliance with the California Business and Professions 16

Code alleged to have been violated herein. 17

1

2

3

18

21

22

## PLAINTIFFS' THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent trade practices violation of Business and Professions 19 Code § 17200, et seq.) 20 87. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the paragraphs of this Class Action Complaint as if set forth herein.

88. Within four (4) years preceding the filing of this lawsuit, and at all times 23 mentioned herein, Defendants have engaged, and continue to engage, in unlawful, unfair, and 24 fraudulent trade practices in California by engaging in the unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent 25 business practices outlined in this complaint. 26

89. In particular, Defendants have engaged, and continue to engage, in unlawful 27 practices by, without limitation, violating the following state and federal laws: (i) the CLRA as 28

## Case 3:19-cv-01711 Document 1 Filed 04/02/19 Page 20 of 25

described herein; (ii) the FAL as described herein; (iii) the advertising provisions of the Sherman Law (Article 3), including without limitation, California Health & Safety Code §§ 110390, 110395, 110398 and 110400; (iv) the misbranded food provisions of the Sherman Law (Article 6), including without limitation, California Health & Safety Code §§ 110660, 110665, 110705, 110740, 110760, 110765, and 110770; and (v) and federal laws regulating the advertising and branding of food in 21 U.S.C. § 343(a), et seq. and FDA regulations, including but not limited to 21 C.F.R. 101.3, 101.4, 101.13, 101.14, and 101.22, which are incorporated into the Sherman Law (California Health & Safety Code §§ 110100(a), 110380, and 110505). 90. In particular, Defendants have engaged, and continue to engage, in unfair and

fraudulent practices by misrepresenting that the Product contains "Ginseng for energy."

91. In truth, the Product does not contain any detectible amounts of ginseng (if indeed it contains any ginseng at all), so Defendants' claim that consumers can obtain energy from ginseng in the Product is false.

14 92. Plaintiffs and those similarly situated relied to their detriment on Defendants' 15 unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent business practices. Had Plaintiffs and those similarly situated 16 been adequately informed and not deceived by Defendants, they would have acted differently by not purchasing the product or, at a minimum, paying less for it.

18 19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

17

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

93. Defendants' acts and omissions are likely to deceive the general public.

94. Defendants engaged in these deceptive and unlawful practices to increase their profits. Accordingly, Defendants have engaged in unlawful trade practices, as defined and prohibited by section 17200, et seq. of the California Business and Professions Code.

95. The aforementioned practices, which Defendants have used to their significant financial gain, also constitute unlawful competition and provide an unlawful advantage over Defendants' competitors as well as injury to the general public.

96. As a direct and proximate result of such actions, Plaintiffs and the other class members have suffered and continue to suffer injury in fact and have lost money and/or property as a result of such deceptive and/or unlawful trade practices and unfair competition in an amount

## Case 3:19-cv-01711 Document 1 Filed 04/02/19 Page 21 of 25

which will be proven at trial, but which is in excess of the jurisdictional minimum of this Court.Among other things, Plaintiffs and the class members lost the amount of money they paid for the Product.

97. As a direct and proximate result of such actions, Defendants have enjoyed, and continue to enjoy, significant financial gain in an amount which will be proven at trial, but which is in excess of the jurisdictional minimum of this Court.

98. Plaintiffs seek, on behalf of themselves and those similarly situated, full restitution of monies, as necessary and according to proof, to restore any and all monies acquired by Defendants from Plaintiffs, the general public, or those similarly situated by means of the deceptive and/or unlawful trade practices complained of herein, plus interest thereon.

99. Plaintiffs seek, on behalf of those similarly situated, a declaration that the abovedescribed trade practices are fraudulent, unfair, and/or unlawful.

13 Plaintiffs seek, on behalf of those similarly situated, an injunction to prohibit 100. 14 Defendants from continuing to engage in the deceptive and/or unlawful trade practices 15 complained of herein. Such misconduct by Defendants, unless and until enjoined and restrained 16 by order of this Court, will continue to cause injury in fact to the general public and the loss of 17 money and property in that Defendants will continue to violate the laws of California, unless 18 specifically ordered to comply with the same. This expectation of future violations will require 19 current and future consumers to repeatedly and continuously seek legal redress in order to recover 20 monies paid to Defendants to which they are not entitled. Plaintiffs, those similarly situated 21 and/or other consumers nationwide have no other adequate remedy at law to ensure future 22 compliance with the California Business and Professions Code alleged to have been violated 23 herein.

## 24 25

26

27

28

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

## <u>PLAINTIFF'S FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION</u> (Common Law Fraud, Deceit and/or Misrepresentation)

101. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate by reference the paragraphs of this Class Action Complaint as if set forth herein.

102. Throughout the last four years, Defendants fraudulently and deceptively informed Plaintiffs and the proposed class that the Product contains sufficient ginseng to provide energy to those who drink it.

103. Defendants failed to inform Plaintiffs and class members that the Product does not contain any detectible amounts of ginseng (if indeed it contains any ginseng at all), so Defendants' claim that consumers can obtain energy from ginseng in the Product is false.

104. These misrepresentations and omissions were known exclusively to, and actively concealed by, Defendants, not reasonably known or knowable to Plaintiffs or class members, and material at the time they were made. Defendants knew the composition of the Product and knew that the soft drinks contained no detectable amounts of ginseng or ginsenosides. Defendants intended to deceive consumers through its product label into believing that the Product contained "Ginseng for energy" when they knew it did not contain sufficient ginseng to impart any energy, as the misrepresentation was made prominently on the Product itself and reinforced through Defendants' advertising.

105. Defendants' misrepresentations and omissions concerned material facts that were essential to the analysis undertaken by Plaintiffs and class members as to whether to purchase the Product. Defendants breached their duty to Plaintiffs and to the proposed class by misleading them. Defendants also gained financially from, and as a result of, their breach.

19 106. Plaintiffs and those similarly situated relied to their detriment on Defendants' 20 misrepresentations and fraudulent omissions. Had Plaintiffs and those similarly situated been adequately informed and not intentionally deceived by Defendants, they would have acted 22 differently by not purchasing the Product or, at a minimum, paying less for it.

23 107. By and through such fraud, deceit, misrepresentations and/or omissions, 24 Defendants intended to induce Plaintiffs and those similarly situated to alter their position to their 25 detriment. Specifically, Defendants fraudulently and deceptively induced Plaintiffs and those 26 similarly situated to, without limitation, purchase the Product.

27 28

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

4	
1	108. Plaintiffs and those similarly situated justifiably and reasonably relied on
2	Defendants' misrepresentations and omissions, and, accordingly, were damaged by Defendants.
3	109. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' misrepresentations and/or
4	omissions, Plaintiffs and those similarly situated have suffered damages, including, without
5	limitation, the amount they paid for the Product.
6	110. Defendants' conduct as described herein was wilful and malicious and was
7	designed to maximize Defendants' profits even though Defendants knew that it would cause loss
8	and harm to Plaintiffs and those similarly situated.
9	PLAINTIFF'S FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION
10	(Negligent Misrepresentation)
11	111. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate the above paragraphs of this Class Action
12	Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
13	112. Defendants negligently and falsely represented to Plaintiffs and those similarly
14	situated that the Product contains "Ginseng for energy" which reasonably led consumers to
15	believe that they the Product contained sufficient ginseng to provide energy to those who drink it.
16	113. Defendants expected, knew or should have known, at all relevant times, that
17	reasonable consumers would rely on the statement "Ginseng for energy" and on the absence of
18	adequate disclosures to the contrary and that the information provided to and withheld from
19	Plaintiffs and class members would guide or influence them in their purchasing decisions and
20	would result in an inflated price for the Product.
21	114. In truth, the Product does not contain any detectible amounts of ginseng (if indeed
22	it contains any ginseng at all), so Defendants' claim that consumers can obtain energy from
23	ginseng in the Product is false.
24	115. Whether or not the Product contains ginseng in sufficient quantities to provide the
25	energy associated with ginseng consumption was material to the decision of Plaintiffs and those
26	similarly situated to purchase the Product. Had Plaintiffs and those similarly situated known that
27	the Product does not contain ginseng sufficient quantities of ginseng to provide energy, they
28	
	- 23 -

## Case 3:19-cv-01711 Document 1 Filed 04/02/19 Page 24 of 25

1	would have acted differently by, without limitation, not purchasing (or paying less for) the						
2	Product.						
3	116. Plaintiffs and those similarly situated were unaware of the falsity of Defendants'						
4	representations, and justifiably relied on them in purchasing the Product.						
5	117. Due to their justifiable reliance on Defendants' misrepresentations, Plaintiffs and						
6	those similarly situated suffered pecuniary loss.						
7	PLAINTIFF'S SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION						
8	(Unjust Enrichment)						
9	118. Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate the above paragraphs of this Class Action						
10	Complaint as if fully set forth herein.						
11	119. As a result of Defendants' unlawful and deceptive actions with respect to the						
12	"Ginseng for energy" representation described above, Defendants were enriched at the expense of						
13	Plaintiffs and those similarly situated through their payment of monies to obtain the Product.						
14	120. The Product does not contain any detectible amounts of ginseng (if indeed it						
15 16	contains any ginseng at all).						
10	121. Under the circumstances, it would be contrary to equity and good conscience to						
17	permit Defendants to retain the ill-gotten benefits they received from Plaintiffs and those						
18 19	similarly situated.						
20	122. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiffs and those similarly situated were damaged in						
20 21	the amount they paid to obtain the Product.						
21	<u>REQUEST FOR RELIEF</u>						
22	WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and those similarly situated,						
23 24	respectfully requests that the Court enter judgment against Defendants as follows:						
25	A. Certification of the proposed Class, including appointment of Plaintiffs' counsel as						
26	class counsel;						
20 27	B. An order temporarily and permanently enjoining Defendants from continuing the						
28	unlawful, deceptive, fraudulent, and unfair business practices alleged in this						
-	- 24 -						
	Class Action Complaint						

	Case 3:19-cv-01711 Document 1 Filed 04/02/19 Page 25 of 25			
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	<ul> <li>Complaint;</li> <li>C. An award of compensatory damages in an amount to be determined at trial;</li> <li>D. An award of punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial;</li> <li>E. An award of statutory damages in an amount to be determined at trial;</li> <li>F. An award of restitution in an amount to be determined at trial;</li> <li>G. An order requiring Defendants to pay both pre- and post-judgment interest on any amounts awarded;</li> <li>H. For reasonable attorneys' fees and the costs of suit incurred;</li> <li>I. For such further relief as this Court may deem just and proper;</li> </ul>			
10				
11	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED Plaintiffs hereby demand a trial by jury as to all issues.			
12	i initialis hereey demand a thar ey jury as to an issues.			
13	Dated: April 2, 2019 GUTRIDE SAFIER LLP			
14	/s/ Todd Kennedy/			
15	Todd Kennedy (California Bar No. 250267)			
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24 25				
25 26				
26 27				
27				
20	- 25 -			
	Class Action Complaint			

## **EXHIBIT** A

DocuSign Envelop	e ID: 866725D8-3C22-4497-BB1A-D73FC83D0C21 Case 3.19-cv-01711 Document 1-1 Filed 04/02/19 Page 2 of 3
1	EXHIBIT A
2	I, Nicole Lockhart, declare:
3	1. I am a Plaintiff in this action. If called upon to testify, I could and would
4	competently testify to the matters contained herein based upon my personal knowledge.
5	2. I submit this Declaration pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section
6	2215.5 and California Civil Code section 1780(d).
7	3. Within the last year, I purchased Arizona Green Tea (advertised as having ginseng)
8	while residing in Huntington Beach, California. I purchased the product at one or more stores in
9	California, in or near Huntington Beach.
10	4. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of California that the foregoing is
11	true and correct.
12	Executed in Huntington Beach, California on 8/17/2018 5:46:04 PM PDT
13	
14	Docusigned by: Mcole Lockhart
15	Nicole Lockhart
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	
	DECLARATION RE CAL. CIV. CODE SECTION 1780(D) JURISDICTION

 DocuSign Envelope 	e ID: A275E846-9CF3-4F78-8DD1-1A8946202C5A Case 3:19-cv-01711 Document 1-1 Filed 04/02/19 Page 3 of 3						
1	EXHIBIT A						
2	I, Alexis Jade Hunter, declare:						
3	1. I am a Plaintiff in this action. If called upon to testify, I could and would						
4	competently testify to the matters contained herein based upon my personal knowledge.						
5	2. I submit this Declaration pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure section						
6	2215.5 and California Civil Code section 1780(d).						
7	3. Within the last year, I purchased Arizona Green Tea (advertised as having ginseng)						
8	while residing in Hawthorne, California. I purchased the product at one or more stores in						
9	California, in or near Hawthorne.						
10	4. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of California that the foregoing is						
11	true and correct.						
12	Executed in Hawthorne, California on 8/15/2018 5:50:44 PM PDT						
13							
14	DocuSigned by:						
15	Alexis Jade Hunter						
16							
17							
18							
19							
20							
21							
22							
23							
24							
25							
26							
27							
28							
	DECLARATION RE CAL. CIV. CODE SECTION 1780(D) JURISDICTION						

# **EXHIBIT B**

#### VIA CERTIFIED MAIL; RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

October 26, 2018

Page

AriZona Beverage Company LLC and AriZona Beverages USA LLC c/o National Registered Agents, Inc. 111 Eighth Avenue New York, New York 10011

## Re: Ongoing violations of the California Consumers Legal Remedies Act and other California laws

se 3:19-cv-01711 Document 1-2 Filed 04/02/19

Dear Sirs:

I write on behalf of my clients, Alexis Jade Hunter, Nicole Lockhart, and Bobbi O'Sullivan, and the class of similarly situated persons they will seek to represent, to advise you that AriZona Beverage Company LLC, AriZona Beverages USA LLC, and their franchisees, operating entities and subsidiaries (collectively "Arizona") have violated, and continue to violate, California's Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus & Prof. Code §§ 17500 *et seq.*; False Advertising Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*; and the Consumers Legal Remedies Act ("CLRA"), California Civil Code §§1750 *et seq.*, in connection with their marketing, advertisement, and sale of their Green Tea with Ginseng beverage (the "Beverage"). I ask that Arizona remedy these violations within thirty (30) days.

Arizona specifically represents that the Beverage contains ginseng in an amount sufficient to provide energy to those who drink it. Although Arizona sells the Beverage in various containers, each container states on the front that the Beverage is "Green Tea with GINSENG." The ingredients listed on the back of the containers include "ginseng extract" as the penultimate ingredient. Some of the containers, like the gallon jug, further state that the Beverage contains "Ginseng for energy." Arizona's website states that the Beverage has "[j]ust the right amount of ginseng."<sup>1</sup>

T 415 639-9090

100 Pine Street, Suite 1250 San Francisco, CA 94111

www.gutridesafier.com @......

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See https://www.drinkarizona.com/product/green-tea-with-ginseng-honey (last accessed October 22, 2018).

#### Case 3:19-cv-01711 Document 1-2 Filed 04/02/19 Page 3 of 10

The Beverage, however, contains no ginseng. My law firm retained two respected food laboratories to conduct three tests for ginsenosides, the constituent chemical compounds of ginseng. Although various samples of the Beverage were tested, all three tests confirmed that the Beverage contains no ginseng. To confirm the validity of the tests, we also had these laboratories run the same tests on competing products. Those products, unlike the Beverage, were found to contain ginseng.

My clients, who are California residents, purchased the Beverage within the last year. When they made their purchases, they did so based on Arizona's representations that the Beverage contains ginseng. Had they known that those representations are false, they would not have made their purchases, or would have paid significantly less.

Arizona's activities violate California Civil Code section 1770(a), in particular by:

- representing that goods have characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities that they do not have;
- using deceptive representations in connection with goods;
- making improper representations that the goods and/or services it sells are of a particular standard, quality, or grade, when they are of another; and
- advertising goods or services with intent not to sell them as advertised.

My clients have not yet filed a class action complaint under the CLRA, but they will do so, unless, within thirty (30) days, Arizona does the following:

- identifies all consumers who purchased the Beverage or makes reasonable efforts to identify such consumers;
- notifies all consumers so identified that upon their request, Arizona will refund the price premium they paid (i.e., the difference between the price consumers paid for the Beverage and the price they would have paid but for Arizona's misrepresentations);
- gives any such requested remedy to the consumers within in a reasonable amount of time; and

immediately ceases from engaging, or if immediate cessation is . impossible or unreasonably expensive under the circumstances, then ceases from engaging within a reasonable time in the abovecomplained of methods, act, or practices.

Thus, a failure by Arizona to act within thirty (30) days is equivalent to the denial of the claim. In the event a CLRA class action complaint is filed, Arizona may be liable for the following monetary amounts:

- actual damages suffered;
- punitive damages;
- costs and attorney's fees related to suit; and •
- penalties of up to \$5,000.00 for each incident where senior citizens have suffered substantial physical, emotional or economic damage resulting from Arizona's conduct.

My clients would prefer to avoid filing a lawsuit. However, if necessary, they will do so. My law firm has extensive experience litigating against companies in the beverage industry, including in cases involving the lack of advertised ingredients. For example, we are recently achieved class certification against Dr. Pepper Snapple Group Inc. based on allegations that Canada Dry ginger ale is not "made from real ginger." We are also litigating a similar case against Coca-Cola relating to Seagram's ginger ale.

I hope that Arizona is willing to correct its unlawful practices. Please call me at (415)-336-6545 if you wish to further discuss this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Sett GA Seth A. Safier, Esq

## VIA CERTIFIED MAIL; RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

3:19-cv-01711

November 14, 2018

Document 1-2 Filed 04/02/19

AriZona Beverages USA LLC c/o Martin Cunningham 60 Crossways Park Drive West Woodbury, NY 11797

Hornell Brewing Co., Inc. c/o National Registered Agents, Inc. 111 Eighth Avenue New York, NY 10011

## Re: Ongoing violations of the California Consumers Legal Remedies Act and other California laws

Dear Sirs:

I write on behalf of my clients, Alexis Jade Hunter, Nicole Lockhart, and Bobbi O'Sullivan, and the class of similarly situated persons they will seek to represent, to advise you that AriZona Beverage Company LLC, AriZona Beverages USA LLC, and their franchisees, operating entities and subsidiaries (collectively "Arizona") have violated, and continue to violate, California's Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus & Prof. Code §§ 17500 *et seq.*; False Advertising Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*; and the Consumers Legal Remedies Act ("CLRA"), California Civil Code §§1750 *et seq.*, in connection with their marketing, advertisement, and sale of their Green Tea with Ginseng beverage (the "Beverage"). I ask that Arizona remedy these violations within thirty (30) days.

Arizona specifically represents that the Beverage contains ginseng in an amount sufficient to provide energy to those who drink it. Although Arizona sells the Beverage in various containers, each container states on the front that the Beverage is "Green Tea with GINSENG." The ingredients listed on the back of the containers include "ginseng extract" as the penultimate ingredient. Some of the containers, like the gallon jug, further state that the Beverage

110 101100

contains "Ginseng for energy." Arizona's website states that the Beverage has "[j]ust the right amount of ginseng."<sup>1</sup>

The Beverage, however, contains no ginseng. My law firm retained two respected food laboratories to conduct three tests for ginsenosides, the constituent chemical compounds of ginseng. Although various samples of the Beverage were tested, all three tests confirmed that the Beverage contains no ginseng. To confirm the validity of the tests, we also had these laboratories run the same tests on competing products. Those products, unlike the Beverage, were found to contain ginseng.

My clients, who are California residents, purchased the Beverage within the last year. When they made their purchases, they did so based on Arizona's representations that the Beverage contains ginseng. Had they known that those representations are false, they would not have made their purchases, or would have paid significantly less.

Arizona's activities violate California Civil Code section 1770(a), in particular by:

- representing that goods have characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities that they do not have;
- using deceptive representations in connection with goods;
- making improper representations that the goods and/or services it sells are of a particular standard, quality, or grade, when they are of another; and
- advertising goods or services with intent not to sell them as advertised.

My clients have not yet filed a class action complaint under the CLRA, but they will do so, unless, within thirty (30) days, Arizona does the following:

 identifies all consumers who purchased the Beverage or makes reasonable efforts to identify such consumers;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See https://www.drinkarizona.com/product/green-tea-with-ginseng-honey (last accessed October 22, 2018).

#### Case 3:19-cv-01711 Document 1-2 Filed 04/02/19 Page 7 of 10

- notifies all consumers so identified that upon their request, Arizona will refund the price premium they paid (i.e., the difference between the price consumers paid for the Beverage and the price they would have paid but for Arizona's misrepresentations);
- gives any such requested remedy to the consumers within in a reasonable amount of time; and
- immediately ceases from engaging, or if immediate cessation is impossible or unreasonably expensive under the circumstances, then ceases from engaging within a reasonable time in the abovecomplained of methods, act, or practices.

Thus, a failure by Arizona to act within thirty (30) days is equivalent to the denial of the claim. In the event a CLRA class action complaint is filed, Arizona may be liable for the following monetary amounts:

- actual damages suffered;
- punitive damages;
- · costs and attorney's fees related to suit; and
- penalties of up to \$5,000.00 for each incident where senior citizens have suffered substantial physical, emotional or economic damage resulting from Arizona's conduct.

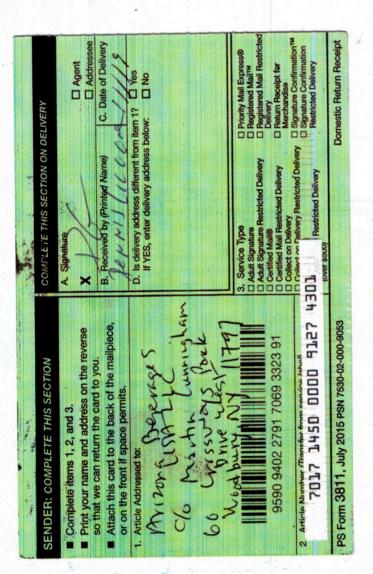
My clients would prefer to avoid filing a lawsuit. However, if necessary, they will do so. My law firm has extensive experience litigating against companies in the beverage industry, including in cases involving the lack of advertised ingredients. For example, we are recently achieved class certification against Dr. Pepper Snapple Group Inc. based on allegations that Canada Dry ginger ale is not "made from real ginger." We are also litigating a similar case against Coca-Cola relating to Seagram's ginger ale.

<sup>///</sup> 

I hope that Arizona is willing to correct its unlawful practices. Please call me at (415)-336-6545 if you wish to further discuss this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Seth A. Safier, Esq.



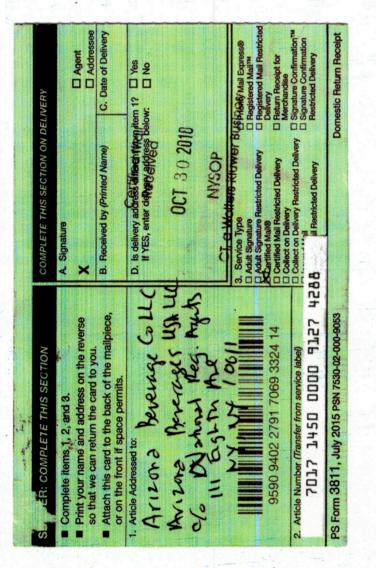


14

1

and the second

20





•

2

....

## JS-CAND 44 (Rev. 06/17) Case 3:19-cv-01711 Decument 1-3, Filed 04/02/19 Page 1 of 1

The JS-CAND 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 in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS NICOLE LOCKHART, BOBBI O'SULLIVAN and ALEXIS JADE HUNTER on behalf of themselves, the general public, and those similarly situated			<b>DEFENDANTS</b> HORNELL BREWING CO., INC, and BEVERAGE MARKETING USA, INC. and ARIZONA BEVERAGE COMPANY LLC, and ARIZONA BEVERAGES USA LLC, ARIZONA ICED TEA LLC						
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Sonoma County (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Nassau (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)						
			NOTE:	IN LAND CO THE TRACI	ONDEM Γ OF LA	NATION ND INVC	CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF DLVED.		
	and Telephone Number) , Adam Gutride, Todd Kenned e St., Ste. 1250, 415-639-909(		Attorneys	s (If Known)					
II. BASIS OF JURISDICT	<b>ION</b> (Place an "X" in One Box Only)		<b>FIZENSHI</b> • Diversity Case		INCII	PAL PA	<b>ARTIES</b> (Place an "X" in One Bo and One Box for Defend		aintiff
					PTF	DEF		PTF	DEF
1 U.S. Government Plaintiff 3	Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)	Citize	en of This State		<b>X</b> 1	1	Incorporated <i>or</i> Principal Place of Business In This State	4	4
2 U.S. Government Defendant X 4	Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citize	en of Another S	tate	2	<b>X</b> 2	Incorporated <i>and</i> Principal Place of Business In Another State	5	<b>×</b> 5
	(Indicate Cutzensnip 0) Furties in item III)	Citize	en or Subject of	a	3	3	Foreign Nation	6	6

Foreign Country

IV. NATURE OF SU	UIT (Place an "X" in One Box (	Only)				
		RTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES           375 False Claims Act           376 Qui Tam (31 USC § 3729(a))           400 State Reapportionment           410 Antitrust           430 Banks and Banking           450 Commerce           460 Deportation           470 Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Organizations           480 Consumer Credit           490 Cable/Sat TV           850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange           890 Other Statutory Actions           891 Agricultural Acts	
<ul> <li>110 Insurance</li> <li>120 Marine</li> <li>130 Miller Act</li> <li>140 Negotiable Instrument</li> <li>150 Recovery of Overpayment Of Veteran's Benefits</li> <li>151 Medicare Act</li> <li>152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans)</li> <li>153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits</li> <li>160 Stockholders' Suits</li> <li>190 Other Contract</li> <li>195 Contract Product Liability</li> </ul>	TORTSPERSONAL INJURYPERSONAL INJURY310 Airplane365 Personal Injury – Pre315 Airplane Product Liability367 Health Care/320 Assault, Libel & Slander367 Health Care/330 Federal Employers' Liability367 Health Care/340 Marine368 Asbestos Personal In Product Liability340 Marine368 Asbestos Personal In Product Liability350 Motor Vehicle350 Motor Vehicle355 Motor Vehicle370 Other Fraud350 Other Personal Injury380 Other Personal Propu Damage362 Personal Injury -Medical Malpractice385 Property Damage Pro- LiabilityCIVIL RIGHTSPRISONER PETITION		625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC § 881         690 Other         LABOR         710 Fair Labor Standards Act         720 Labor/Management Relations         740 Railway Labor Act         751 Family and Medical Leave Act         790 Other Labor Litigation         791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act	BANKRUPTCY         422 Appeal 28 USC § 158         423 Withdrawal 28 USC § 157         PROPERTY RIGHTS         820 Copyrights         830 Patent         835 Patent—Abbreviated New Drug Application         840 Trademark         SOCIAL SECURITY         861 HIA (1395ff)         862 Black Lung (923)         863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))         864 SSID Title XVI         865 RSI (405(g))		
195 Contract Froduct Froduct Froduct Froduct Froduct From         196 Franchise <b>REAL PROPERTY</b> 210 Land Condemnation         220 Foreclosure         230 Rent Lease & Ejectment         240 Torts to Land         245 Tort Product Liability         290 All Other Real Property	<ul> <li>440 Other Civil Rights</li> <li>441 Voting</li> <li>442 Employment</li> <li>443 Housing/ Accommodations</li> <li>445 Amer. w/Disabilities- Employment</li> <li>446 Amer. w/Disabilities-Other</li> <li>448 Education</li> </ul>	HABEAS CORPUS 463 Alien Detainee 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence 530 General 535 Death Penalty OTHER 540 Mandamus & Other 550 Civil Rights 555 Prison Condition 560 Civil Detainee– Conditions of Confinement	465 Other Immigration Actions	FEDERAL TAX SUITS 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) 871 IRS–Third Party 26 USC § 7609	<ul> <li>893 Environmental Matters</li> <li>895 Freedom of Information Act</li> <li>896 Arbitration</li> <li>899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision</li> <li>950 Constitutionality of State Statutes</li> </ul>	
V.       ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)         × 1       Original Proceeding       2       Removed from Appellate Court       4       Reinstated or Reopened       5       Transferred from Another District (specify)       6       Multidistrict Litigation-Transfer       8       Multidistrict Litigation-Direct File         VI.       CAUSE OF ACTION       Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):       CAFA, 28 USC 1332, et seq.						
Vi	ief description of cause: iolation of CLRA; False Advertisi N ✓ CHECK IF THIS IS A UNDER RULE 23, Fed	CLASS ACTION DEMA	nt trade practices violation; comi	non law fraud; deceit and/or misr CHECK YES only if dema JURY DEMAND:		
VIII. RELATED CAS IF ANY (See instr	1ULATE		DOCKET NUMBER			
IX. DIVISIONAL A (Place an "X" in One Box O	ASSIGNMENT (Civil L Dnly) × SAN FRA	ocal Rule 3-2) ANCISCO/OAKLAND	SAN JOSI	E EUREKA-	MCKINLEYVILLE	

DATE	04/02/2019
DAID	

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

/s/ Todd Kennedy/