

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

MATTHEW CHAMLIN, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

JOHNSON & JOHNSON and McNEIL
NUTRITIONALS, LLC,

Defendants.

CASE NO.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiff Matthew Chamlin brings this action on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated against Defendants Johnson & Johnson and McNeil Nutritionals, LLC (“McNeil”) (collectively, “J&J” or “Defendants”). Plaintiff makes the following allegations pursuant to the investigation of his counsel and based upon information and belief, except as to the allegations specifically pertaining to himself, which are based on personal knowledge.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is a class action lawsuit regarding Defendants’ false and misleading labeling of Benecol Regular and Light Spreads (together, “Benecol Spreads”), each of which uniformly claims that the product (i) contains “No Trans Fats” and “No Trans Fatty Acids,” and (ii) is generally recognized as safe for human consumption (the “Misrepresentations”). However, Benecol Spreads contain trans fat through the use of partially hydrogenated oils. Thus, the labels on Benecol Spreads are false and misleading.

2. In June 2015, the FDA concluded that partially hydrogenated oils – the same oils found in Benecol Spreads – are not “generally recognized as safe” for use in human food due to

“an increased risk of coronary heart disease by contributing to the buildup of plaque inside the arteries that may cause a heart attack.” Thus, Benecol Spreads are not generally recognized as safe for human consumption.

3. The false and misleading labels on Benecol Spreads are highly material to consumers and serve to differentiate Benecol Spreads from comparable butter and margarine products. These labels allow Defendants to charge a price premium for Benecol Spreads. For example, Benecol Spreads command more than a 407% price premium, per ounce, over margarine:

Brand	Quantity	Price	Unit Price
Benecol Regular Spread	Net Wt: 8 oz.	\$3.98	\$0.498 per oz.
Land O'Lakes Margarine	Net Wt: 1 lb.	\$1.57	\$0.098 per oz.

4. Plaintiff seeks relief in this action individually, and on behalf of similarly situated purchasers for breach of express warranty, breach of the implied warranty of merchantability, unjust enrichment, violation of New York’s General Business Law § 349, violation of New York’s General Business Law § 350, negligent misrepresentation, and fraud.

THE PARTIES

5. Plaintiff Matthew Chamlin is a citizen of New York, residing in New York, New York. During the class period, including in or about November 2011, Plaintiff Chamlin purchased both Benecol Regular and Benecol Lite Spreads for personal use and not for resale from retail stores located in New York City, including at a D’Agostino store located at 1507 York Avenue. Prior to his purchase of Benecol Spreads, Plaintiff Chamlin reviewed the

products' labeling and packaging and saw that Benecol Spreads were labeled as having "No Trans Fats" and "No Trans Fatty Acids." Plaintiff Chamlin saw these representations prior to and at the time of purchase, and understood them as representations and warranties that Benecol Spreads (i) do not contain trans fats and (ii) are generally recognized as safe for human consumption. Plaintiff Chamlin relied on these representations and warranties in deciding to purchase Benecol Spreads. Accordingly, these representations and warranties were part of the basis of the bargain, in that he would not have purchased Benecol Spreads had he known that the products (i) do contain trans fats and (ii) are not generally recognized as safe for human consumption. In reliance on these representations and warranties, Plaintiff Chamlin paid a tangible increased cost for Benecol Spreads, which were worth less than represented because Benecol Spreads do, in fact, contain trans fats and are not generally recognized as safe for human consumption. Plaintiff Chamlin also understood that in making the sale, his retailers were acting with the knowledge and approval of the Defendants and/or as the agent of the Defendants. Plaintiff Chamlin further understood that the purchase involved a direct transaction between himself and Defendants, because the purchase came with Defendants' representations and warranties that Benecol Spreads do not contain trans fats, and are generally recognized as safe for human consumption.

6. Defendant Johnson & Johnson is a New Jersey corporation with its principal place of business at One Johnson & Johnson Plaza, New Brunswick, New Jersey. Johnson & Johnson is an international medical device, pharmaceutical, and consumer goods manufacturer founded in 1886. Its common stock is a component of the Dow Jones Industrial Average, and the company is listed in the Fortune 500. Johnson & Johnson has manufactured, marketed, and sold Benecol Spreads during the class period.

7. Defendant McNeil Nutritionals, LLC is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Pennsylvania, and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson. McNeil is subject to Johnson & Johnson's control, and the companies share employees, resources, and accounts. McNeil represents that it "is a global marketer of innovative nutritional products," as it markets Splenda sweetener products, Viactiv dietary supplements, and Lactaid milk supplements. McNeil has manufactured, marketed, and sold Benecol Spreads during the class period.

8. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend this Complaint to add different or additional defendants, including without limitation any officer, director, employee, supplier, or distributor of Defendants who has knowingly and willfully aided, abetted, or conspired in the false and deceptive conduct alleged herein.

9. Whenever reference is made in this Complaint to any representation, act, omission, or transaction of a defendant, that allegation shall mean that the defendant did the act, omission, or transaction through its officers, directors, employees, agents, and/or representatives while they were acting within the actual or ostensible scope of their authority.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

10. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A) because this case is a class action where the aggregate claims of all members of the proposed class are in excess of \$5,000,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs, and Plaintiff, as well as most members of the proposed class, are citizens of a state different from Defendants. This Court also has supplemental jurisdiction over state law claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

11. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391, this Court is the proper venue for this action because a substantial part of the events, omissions, and acts giving rise to the claims herein

occurred in this District. Plaintiff Chamlin is a citizen of New York, resides in this District, and purchased Benecol products from Defendants in this District. Moreover, Defendants distributed, advertised, and sold Benecol products, which are the subject of the present complaint, in this District.

FACTS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS

A. Benecol Spreads Are Labeled As Having “No Trans Fats” And “No Trans Fatty Acids,” Despite Containing Partially Hydrogenated Soybean Oil

12. There are two versions of Benecol Spreads – Benecol Regular Spread and Benecol Light Spread. Every tub of Benecol sold during the Class Period was manufactured at Defendants’ direction and to Defendants’ specification in California by Ventura Foods LLC.

13. During the class period, both the Regular and Light Spreads were labeled as containing “No Trans Fats” and “No Trans Fatty Acids.” However, this is false because each variety of Benecol Spreads contain partially hydrogenated oils, which always contains trans fats.

Benecol Regular Spread

14. The front label and top of Benecol Regular Spread represents that it has “No Trans Fat”:



15. Additionally, the back label of Benecol Regular Spread represents that it has “No Trans Fatty Acids.” However, the ingredient list on the back of Benecol Regular Spread also represents that it contains “Partially Hydrogenated Soybean Oil,” which always contains trans fats:

No Trans Fatty Acids

Nutrition Facts	Amount/Serving	% DV*	Amount/Serving	% DV*
	Total Fat 8g	12%	Cholest. 0mg	0%
Serv. Size 1 Tbsp. (14g)	Sat. Fat 1g	5%	Sodium 110mg	5%
Servings 16	Trans Fat 0g		Total Carb. 0g	0%
Calories 70	Polyunsat. Fat 2g		Protein 0g	
Fat Cal. 70	Monounsat. Fat 4.5g			
	Vitamin A 10%		Vitamin E 20%	

* Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Not a significant source of dietary fiber, sugars, vitamin C, calcium and iron.

Ingredients: Liquid Canola Oil, Water, Partially Hydrogenated Soybean Oil, Plant Stanol Esters, Salt, Emulsifiers (Vegetable Mono- and Diglycerides, Soy Lecithin), Hydrogenated Soybean Oil, Potassium Sorbate, Citric Acid and Calcium Disodium EDTA to Preserve Freshness, Artificial Flavor, dl- α -Tocopheryl Acetate, Vitamin A Palmitate, Colored with Beta Carotene.

Distributed by McNeil Nutritionals, LLC FORT WASHINGTON, PA 19034 USA © McNeil Nutritionals, LLC 2005 U.S. Patent No. 5502045.

Benecol Light Spread

16. The front label and top of the Benecol Light Spread represents that it has “No Trans Fat”:



17. Additionally, the back label of Benecol Light Spread represents that it has “No Trans Fatty Acids.” However, the ingredient list on the back of Benecol Light Spread also represents that it contains “Partially Hydrogenated Soybean Oil,” which always contains trans fats.

No Trans Fatty Acids

Nutrition Facts	Amount/Serving	% DV*	Amount/Serving	% DV*
	Total Fat 5g	8%	Cholest. 0mg	0%
Sat. Fat 0.5g	3%	Sodium 110mg	5%	
Trans Fat 0g		Total Carb. 0g	0%	
Polyunsat. Fat 2g		Protein 0g		
Monounsat. Fat 2.5g				
	Vitamin A 10%		Vitamin E 20%	

* Percent Daily Values (DV) are based on a 2,000 calorie diet. Not a significant source of dietary fiber, sugars, vitamin C, calcium and iron.

Ingredients: Water, Liquid Canola Oil, Liquid Soybean Oil, Partially Hydrogenated Soybean Oil, Plant Stanol Esters, Salt, Emulsifiers (Vegetable Mono- and Diglycerides, Soy Lecithin, Polyglycerol Esters of Fatty Acids), Potassium Sorbate, Citric Acid and Calcium Disodium EDTA to Preserve Freshness, Artificial Flavor, dl- α -Tocopheryl Acetate, Vitamin A Palmitate, Colored with Beta Carotene.

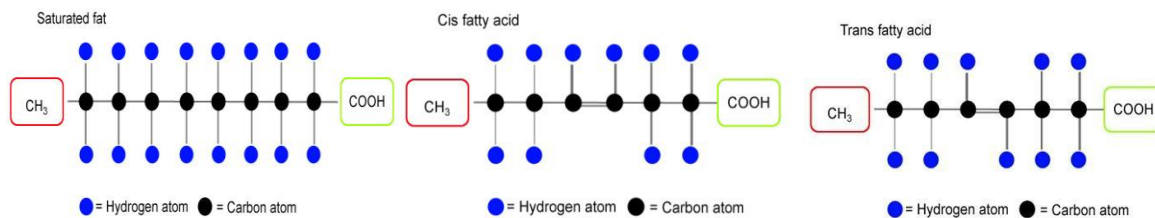
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The Manufacturing And Nature Of Partially Hydrogenated Oils

18. Artificial trans fat is manufactured via an industrial process called partial hydrogenation, in which hydrogen atoms are added to normal vegetable oil by heating the oil to temperatures above 400°F in the presence of metals such as rhodium, ruthenium, and nickel. The resulting product is known as partially hydrogenated oil (“PHO”), which is the main source of trans fat in the American diet and is used in Benecol Spreads.

19. PHO was invented in 1901 and patented in 1902 by German chemist Wilhelm Normann. PHO molecules chemically differ from the natural fat molecules in other food products.

20. Natural fat predominantly comes in two varieties, with the exception of trace amounts of natural trans fat from animals: (1) fats that lack carbon double bonds (“saturated fat”) and (2) fats that have carbon double bonds with the hydrogen atoms on the same side on the carbon chain (“cis fat”). Trans fat, however, has carbon double bonds with hydrogen atoms on opposite sides of its carbon chain:



21. PHO was initially marketed as a “wonder product” that was attractive to the packaged food industry because it combines the low cost of unsaturated cis fat with the flexibility and long shelf life of saturated fat. Like cis fat, PHO is manufactured from low-cost legumes, while saturated fat is derived from relatively expensive animal and tropical plant sources. Given its versatility, ten years ago PHO was used in 40% of processed packaged foods. Now, given its toxic properties, few food companies continue to use PHO.

PHOs Always Contain Trans Fats

22. PHOs always contain industrially-produced trans fatty acids.

23. Unlike other edible oils, trans fats are an integral component of PHOs and are purposely produced in these oils to affect the properties of the oils and the characteristics of the foods to which they are added.

24. The two most common PHOs currently used by the food industry – partially hydrogenated soybean oil and partially hydrogenated cottonseed oil – are not currently listed as Generally Recognized As Safe (“GRAS”) or as approved food additives.

Trans Fats Are Harmful

25. Since 2003, both controlled trials and observational human studies on trans fatty acid have consistently confirmed the adverse effects of trans fatty acids on intermediary risk factors and the increased risk of Coronary Heart Disease (“CHD”).

26. There is a progressive and linear cause and effect relationship between trans fatty acid intake and adverse effects on blood lipids that predict CHD risk, including low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (“LDL-C”), high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (“HDL-C”), and ratios such as total cholesterol (“total-C”)/HDL-C and LDL-C/HDL-C.¹

27. Consumption of trans fat increases LDL-C (“bad” cholesterol), decreases HDL-C (“good” cholesterol), and increases ratios of total-C/HDL-C and LDL-C/HDL-C compared with the same of amount of energy intake (calories) from cis-unsaturated fatty acids. Increases in

¹ LDL-C, HDL-C, total-C/HDL-C ratio, and LDL-C/HDL-C ratio are all currently considered to be risk biomarkers for CHD. A biomarker is a characteristic that can be objectively measured and indicates physiological processes. A risk biomarker is a biomarker that indicates a risk factor for a disease. Stated otherwise, a risk biomarker is a biomarker that indicates a component of an individual’s level of risk for developing a disease or level of risk for developing complications of a disease.

LDL-C, total-C/HDL-C, and LDL-C/HDL-C, as well as decreases in HDL-C, are adversely changed with respect to CHD risk.

28. The increased risk of CHD from consumption of any amount of trans fat means that consumption of PHOs, the primary dietary source of trans fat, also leads to increased LDL-C levels and an increased risk of CHD.

29. Numerous authorities have concluded that there is no threshold intake level for industrially-produced trans fat that would not increase an individual's risk of CHD. Stated otherwise, there is no safe level of artificial trans fat intake. Accordingly, consumption of PHOs could be harmful (*i.e.*, increased risk for CHD) under any condition and in any amount.

30. In addition to an increased risk of CHD, trans fat consumption (and, accordingly, consumption of food products containing PHOs) has also been connected to a number of other adverse effects on health, including worsening insulin resistance, increased risk of diabetes, and adverse effects on fetuses and breastfeeding infants, such as impaired growth.

PHOs Are No Longer Generally Recognized As Safe For Human Consumption By The FDA

31. On June 17, 2015, the Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") determined "that there is no longer a general consensus that PHOs, the primary source of industrially-processed *trans* fat, are generally recognized as safe for use in human food, based on current scientific evidence." 80 F.R. 34650, 34669.

32. According to the FDA, "the available, relevant scientific evidence demonstrates an increased risk of coronary heart disease (CHD) attributable to *trans* fat."

33. "FDA has considered the available information and concluded that there is a lack of consensus among qualified experts that PHOs, as the primary dietary source of [industrially-processed trans fatty acids], are safe for use in human food."

34. As the FDA detailed, the same PHOs found in Benecol Spreads are not “generally recognized as safe” for use in human food due to “an increased risk of coronary heart disease by contributing to the buildup of plaque inside the arteries that may cause a heart attack.”

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

35. Plaintiff seeks to represent a class defined as all persons in the United States (except those persons in California) who purchased Benecol Spreads (the “Class”). Excluded from the Class are persons who made such purchase for the purpose of resale.

36. Plaintiff also seeks to represent a subclass of all Class members who purchased Benecol Spreads in New York (the “New York Subclass”).

37. Members of the Class and New York Subclass are so numerous that their individual joinder herein is impracticable. On information and belief, members of the Class and New York Subclass number in the hundreds of thousands. The precise number of Class members and their identities are unknown to Plaintiff at this time but may be determined through discovery. Class members may be notified of the pendency of this action by mail and/or publication through the distribution records of Defendants and third-party retailers and vendors.

38. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all Class members and predominate over questions affecting only individual Class members. Common legal and factual questions include, but are not limited to: whether Benecol Spreads contain trans fats; whether Defendants warranted that Benecol Spreads do not contain trans fats; whether Benecol Spreads are generally recognized as safe for human consumption; whether Defendants breached these warranties; and whether Defendants committed statutory and common law fraud by doing so.

39. The claims of the named Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the Class in that the named Plaintiff purchased Benecol Spreads in reliance on the representations and warranties described above, and suffered a loss as a result of those purchases.

40. Plaintiff is an adequate representative of the Class and New York Subclass because his interests do not conflict with the interests of the Class members he seeks to represent, he has retained competent counsel experienced in prosecuting class actions, and he intends to prosecute this action vigorously. The interests of Class members will be fairly and adequately protected by Plaintiff and his counsel.

41. The class mechanism is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims of Class and New York Subclass members. Each individual Class member may lack the resources to undergo the burden and expense of individual prosecution of the complex and extensive litigation necessary to establish Defendants' liability. Individualized litigation increases the delay and expense to all parties and multiplies the burden on the judicial system presented by the complex legal and factual issues of this case. Individualized litigation also presents a potential for inconsistent or contradictory judgments. In contrast, the class action device presents far fewer management difficulties and provides the benefits of single adjudication, economy of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court on the issue of Defendants' liability. Class treatment of the liability issues will ensure that all claims and claimants are before this Court for consistent adjudication of the liability issues.

COUNT I
(Breach Of Express Warranty)

42. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.

43. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the proposed New York Subclass against Defendants.

44. Defendants, as the designers, manufacturers, marketers, distributors, and/or sellers, expressly warranted that Benecol Spreads (i) contained “No Trans Fats” and “No Trans Fatty Acids,” and (ii) are generally recognized as safe for human consumption.

45. In fact, Benecol Spreads are not fit for such purposes because each of these express warranties is false. Particularly, Benecol Spreads contain trans fats, and are not generally recognized as safe for human consumption.

46. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants’ breach of express warranty, Plaintiff and New York Subclass members have been injured and harmed because: (a) they would not have purchased Benecol Spreads on the same terms if they knew that the products contained trans fats, and are not generally recognized as safe for human consumption; (b) they paid a price premium for Benecol Spreads due to Defendants’ promises that Benecol Spreads contained “No Trans Fats” and “No Trans Fatty Acids,” and are generally recognized as safe for human consumption; and (c) Benecol Spreads do not have the characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities as promised.

COUNT II
(Breach Of The Implied Warranty Of Merchantability)

47. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.

48. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the proposed New York Subclass against Defendants.

49. Defendants, as the designers, manufacturers, marketers, distributors, and/or sellers, impliedly warranted that Benecol Spreads (i) contained “No Trans Fats” and “No Trans Fatty Acids,” and (ii) are generally recognized as safe for human consumption.

50. Defendants breached the warranty implied in the contract for the sale of Benecol Spreads because they could not pass without objection in the trade under the contract description, the goods were not of fair average quality within the description, and the goods were unfit for their intended and ordinary purpose because Benecol Spreads contain trans fats, and are not generally recognized as safe for human consumption. As a result, Plaintiff and New York Subclass members did not receive the goods as impliedly warranted by Defendants to be merchantable.

51. Plaintiff and New York Subclass members purchased Benecol Spreads in reliance upon Defendants’ skill and judgment and the implied warranties of fitness for the purpose.

52. Benecol Spreads were not altered by Plaintiff or New York Subclass members.

53. Benecol Spreads were defective when they left the exclusive control of Defendants.

54. Defendants knew that Benecol Spreads would be purchased and used without additional testing by Plaintiff and New York Subclass members.

55. Benecol Spreads were defectively designed and unfit for their intended purpose, and Plaintiff and New York Subclass members did not receive the goods as warranted.

56. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants’ breach of the implied warranty, Plaintiff and Class New York Subclass have been injured and harmed because: (a) they would not have purchased Benecol Spreads on the same terms if they knew that the products contained trans fats, and are not generally recognized as safe for human consumption; (b) they paid a price

premium for Benecol Spreads due to Defendants' promises that Benecol Spreads contained "No Trans Fats" and "No Trans Fatty Acids," and are generally recognized as safe for human consumption; and (c) Benecol Spreads do not have the characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities as promised.

COUNT III
(Unjust Enrichment)

57. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.

58. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the proposed Class and New York Subclass against Defendants.

59. Plaintiff and Class members conferred benefits on Defendants by purchasing Benecol Spreads.

60. Defendants have been unjustly enriched in retaining the revenues derived from Plaintiff and Class members' purchases of Benecol Spreads. Retention of those moneys under these circumstances is unjust and inequitable because Defendants misrepresented that Benecol Spreads (i) contained "No Trans Fats" and "No Trans Fatty Acids," and (ii) are generally recognized as safe for human consumption. These misrepresentations caused injuries to Plaintiff and Class members because they would not have purchased Benecol Spreads if the true facts were known.

61. Because Defendants' retention of the non-gratuitous benefits conferred on them by Plaintiff and Class members is unjust and inequitable, Defendants must pay restitution to Plaintiff and Class members for its unjust enrichment, as ordered by the Court.

COUNT IV
(Violation Of New York's General Business Law § 349)

62. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.

63. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the proposed New York Subclass against Defendants.

64. New York's General Business Law § 349 prohibits deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any business, trade, or commerce.

65. In its sale of goods throughout the State of New York, Defendants conduct business and trade within the meaning and intendment of New York's General Business Law § 349.

66. Plaintiff and members of the Subclass are consumers who purchased products from Defendants for their personal use.

67. By the acts and conduct alleged herein, Defendants have engaged in deceptive, unfair, and misleading acts and practices, which include, without limitation, misrepresenting that Benecol Spreads (i) contained "No Trans Fats" and "No Trans Fatty Acids," and (ii) are generally recognized as safe for human consumption.

68. The foregoing deceptive acts and practices were directed at consumers.

69. The foregoing deceptive acts and practices are misleading in a material way because they fundamentally misrepresent the characteristics and quantity of Benecol Spreads to induce consumers to purchase same.

70. By reason of this conduct, Defendants engaged in deceptive conduct in violation of New York's General Business Law.

71. Defendants' actions are the direct, foreseeable, and proximate cause of the damages that Plaintiff and members of the New York Subclass have sustained from having paid for and consumed Defendants' products.

72. As a result of Defendants' violations, Plaintiff and members of the New York Subclass have suffered damages because: (a) they would not have purchased Benecol Spreads on the same terms if they knew that the products contained trans fats, and are not generally recognized as safe for human consumption; (b) they paid a price premium for Benecol Spreads due to Defendants' promises that Benecol Spreads contained "No Trans Fats" and "No Trans Fatty Acids," and are generally recognized as safe for human consumption; and (c) Benecol Spreads do not have the characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities as promised.

73. On behalf of himself and other members of the New York Subclass, Plaintiff seeks to recover his actual damages or fifty dollars, whichever is greater, three times actual damages, and reasonable attorneys' fees.

COUNT V
(Violation Of New York's General Business Law § 350)

74. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.

75. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the proposed New York Subclass against Defendant.

76. New York's General Business Law § 350 prohibits false advertising in the conduct of any business, trade, or commerce.

77. Pursuant to said statute, false advertising is defined as "advertising, including labeling, of a commodity ... if such advertising is misleading in a material respect."

78. Based on the foregoing, Defendants have engaged in consumer-oriented conduct that is deceptive or misleading in a material way which constitutes false advertising in violation of Section 350 of New York's General Business Law.

79. Defendants' false, misleading, and deceptive statements and representations of fact were and are directed to consumers.

80. Defendants' false, misleading, and deceptive statements and representations of fact were and are likely to mislead a reasonable consumer acting reasonably under the circumstances.

81. Defendants' false, misleading, and deceptive statements and representations of fact have resulted in consumer injury or harm to the public interest.

82. As a result of Defendants' false, misleading, and deceptive statements and representations of fact, Plaintiff and the New York Subclass have suffered and continue to suffer economic injury.

83. As a result of Defendants' violations, Plaintiff and members of the New York Subclass have suffered damages due to said violation because: (a) they would not have purchased Benecol Spreads on the same terms if they knew that the products contained trans fats, and are not generally recognized as safe for human consumption; (b) they paid a price premium for Benecol Spreads due to Defendants' promises that Benecol Spreads contained "No Trans Fats" and "No Trans Fatty Acids," and are generally recognized as safe for human consumption; and (c) Benecol Spreads do not have the characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities as promised.

84. On behalf of himself and other members of the New York Subclass, Plaintiff seeks to recover his actual damages or five hundred dollars, whichever is greater, three times actual damages, and reasonable attorneys' fees.

COUNT VI
(Negligent Misrepresentation)

85. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.

86. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the proposed Class and New York Subclass against Defendants.

87. As discussed above, Defendants misrepresented that Benecol Spreads (i) contained "No Trans Fats" and "No Trans Fatty Acids," and (ii) are generally recognized as safe for human consumption. Defendants had a duty to disclose this information.

88. At the time Defendants made these representations, Defendants knew or should have known that these representations were false or made them without knowledge of their truth or veracity.

89. At an absolute minimum, Defendants negligently misrepresented and/or negligently omitted material facts about Benecol Spreads.

90. The negligent misrepresentations and omissions made by Defendants, upon which Plaintiff and Class members reasonably and justifiably relied, were intended to induce and actually induced Plaintiff and Class members to purchase Benecol Spreads.

91. Plaintiff and Class members would not have purchased Benecol Spreads if the true facts had been known.

92. The negligent actions of Defendants caused damage to Plaintiff and Class members, who are entitled to damages and other legal and equitable relief as a result.

COUNT VII
(Fraud)

93. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.

94. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the proposed Class and New York Subclass against Defendants.

95. As discussed above, Defendants provided Plaintiff and Class members with false or misleading material information and failed to disclose material facts about Benecol Spreads, including but not limited to the fact that they contain trans fats, and are not generally recognized as safe for human consumption. These misrepresentations and omissions were made with knowledge of their falsehood.

96. The misrepresentations and omissions made by Defendants, upon which Plaintiff and Class members reasonably and justifiably relied, were intended to induce and actually induced Plaintiff and Class members to purchase Benecol Spreads.

97. The fraudulent actions of Defendants caused damage to Plaintiff and Class members, who are entitled to damages and other legal and equitable relief as a result.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, seek judgment against Defendants, as follows:

- a. For an order certifying the nationwide Class and the New York Subclass under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and naming Plaintiff as a representative of the Class and New York Subclass and Plaintiff's attorneys as Class Counsel to represent the Class and New York Subclass members;
- b. For an order declaring the Defendants' conduct violates the statutes referenced herein;
- c. For an order finding in favor of Plaintiff, the nationwide Class, and the New York Subclass on all counts asserted herein;

- d. For compensatory, statutory, and punitive damages in amounts to be determined by the Court and/or jury;
- e. For prejudgment interest on all amounts awarded;
- f. For an order of restitution and all other forms of equitable monetary relief;
- g. For injunctive relief as pleaded or as the Court may deem proper; and
- h. For an order awarding Plaintiff and the Class and New York Subclass their reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses and costs of suit.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all causes of action and issues so triable.

Dated: April 30, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

BURSOR & FISHER, P.A.

By: /s/ Joseph I. Marchese
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EXHIBIT A



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April 29, 2019

Via Certified Mail – Return Receipt Requested

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1 Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933

McNeil Nutritionals, LLC
601 Office Center Drive
Fort Washington, PA 19034

Re: Demand Letter Pursuant to U.C.C. §§ 2-313, 2-314

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter serves as a preliminary notice and demand for corrective action by Johnson & Johnson and McNeil Nutritionals, LLC (collectively, “J&J”) pursuant to U.C.C. § 2-607(3)(A), on behalf of our client, Matthew Chamlin, and a class of all similarly situated purchasers of Benecol Regular and Light Spreads (the “Class”).

Our client purchased Benecol Spreads. Benecol Regular and Light Spreads (collectively, “Benecol Spreads”) are advertised as healthy “alternatives to butter or margarine.” Additionally, these products have also been labeled as having “No Trans Fats” and “No Trans Fatty Acids.” However, Benecol Spreads contain trans fat through the use of partially hydrogenated oils. In June 2015, the FDA concluded that the partially hydrogenated oils found in Benecol Spreads are not “generally recognized as safe” for use in human food due to “an increased risk of coronary heart disease by contributing to the buildup of plaque inside the arteries that may cause a heart attack.” Accordingly, J&J expressly warranted that Benecol Spreads contain “No Trans Fats,” and are also safe for human consumption. J&J breached these warranties due to the presence of the partially hydrogenated oils. *See* U.C.C. §§ 2-313, 2-314.

On behalf of our client and the Class, we hereby demand that J&J immediately (1) cease and desist from continuing to include partially hydrogenated oils in Benecol Spreads; (2) issue an immediate recall of Benecol Spreads that contain partially hydrogenated oils; (3) make full restitution to all purchasers of Benecol Spreads of all purchase money obtained from sales thereof; and (4) cease and desist from labeling Benecol Spreads as having “No Trans Fats” or “No Trans Fatty Acids.”

We also demand that J&J preserve all documents and other evidence which refer or relate to any of the above-described practices including, but not limited to, the following:

1. All documents concerning the packaging and manufacturing process for Benecol Spreads;
2. All documents concerning the measurements of the quantity of partially hydrogenated oils and trans fats in Benecol Spreads;
3. All nutritional testing conducted on Benecol Spreads;
4. All documents concerning the pricing, advertising, marketing, and/or sale of Benecol Spreads;
5. All communications with customers concerning complaints or comments concerning the nutritional content of Benecol Spreads, or the presence of partially hydrogenated oils or trans fats; and
6. All documents concerning the “No Trans Fats” and “No Trans Fatty Acids” labeling claims.

If J&J contends that any statement in this letter is inaccurate in any respect, please provide us with your contentions and supporting documents immediately upon receipt of this letter.

Please contact me right away if you wish to discuss an appropriate way to remedy this matter. If I do not hear from you promptly, I will take that as an indication that you are not interested in doing so.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joseph I. Marchese". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joseph" and last name "Marchese" clearly legible.

Joseph I. Marchese