

1 **KAZEROUNI LAW GROUP, APC**
 2 Abbas Kazerounian, Esq. (SBN: 249203)
 3 ak@kazlg.com
 4 Nick Barthel, Esq. (SBN: 319105)
 5 nicholas@kazlg.com
 6 245 Fischer Avenue, Unit D1
 7 Costa Mesa, CA 92626
 8 Telephone: (800) 400-6808
 9 Facsimile: (800) 520-5523

10 **KAZEROUNI LAW GROUP, APC**
 11 Yana Hart, Esq. (SBN: 306499)
 12 yana@kazlg.com
 13 David James Mcglothlin (SBN: 253265)
 14 david@kazlg.com
 15 2221 Camino Del Rio S, Ste 101
 16 San Diego, CA

17 *Attorneys for Plaintiff*

18 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
 19 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

20 **TRICIA BOYER, Individually**
 21 **and On Behalf of All Others**
 22 **Similarly Situated,**

23 Plaintiff,

24 v.

25 **SHEER STRENGTH LABS,**
 26 **LLC,**

27 Defendant.

28 Case No.: '20CV0528 WQHKSC

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT FOR VIOLATIONS OF:

- 1) UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW, CAL. BUS. & PROF. §§ 17200, *ET SEQ.*;
- 2) FALSE ADVERTISING LAW, CAL. BUS. & PROF. §§ 17500, *ET SEQ.*; AND
- 3) CONSUMER LEGAL REMEDIES ACT, CAL. CIVIL CODE §§ 1750, *ET SEQ.*;

[JURY TRIAL DEMANDED]

KAZEROUNI LAW GROUP, APC
245 FISCHER AVENUE, SUITE DI
COSTA MESA, CA 92626

INTRODUCTION

1. Plaintiff Tricia Boyer (“Plaintiff” or “Ms. Boyer”) brings this Class Action Complaint to challenge the deceptive advertising and business practices of defendant, SHEER STRENGTH LABS, LLC (“SSL” or “Defendant”) with regard to Defendant’s false and misleading promotion of its purportedly consumable “dietary supplement” product.
2. Plaintiff purchased “Sheer Pre-Workout Workout Enhancer Powder Cotton Candy” (“Product”). However, the Product contained both Hordenine and N-Methyltyramine (“Unapproved Ingredients”), which the Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) considers dangerous ingredients that may not lawfully be in dietary supplements.
3. By including these ingredients in Defendant’s product, which it then claims to be a dietary supplement is not a false representation, but also a wholly unlawful act.
4. Consequently, Defendant does not comply with federal and parallel state regulations. Defendant misleads consumers into believing its Product are “Supplements” approved for human consumption, when that is not true. These misrepresentations allow Defendant to increase its sales and capture market shares from its competitors.
5. Plaintiff makes these allegations as follows upon personal knowledge as to Plaintiff’s own acts and experiences, and, as to all other matters, upon information and belief, including investigation conducted by Plaintiff’s attorneys.
6. Defendant’s nationwide sale and advertising of deceptively misbranded Product constitutes violations of: (1) California’s Consumer Legal Remedies Act (“CLRA”), Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750, *et seq.*; (2) California’s False Advertising Law (“FAL”), Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500, *et seq.*; (3) California’s Unfair

KAZEROUNI LAW GROUP, APC
245 FISCHER AVENUE, SUITE DI
COSTA MESA, CA 92626

1 Competition Law (“UCL”), Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*; (4) negligent
2 misrepresentation; and (5) intentional misrepresentation.

3 7. This conduct caused Plaintiff and others similarly situated damages, and
4 requires restitution and injunctive relief to remedy and prevent further harm.

5 8. Unless otherwise indicated, the use of Defendant’s name in this Complaint
6 includes all agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors,
7 assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives and insurers of
8 the named Defendant.

9 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

10 9. This Court has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to the Class Action
11 Fairness Act (CAFA) because the amount in controversy in this matter exceeds
12 \$5,000,000.00¹ as to all putative Class members, inclusive of attorneys’ fees
13 and costs, and injunctive relief. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d).

14 10. This Court has diversity jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332 because Plaintiff
15 is a resident and citizen of the State of California, and Defendant is a corporation
16 organized and existing under the laws of the State of Texas.

17 11. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant
18 conducts business in the County of San Diego. Therefore, Defendant has
19 sufficient minimum contacts with this state, and otherwise purposely avails
20 itself of the markets in this state through the promotion, sale, and marketing of
21 its Product in this state, to render the exercise of jurisdiction by this Court
22 permissible under traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

23 12. Venue is proper in the United States District Court for the Central District of
24 California pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 for the following reasons: (i) the
25 conduct complained of herein occurred within this judicial district; and, (ii)

26 ¹ On information and belief, Defendant sells its Product online throughout the
27 United States. Based upon the advertised price of Defendant’s Product and their
28 statewide availability, Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges the class
damages exceed the \$5,000,000 threshold as set by 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d).

KAZEROUNI LAW GROUP, APC
245 FISCHER AVENUE, SUITE DI
COSTA MESA, CA 92626

1 many of the acts and transactions giving rise to this action occurred in this
2 district because:

- 3 (a) Defendant is authorized to conduct business in this district;
- 4 (b) Defendant does substantial business within this district;
- 5 (c) Defendant is subject to personal jurisdiction in this district
6 because it has availed itself of the laws and markets within this
7 district; and,
- 8 (d) Defendant’s actions resulting in harm to at least one of the
9 Plaintiff occurred within this district.

10 **PARTIES**

- 11 13. Plaintiff is a natural person residing in the City of Oceanside, County of San
12 Diego, State of California.
- 13 14. Upon information and belief, Defendant is a corporation that is organized and
14 exists under the laws of the State of Texas, with its principal place of business
15 in Plano, Texas.
- 16 15. Defendant manufactures and/or distributes various Product, including
17 purportedly consumable consumer packaged goods and purportedly dietary
18 supplements. Defendant conducts extensive business through Internet sales.

19 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 20 16. Plaintiff re-allege and incorporate by reference all of the above paragraphs of
21 this Complaint as though fully stated herein.
- 22 17. On or about September 27, 2016, Plaintiff purchased Defendant’s Product for
23 \$39.97 pre-tax from Amazon.com. Two of the ingredients included in the
24 Product were Hordenine HCl and N-Methyltyramine HCl.
- 25 18. Defendant manufactures, markets, and sells the Product online through its own
26 website and other retailers, which it advertises on the Product’s label and related
27 advertising materials as being a dietary supplement.

KAZEROUNI LAW GROUP, APC
245 FISCHER AVENUE, SUITE DI
COSTA MESA, CA 92626

1 19. At the time Plaintiff purchased Defendant’s Product, Plaintiff believed and
2 relied upon the representations made on Defendant’s Product’ labels and
3 packaging that the Product was a “Supplement” that was to be orally consumed
4 daily. Plaintiff reasonably believed that the Product were safe to ingest.

5 20. On information and belief, Defendant’s Product’s label, packaging, and
6 advertising materials are prepared and/or approved by Defendant and/or its
7 agents.

8 21. As mentioned in detail above, Defendant’s Product contained unapproved
9 ingredients that may not lawfully be in dietary supplements.

10 22. Consequently, Defendant’s Product are neither a “Supplement” nor are they safe
11 for human consumption more generally.

12 23. Defendant knew, or in the exercise of reasonable care, should have known that
13 its Product’s label and advertising materials were misleading or false.

14 24. As a consequence of Defendant’s unfair and deceptive advertising and
15 manufacturing practices, Plaintiff and other consumers similarly situated
16 purchased and overpaid for Defendant’s Product under the false impression that
17 the Product was a dietary supplement that was approved for consumption.

18 25. If Plaintiff had been aware that the Product contained unapproved ingredients,
19 Plaintiff would have purchased a different product. In other words, Plaintiff
20 would not have purchased Defendant’s Product but for the representations on
21 the Product’s label.

22 26. Plaintiff and others similarly situated were exposed to and relied upon the same
23 material misrepresentations made on Defendant’s Product’ labels and website,
24 where Defendant sold, and currently sells, its Product to consumers throughout
25 the State of California.

26 27. As a result of Defendant’s false and misleading statements and failure to
27 disclose, Plaintiff and others similarly situated consumers purchased thousands,
28 if not tens or hundreds of thousands, of units of Defendant’s Product, and have

KAZEROUNI LAW GROUP, APC
245 FISCHER AVENUE, SUITE DI
COSTA MESA, CA 92626

1 suffered, and continue to suffer, injury in fact through the loss of money and/or
2 property.

3 28. Included within the demands of this Complaint are any product manufactured
4 by Defendant, which contain Hordenine and N-Methyltyramine, or any
5 variation of these ingredients.

6 29. This action seeks, among other things, equitable and injunctive relief, restitution
7 of all amounts illegally obtained, and disgorgement of any and all ill-gotten
8 gains as a result of the misconduct alleged herein.

9 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

10 30. Plaintiff re-allege and incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of
11 this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

12 31. Plaintiff bring this action collectively and on behalf of all others similarly
13 situated against Defendant, pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a)
14 and (b)(3) and/or (b)(2).

15 32. Subject to additional information obtained through further investigation and/or
16 discovery, the proposed class (the “Class”) consists of:

17 All persons within the United States who purchased a product,
18 from Defendant, irrespective of brand name, containing the
19 ingredients Hordenine and N-Methyltyramine, or any variation
20 of these ingredients, within the four years prior to the filing of
this Complaint.

21 33. Excluded from the Class is Defendant and any of its officers, directors, and
22 employees, or anyone who purchased Defendant’s Product for the purpose of
23 resale. Plaintiff reserves the right to modify or amend the Class definition before
24 the Court determines whether certification is appropriate.

25 34. The “Class Period” means four years prior to the filing of the Complaint in this
26 action.

1 35. **Ascertainability.** The members of the Class are readily ascertainable from
2 Defendant's records and/or Defendant's agent's records of retail and online
3 sales, as well as through public notice.

4 36. **Numerosity.** The members of the Class are so numerous that their individual
5 joinder is impracticable. Plaintiff are informed and believe that the Product is
6 sold online throughout the country, as well as numerous other 3rd party retailer
7 sites, with product with hundreds of customer reviews, and on that basis,
8 Plaintiff alleges that the putative Class consists of hundreds, if not thousands of
9 members.

10 37. **Existence and Predominance of Common Questions of Law and Fact.**

11 Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of the Class and
12 predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class members. All
13 members of the Class have been subject to the same conduct and their claims
14 are based on the same standardized marketing, advertisements and promotions.
15 The common legal and factual questions include, but are not limited to, the
16 following:

- 17 a. Whether the Product as manufactured Hordenine HCl and N-
18 Methyltyramine HCl, or any of its other known aliases;
- 19 b. Whether the Product were actually advertised as being a
20 "Supplement" that is for human consumption, when in fact they are
21 not a "Supplement";
- 22 c. Whether the Product were safe for human consumption given their
23 ingredients;
- 24 d. Whether Defendant's claims and representations, as alleged herein,
25 are untrue, misleading, and/or reasonably likely to deceive the
26 average consumer;
- 27 e. Whether Defendant's conduct violates California Civil Code §§ 1750,
28 *et seq.*;

KAZEROUNI LAW GROUP, APC
245 FISCHER AVENUE, SUITE DI
COSTA MESA, CA 92626

- 1 f. Whether Defendant’s advertising is false, untrue, or misleading
- 2 within the meaning of California Business & Professions Code §§
- 3 17500, *et seq.*;
- 4 g. Whether Defendant’s conduct is an unfair, fraudulent, or unlawful act
- 5 or practice within the meaning of California Business & Professions
- 6 Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*;
- 7 h. Whether Defendant’s advertising is unfair, deceptive, untrue or
- 8 misleading within the meaning of California Business & Professions
- 9 Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*;
- 10 i. Whether Defendant acted negligently or intentionally in making the
- 11 misrepresentations contained on the Product’s label and Defendant’s
- 12 website;
- 13 j. Whether Defendant, through its conduct, received money that, in
- 14 equity and good conscience, belongs to the Plaintiff and members of
- 15 the Class;
- 16 k. Whether the Plaintiff and the putative Class members are entitled to
- 17 equitable relief, including but not limited to restitution and/or
- 18 disgorgement of ill-gotten gains; and
- 19 l. Whether the Plaintiff and the putative Class members are entitled to
- 20 injunctive relief as sought herein.

21 38. **Typicality.** Plaintiff’s claims are typical of the claims of the members of the

22 Class in that the Plaintiff are members of the Class that the Plaintiff seek to

23 represent. Similar to members of the putative Class, Plaintiff purchased the

24 Product from Defendant after exposure to the same material misrepresentations

25 appearing on the Product’s labels. Plaintiff also received a Product that is not a

26 dietary supplement and contained unapproved ingredients. Plaintiff is

27 advancing the same claims and legal theories on behalf of herself and all absent

28 members of the Class. Defendant has no defenses unique to the Plaintiffs.

1 39. **Adequacy of Representation.** Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the
2 interests of the members of the putative Class. Plaintiff has retained counsel
3 experienced in consumer protection law, including class actions, and
4 specifically, false and deceptive advertising. Plaintiff has no adverse or
5 antagonistic interest to those in the Class and will fairly and adequately protect
6 the interests of the Class. Plaintiff's attorneys are aware of no interests adverse
7 or antagonistic to those of Plaintiff and proposed Class.

8 40. **Superiority.** A class action is superior to all other available means for the fair
9 and efficient adjudication of this controversy. Individualized litigation would
10 create the danger of inconsistent and/or contradictory judgments arising from
11 the same set of facts. Individualized litigation would also increase the delay and
12 expense to all parties and the court system. The damages or other financial
13 detriment suffered by individual Class members may be relatively small
14 compared to the burden and expense that would be entailed by individual
15 litigation of the claims against the Defendant. The injury suffered by each
16 individual member of the proposed class is relatively small in comparison to the
17 burden and expense of individual prosecution of the complex and extensive
18 litigation necessitated by Defendant's conduct. It would be virtually impossible
19 for members of the proposed Class to individually redress effectively the
20 wrongs to them. Even if the members of the proposed Class could afford such
21 litigation, the court system could not. Individualized litigation of the complex
22 legal and factual issues of such a case increases the delay and expense to all
23 parties, including the court. By contrast, the class action device presents far
24 fewer management difficulties, and provides the benefits of single adjudication,
25 economy of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court. Therefore,
26 a class action is maintainable pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a)
27 and (b)(3) and/or (b)(2).
28

KAZEROUNI LAW GROUP, APC
245 FISCHER AVENUE, SUITE DI
COSTA MESA, CA 92626

1 41. Unless the Class is certified, Defendant will retain monies received as a result
2 of Defendant’s unlawful and deceptive conduct alleged herein. Unless a class-
3 wide injunction is issued, Defendant will also likely continue to, or allow its
4 resellers to, advertise, market, promote, and sell the Class Product in an
5 unlawful and misleading manner, and members of the Class will continue to be
6 misled, harmed, and denied their rights under California law.

7 42. Further, Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds that are generally
8 applicable to the class so that declaratory and injunctive relief is appropriate to
9 the Class as a whole, making class certification appropriate pursuant to Fed. R.
10 Civ. P. 23(b)(2).

11
12 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION FOR**
13 **VIOLATIONS OF CALIFORNIA’S UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW (“UCL”)**
14 **BUS. & PROF. CODE §§ 17200, ET SEQ.**

15 43. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of
16 this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

17 44. Plaintiff and Defendant are each a “person” as defined by California Business
18 & Professions Code § 17201. California Business & Professions Code § 17204
19 authorizes a private right of action on both an individual and representative
20 basis.

21 45. “Unfair competition” is defined by Business and Professions Code § 17200 as
22 encompassing several types of business “wrongs,” including: (1) an “unlawful”
23 business act or practice, (2) an “unfair” business act or practice, (3) a
24 “fraudulent” business act or practice, and (4) “unfair, deceptive, untrue or
25 misleading advertising.” The definitions in § 17200 are drafted in the
26 disjunctive, meaning that each of these “wrongs” operates independently from
27 the others.

28 46. By and through Defendant’s conduct alleged in further detail above and herein,
Defendant engaged in conduct which constitutes unlawful, unfair, and/or

KAZEROUNI LAW GROUP, APC
245 FISCHER AVENUE, SUITE DI
COSTA MESA, CA 92626

1 fraudulent business practices, and unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading
2 advertising, as prohibited by California’s UCL.

3 **A. “UNLAWFUL” PRONG**

4 47. Beginning at a date currently unknown and continuing to the time of the filing
5 of this Complaint, Defendant has committed acts of unfair competition,
6 including those described above, by engaging in a pattern of “unlawful”
7 business practices, within the meaning of Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 *et seq.*,
8 by marketing, manufacturing, and distributing Defendant’s Product in violation
9 of California’s Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Civil Code § 1759, *et seq.* and
10 California’s False Advertising Law, Business & Professions Code §§ 17500, *et*
11 *seq.*, as well as other Federal regulations.

12 48. Defendant further violated California’s Health & Safety Code § 110660, which
13 states that “any food is misbranded if its labeling is false or misleading in any
14 particular.” Section 110660 is a part of California's Sherman Food, Drug and
15 Cosmetic law, California Health & Safety Code § 109875 (the “Sherman law”).

16 49. Claims under state law based on the deceptive labeling of a food product is
17 expressly permitted when the statute to be enforced imposes legal obligations
18 identical to that of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (“FDCA”),
19 including FDA regulations concerning naming and labeling food Product. *See*
20 *e.g., In re Farm Raised Salmon Cases*, 22 Cal. 4th 1077, 1094-95 (2008).
21 Plaintiff’s claim that Defendant violated the FAL by labeling its Product in a
22 false or misleading way imposes legal obligations identical to 21 U.S.C. §
23 343(a) of the FDCA, which states that, “a food shall be deemed to be
24 misbranded . . . [i]f (1) its labeling is false or misleading in any particular[.]”
25 Further, section 343(a) of the FDCA is not subject to the express preemption
26 provision set forth in 21 U.S.C. § 343-1 of the FDCA.

27 50. Defendant violated the above-referenced statutes by falsely representing that its
28 Product was a dietary supplement containing consumable ingredients, when in

KAZEROUNI LAW GROUP, APC
245 FISCHER AVENUE, SUITE DI
COSTA MESA, CA 92626

1 fact the product contained ingredients that were not approved by the FDA to be
2 in dietary supplements.

3 51. By advertising, promoting, manufacturing, and selling its Product in violation
4 of those California laws, Defendant engaged in a pattern of “unlawful” business
5 practices within the meaning of California’s UCL.

6 **B. “UNFAIR” PRONG**

7 52. Beginning at a date currently unknown and continuing to the time of the filing
8 of this Complaint, Defendant has committed acts of unfair competition as
9 prohibited by Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*

10 53. Had Plaintiff and the putative class members been informed that Defendant’s
11 Product did not in fact contain ingredients suitable for human consumption, they
12 would not have purchased the Product or would have purchased a different
13 product. In other words, Defendant earned the business of Plaintiff and the
14 putative Class members by using deceptive advertising, which placed
15 competitors at a disadvantage. Furthermore, Plaintiff and the putative Class
16 members were harmed in that they paid a price premium for the Product.

17 **C. “FRAUDULENT” PRONG**

18 54. Beginning at a date currently unknown and continuing to the time of the filing
19 of this Complaint, Defendant engaged in acts of unfair competition, including
20 those described above and herein, in violation of Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200,
21 *et seq.*, by engaging in a pattern of “fraudulent” business practices within the
22 meaning of Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, by falsely advertising its
23 Product as containing, ingredients approved by the FDA, when, in fact, the
24 Product does not contain such ingredients, but instead unproved ingredients that
25 cannot lawfully be in a dietary supplement.

26 55. Plaintiff reserve the right to allege further conduct that constitutes other
27 fraudulent business acts or practices. Such conduct is ongoing and continues to
28 this date.

KAZEROUNI LAW GROUP, APC
245 FISCHER AVENUE, SUITE DI
COSTA MESA, CA 92626

D. “UNFAIR, DECEPTIVE, UNTRUE OR MISLEADING ADVERTISING” PRONG

56. Defendant’s advertising is unfair, deceptive, untrue, and/or misleading within the meaning of Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, in that consumers are led to believe that Defendant’s Product contained ingredients approved by the FDA, when, in fact, the Product does not contain such ingredients, but instead unproved ingredients that cannot lawfully be in a dietary supplement.

57. Plaintiff and other such reasonable consumers are likely to be, and were, deceived and misled by Defendant’s advertising of its Product, as containing ingredients safe to consume consistent with a dietary supplement.

58. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant’s unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent conduct described herein, Defendant received and continues to receive an unfair competitive advantage and unearned commercial benefits at the expense of its competitors and the public, who unwittingly provided money to Defendant based on Defendant’s misleading representations.

59. Plaintiff and the putative Class members suffered an injury in fact because Plaintiff’s money was taken by Defendant as a result of Defendant’s false representations as set forth on the Product’s label and Amazon.com and other 3rd party retailers.

60. Such acts and omissions by Defendant are unlawful and/or unfair and/or fraudulent, and constitute multiple violations of California’s UCL. Plaintiff reserve the right to identify additional violations by Defendant as may be established through discovery.

61. In prosecuting this action for the enforcement of important rights affecting the public interest, Plaintiff seek the recovery of attorneys’ fees, which reward is available to a prevailing plaintiff in a class action such as this.

KAZEROUNILAW GROUP, APC
245 FISCHER AVENUE, SUITE DI
COSTA MESA, CA 92626

**VIOLATIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA CONSUMERS LEGAL REMEDIES ACT
CAL. CIV. CODE §§ 1750, ET SEQ.**

62. Plaintiff re-allege and incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

63. California Civil Code Section 1750, *et seq.*, entitled the Consumers Legal Remedies Act (hereinafter “CLRA”), provides a list of “unfair or deceptive” practices in a “transaction” relating to the sale of “goods” or “services” to a “consumer.” The Legislature’s intent in promulgating the CLRA is expressed in Civil Code Section 1760, which provides, *inter alia*, that its terms are to be:

Construed liberally and applied to promote its underlying purposes, which are to protect consumers against unfair and deceptive business practices and to provide efficient and economical procedures to secure such protection.

64. Defendant’s Product constitutes a “good” as defined pursuant to Civil Code Section 1761(a).

65. Plaintiff and the putative Class members are each a “consumer” as defined pursuant to Civil Code Section 1761(d).

66. Plaintiff and each of the putative Class members’ purchase of Defendant’s Product constitutes a “transaction” as defined pursuant to Civil Code Section 1761(e).

67. Civil Code Section 1770(a)(2), (5), (7) and (9) provide that:

The following unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices undertaken by any person in a transaction intended to result or which results in the sale or lease of goods or services to any consumer are unlawful:

(2) [m]isrepresenting the source, sponsorship, approval, or certification of goods or services;

(5) [r]epresenting that goods or services have sponsorship, approval, characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities which they do not have . . . ;

KAZEROUNI LAW GROUP, APC
245 FISCHER AVENUE, SUITE DI
COSTA MESA, CA 92626

1 (7) [r]epresenting that goods or services are of a particular
standard, quality, or grade . . . if they are of another; [and]

2 (9) [a]dvertising goods or services with intent not to sell
3 them as advertised.”

4 68. Defendant violated Civil Code Section 1770(a)(2), (5), (7) and (9) by marketing
5 and representing its Product was a dietary supplement containing consumable
6 ingredients, when, in fact, the Product contained food additives not making it a
7 dietary supplement or consumable.

8 69. On information and belief, Defendant’s violations of the CLRA, as set forth
9 herein, were done with awareness of the fact that the conduct alleged was
10 wrongful and was motivated solely by Defendant’s self-interest, monetary gain,
11 and increased profit. Plaintiff further allege that Defendant committed these acts
12 knowing the harm that would result to Plaintiff and Defendant engaged in such
13 unfair and deceptive conduct notwithstanding such knowledge.

14 70. Plaintiff suffered an “injury in fact” because Plaintiff’s money was taken by
15 Defendant as a result of Defendant’s false representations set forth on
16 Defendant’s actual Product’s label.

17
18 **VIOLATIONS OF CALIFORNIA’S FALSE ADVERTISING LAW (“FAL”)**
19 **BUS. & PROF. CODE §§ 17500, ET SEQ.**

20 71. Plaintiff re-allege and incorporate by reference all of the above paragraphs of
21 this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

22 72. Plaintiff and Defendant are both “person[s]” as defined by California Business
23 & Professions Code § 17506.

24 73. California Business & Professions Code § 17535 authorizes a private right of
25 action on both an individual and representative basis.

26 74. Defendant states that its Product are dietary supplements containing consumable
27 ingredients, when, in fact, the Product contained food additives making it not a
28 dietary supplement or consumable.

KAZEROUNI LAW GROUP, APC
245 FISCHER AVENUE, SUITE DI
COSTA MESA, CA 92626

1 75. These misrepresentations, acts, and non-disclosures by Defendant constitute
2 false and misleading advertising in violation of Business & Professions Code
3 §§ 17500, *et seq.*

4 76. At all times relevant, Defendant's advertising and promotion of its Product
5 were, and are, untrue, misleading, and likely to deceive the reasonable consumer
6 and the public. In fact, Defendant did deceive Plaintiff and the putative Class
7 members by representing that its Product were dietary supplements containing
8 consumable ingredients. When, in reality, Defendant knew that its Product
9 contained ingredients that the FDA has not approved to be lawfully included in
10 dietary supplements.

11 77. Defendant engaged in the false and/or misleading advertising and marketing of
12 its Product, as alleged herein, with the intent to directly or indirectly induce
13 consumers to purchase its Product, which Defendant knew, or had reason to
14 know, was not suitable for human consumption and could not be considered a
15 dietary supplement.

16 78. Because Defendant knew or should have known that the representations and/or
17 omissions alleged herein were untrue or misleading, Defendant acted in
18 violation of California Business & Professions Code §§ 17500, *et seq.*

19 79. Had Defendant truthfully advertised that its Product that its Product contained
20 ingredients that were not approved to be included in a dietary supplement,
21 Plaintiff and the putative Class members would not have purchased the Product
22 or would have purchased a different product from another manufacturer.

23 80. This false and misleading advertising of the Product by Defendant presents a
24 continuing threat to consumers, as such conduct is ongoing to this day.

25 81. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned acts and omissions by
26 Defendant, Defendant received and continues to hold monies rightfully
27 belonging to Plaintiff and the putative Class members, who were led to purchase
28 Defendant's Product during the Class Period.

KAZEROUNI LAW GROUP, APC
245 FISCHER AVENUE, SUITE DI
COSTA MESA, CA 92626

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully request the Court grant Plaintiff and the putative Class members the following relief against Defendant:

- that this action be certified as a Class Action;
- that Plaintiff be appointed as the Class Representatives;
- that Plaintiff’s attorneys be appointed as Class Counsel;
- that Defendant’s wrongful conduct be adjudged and decreed to violate the consumer protection statutes raised herein;
- An order requiring imposition of a constructive trust and and/or disgorgement of Defendant’s ill-gotten gains and to pay restitution to Plaintiff and all members of the Class and to restore to the Plaintiff and members of the class all funds acquired by means of any act or practice declared by this court to be an unlawful, fraudulent or unfair business act or practice, in violation of laws, statutes or regulations, or constituting unfair competition;
- Distribution of any monies recovered on behalf of members of the Class via fluid recovery or *cy pres* recovery were necessary and as applicable, to prevent Defendant from retaining the benefits of their wrongful conduct;
- that Plaintiff and each of the other members of the Class recover the amounts by which Defendant has been unjustly enriched;
- A temporary, preliminary and/or permanent order for injunctive relief requiring Defendant to: (i) discontinue its false and/or misleading statement/s; and (ii) undertake an immediate public information campaign to inform members of the proposed class as to their prior practices;
- that Defendant be enjoined from continuing the wrongful conduct alleged herein and be required to comply with all applicable laws;
- Pre-judgment interests from the date of filing of this suit;

KAZEROUNI LAW GROUP, APC
245 FISCHER AVENUE, SUITE DI
COSTA MESA, CA 92626

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

- that Plaintiff and each member of the putative Class recover their costs of suit.

**CAUSE OF ACTION FOR
VIOLATIONS OF CALIFORNIA’S UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW
CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE §§ 17200, ET SEQ.**

- Restitution and injunctive relief pursuant to Bus. & Prof. Code § 17535; and
- recovery of reasonable attorneys’ fees pursuant to, *inter alia*, California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5.

TRIAL BY JURY

82. Pursuant to the Seventh Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, Plaintiff is entitled to and demands a trial by jury.

Dated: March 20, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

KAZEROUNI LAW GROUP, APC

By: s/ Abbas Kazerounian
 ABBAS KAZEROUNIAN, ESQ.
 NICHOLAS BARTHEL, ESQ.
Attorneys for Plaintiff

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

Tricia Boyer

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff San Diego (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Abbas Kazerounian, Kazerouni Law Group, APC 245 Fischer Ave, Suite D1, Costa Mesa, CA 92626 (800) 400-6808

DEFENDANTS

Sheer Strength Labs, LLC

'20CV0528 WQHKSC

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
2 U.S. Government Defendant
3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

Table with columns for Plaintiff (PTF) and Defendant (DEF) citizenship and business location. Includes categories like Citizen of This State, Citizen of Another State, and Foreign Nation.

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Large table with categories: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, CIVIL RIGHTS, TORTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES.

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 Original Proceeding
2 Removed from State Court
3 Remanded 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): Cal. Bus. & Prof. §§ 17200, et seq.

Brief description of cause: Violations of the California Unfair Competition Law

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

DATE 03/20/2020 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD s/ Abbas Kazerounian

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ATTORNEYS COMPLETING CIVIL COVER SHEET FORM JS 44

Authority For Civil Cover Sheet

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replaces nor supplements the filings and service of pleading or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. Consequently, a civil cover sheet is submitted to the Clerk of Court for each civil complaint filed. The attorney filing a case should complete the form as follows:

- I.(a) Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use only the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
- (b) County of Residence.** For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. (NOTE: In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the "defendant" is the location of the tract of land involved.)
- (c) Attorneys.** Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and attorney of record. If there are several attorneys, list them on an attachment, noting in this section "(see attachment)".
- II. Jurisdiction.** The basis of jurisdiction is set forth under Rule 8(a), F.R.Cv.P., which requires that jurisdictions be shown in pleadings. Place an "X" in one of the boxes. If there is more than one basis of jurisdiction, precedence is given in the order shown below.
 United States plaintiff. (1) Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. 1345 and 1348. Suits by agencies and officers of the United States are included here.
 United States defendant. (2) When the plaintiff is suing the United States, its officers or agencies, place an "X" in this box.
 Federal question. (3) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1331, where jurisdiction arises under the Constitution of the United States, an amendment to the Constitution, an act of Congress or a treaty of the United States. In cases where the U.S. is a party, the U.S. plaintiff or defendant code takes precedence, and box 1 or 2 should be marked.
 Diversity of citizenship. (4) This refers to suits under 28 U.S.C. 1332, where parties are citizens of different states. When Box 4 is checked, the citizenship of the different parties must be checked. (See Section III below; **NOTE: federal question actions take precedence over diversity cases.**)
- III. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** This section of the JS 44 is to be completed if diversity of citizenship was indicated above. Mark this section for each principal party.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Place an "X" in the appropriate box. If there are multiple nature of suit codes associated with the case, pick the nature of suit code that is most applicable. Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions](#).
- V. Origin.** Place an "X" in one of the seven boxes.
 Original Proceedings. (1) Cases which originate in the United States district courts.
 Removed from State Court. (2) Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C., Section 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
 Remanded from Appellate Court. (3) Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action. Use the date of remand as the filing date.
 Reinstated or Reopened. (4) Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
 Transferred from Another District. (5) For cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1404(a). Do not use this for within district transfers or multidistrict litigation transfers.
 Multidistrict Litigation – Transfer. (6) Check this box when a multidistrict case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. Section 1407.
 Multidistrict Litigation – Direct File. (8) Check this box when a multidistrict case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NOT AN ORIGIN CODE 7. Origin Code 7 was used for historical records and is no longer relevant due to changes in statute.
- VI. Cause of Action.** Report the civil statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. **Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.** Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 USC 553 Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service
- VII. Requested in Complaint.** Class Action. Place an "X" in this box if you are filing a class action under Rule 23, F.R.Cv.P.
 Demand. In this space enter the actual dollar amount being demanded or indicate other demand, such as a preliminary injunction.
 Jury Demand. Check the appropriate box to indicate whether or not a jury is being demanded.
- VIII. Related Cases.** This section of the JS 44 is used to reference related pending cases, if any. If there are related pending cases, insert the docket numbers and the corresponding judge names for such cases.

Date and Attorney Signature. Date and sign the civil cover sheet.