

1 **BURSOR & FISHER, P.A.**  
 2 L. Timothy Fisher (State Bar No. 191626)  
 3 Brittany S. Scott (State Bar No. 327132)  
 4 1990 North California Blvd., Suite 940  
 5 Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
 Telephone: (925) 300-4455  
 Facsimile: (925) 407-2700  
 E-mail: ltfisher@bursor.com  
 bscott@bursor.com

6 *Attorneys for Plaintiffs*

7  
 8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
 9 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

11 VICTORIA BROWN and HEATHER BLUM,  
 12 individually and on behalf of all others similarly  
 13 situated,

14 Plaintiffs,

15 v.

16 MORTON SALT, INC.,

17 Defendant.

Case No.

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

1 Plaintiffs Victoria Brown and Heather Blum (“Plaintiffs”) bring this action on behalf of  
2 themselves, and all others similarly situated against Morton Salt, Inc. (“Defendant”). Plaintiffs  
3 make the following allegations pursuant to the investigation of their counsel and based upon  
4 information and belief, except as to the allegations specifically pertaining to themselves, which are  
5 based on personal knowledge.

6 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

7 1. This is a putative class action lawsuit on behalf of purchasers of Morton Salt, Inc.’s  
8 Himalayan Pink Salt Products, including the Morton Coarse Himalayan Pink Salt and Morton Fine  
9 Pink Salt (collectively, the “Salt Products”). Defendant Morton Salt markets and sells the Salt  
10 Products as “Himalayan” and “harvested from ancient sea salt deposits deep within the  
11 Himalayas”:



27 2. However, the Salt Products are not “harvested from ... deep within in the  
28 Himalayas.” In fact, they are sourced from salt mines hundreds of miles away in Pakistan.

1 3. As a result of Defendant’s misrepresentations, Defendant is able to charge  
2 consumers more money for its Salt Products because Himalayan pink salt is supposedly mined in  
3 the pristine Himalayan Mountains, which are rich in iron. Accordingly, consumers are willing to  
4 pay more for Himalayan salt.

5 4. By virtue of the misrepresentations on the Product’s packaging, Defendant engaged  
6 in widespread false and deceptive advertising on its Salt Products by claiming that the Salt  
7 Products were “harvested from ... deep within in the Himalayas” (the “Himalayan Claims”). The  
8 Claim prominently appears on each Product’s package.

9 5. Plaintiffs and Class Members purchased Defendant’s Salt Products and they relief to  
10 their detriment on Defendant’s representation that the Products were “harvested from ... deep  
11 within in the Himalayas.” Plaintiffs and Class Members would not have paid to purchase  
12 Defendant’s Salt Products – or they would not have paid as much as they did to purchase it – had  
13 they known that the Salt Products were not, in fact, “Himalayan.” Plaintiffs and Class Members  
14 thus suffered monetary damages from Defendant’s deceptive and false representations.

#### 15 **PARTIES**

16 6. Plaintiff Heather Blum is a citizen of California, residing in Merced, California. In  
17 or about January/February 2021, Plaintiff Blum purchased Morton All-Natural Himalayan Pink  
18 Salt for her personal use from Save Mart in Merced, California. Prior to her purchase of the  
19 Product, Plaintiff Blum reviewed the Product’s labeling and packaging and saw that her Product  
20 was “Himalayan” and “harvested from ancient sea salt deposits deep within the Himalayas.”  
21 Plaintiff Blum relied on that labeling and packaging to choose this Product over comparable  
22 products. Plaintiff Blum saw these representations prior to, and at the time of purchase, and  
23 understood them as representations and warranties that the Product was mined in the Himalayas.  
24 Plaintiff Blum relied on these representations and warranties in deciding to purchase the Product.  
25 Accordingly, those representations and warranties were part of the basis of the bargain, in that she  
26 would not have purchased the Product on the same terms had she known those representations  
27 were not true. However, Plaintiff Blum remains interested in purchasing Salt Products from the  
28 Himalayas and would consider Morton Salt in the future if Defendant ensured the Salt Products

1 actually were mined in the Himalayas. In making her purchase, Plaintiff Blum paid a substantial  
2 price premium due to the false and misleading claim that the Product was from the Himalayas.  
3 However, Plaintiff Blum did not receive the benefit of her bargain because the Salt Product she  
4 purchased was not, in fact, mined in the Himalayas. Plaintiff Blum further understood that the  
5 purchase came with Defendant's representation and warranties that the Salt Product originated  
6 from the Himalayas.

7 7. Plaintiff Victoria Brown is a citizen of California, residing in Bay Point, California.  
8 In or about December 2020, Plaintiff Brown purchased Morton All-Natural Himalayan Pink Salt  
9 for her personal use from Food Co. in Pittsburgh, California. Prior to her purchase of the Salt  
10 Product, Plaintiff Brown reviewed the Product's labeling and packaging and saw that her Salt  
11 Product was "Himalayan" and "harvested from ancient sea salt deposits deep within the  
12 Himalayas." Plaintiff Brown relied on that labeling and packaging to choose this Product over  
13 comparable products. Plaintiff Brown saw these representations prior to, and at the time of  
14 purchase, and understood them as representations and warranties that the Salt Product was mined  
15 in the Himalayas. Plaintiff Brown relied on these representations and warranties in deciding to  
16 purchase the Salt Product. Accordingly, those representations and warranties were part of the basis  
17 of the bargain, in that she would not have purchased the Product on the same terms had she known  
18 those representations were not true. However, Plaintiff Brown remains interested in purchasing  
19 Salt Products from the Himalayas and would consider Morton Salt in the future if Defendant  
20 ensured the Salt Products actually were mined in the Himalayas. In making her purchase, Plaintiff  
21 Brown paid a substantial price premium due to the false and misleading claim that the Product was  
22 from the Himalayas. However, Plaintiff Brown did not receive the benefit of her bargain because  
23 the Salt Product she purchased was not, in fact, mined in the Himalayas. Plaintiff Brown further  
24 understood that the purchase came with Defendant's representation and warranties that the Salt  
25 Product originated from the Himalayas.

26 8. Defendant Morton Salt, Inc. ("Morton Salt") is a corporation incorporated in the  
27 state of Delaware, with its principal place of business in Chicago, Illinois. Morton Salt, Inc. is a  
28 subsidiary of holding company Stone Canyon Industries Holdings, Inc. Morton Salt is North

1 America's leading producer and marketer of salt. Morton Salt manufactures, sells, and/or  
2 distributes Morton Salt-brand products, and is responsible for the advertising, marketing, trade  
3 dress, and packaging of Morton Salt products. Morton Salt manufactured, marketed, and sold the  
4 Salt Products during the class period. The planning and execution of the advertising, marketing,  
5 labeling, packaging, testing, and corporate operations concerning the Salt Products and the  
6 Himalayan Claims was primarily carried out at Morton Salt's headquarters and facilities in Illinois.  
7 The policies, practices, acts and omissions giving rise to this action were developed in, and  
8 emanated from, Morton Salt's headquarters in Chicago, Illinois.

9 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

10 9. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C § 1332(d)(2)(a)  
11 because this case is a class action where the aggregate claims of all members of the proposed class  
12 are in excess of \$5,000,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs, there are over 100 members of the  
13 putative class, and Plaintiffs, as well as most members of the proposed class, are citizens of states  
14 different from Defendant.

15 10. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant Morton Salt because Defendant  
16 is registered with the California Secretary of State to conduct business within California and  
17 conducts substantial business within California, such that Morton Salt has significant, continuous  
18 and pervasive contacts with the State of California.

19 11. Venue is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because Morton Salt  
20 transacts significant business within this District. Venue is also proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c)  
21 because Morton Salt is subject to personal jurisdiction in this District.

22 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

23 12. Himalayan pink salt is a popular product with multiple uses, including cooking and  
24 cosmetics. However, "its origins are rarely highlighted or even mentioned on products—perhaps  
25 because Pakistan, where most of this salt comes from, isn't a place one associates with pink salt.  
26  
27  
28

1 Instead, the salt is often marketed as coming from some amorphous Himalayan mountain, perhaps  
2 an icy glacier.”<sup>1</sup>

3 13. Most Himalayan pink salt is mined in the Khewra Salt mine in Northern Pakistan,  
4 “hundreds of miles from the iconic snowy peaks of the Himalayas.”<sup>2</sup>

5 14. In fact, to combat the misrepresentation that this Pakistani product is Himalayan, the  
6 Pakistani cabinet is set to register Khewra salt with international trade bodies, ensuring that the  
7 product’s true origin is not obfuscated by misleading advertising.<sup>3</sup>

8 15. Morton Salt sells, manufactures, and markets the Salt Products, which are sold as  
9 “Himalayan pink salt.” On the front of the Salt Products’ packaging, the products are touted as  
10 “Himalayan” and “harvested from ancient sea salt deposits deep within the Himalayas”:



25 <sup>1</sup> Diaa Hadid & Abdul Sattar, *Pakistan Wants You To Know: Most Pink Himalayan Salt Doesn't*  
26 *Come From India*, National Public Radio (Oct. 3, 2019),  
<https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2019/10/03/763960436/pakistan-wants-you-to-know-most-pink-himalayan-salt-doesnt-come-from-india>

27 <sup>2</sup>*Id.*

28 <sup>3</sup> Kalbe Ali, *Khewra Salt Set To Be Registered With International Trade Bodies*, Dawn (Apr. 29, 2021), <https://www.dawn.com/news/1620895>

1 16. However, all of Morton Salt’s “Himalayan pink salt” products are in fact mined in  
2 Pakistan, not in the Himalayas.

3 17. Defendant’s advertising and marketing of the Salt Products is false and misleading  
4 and omits material information. Morton Salt prominently advertises on the front label that the Salt  
5 Products are “Himalayan” and the Products’ descriptions also assert that the Salt Products were  
6 “harvested from ancient sea salt deposits deep within the Himalayas.” Consumers reasonably  
7 expect that the Salt Products will, in fact, be from the Himalayas. Nowhere on the Salt Products’  
8 label does Defendant inform consumers that the Salt Products were not mined from the Himalayas.  
9 Defendant’s misrepresentations and/or omissions violate consumers’ reasonable expectations and  
10 as alleged herein, California’s consumer protection statutes.

11 18. Defendant knew or should have known that the Salt Products’ express Himalayan  
12 Claims were false, deceptive, and misleading, and that Plaintiff, the Class, and California Subclass  
13 Members would not be able to tell that the Salt Products were not mined from the Himalayas  
14 absent Defendant’s express disclosure.

15 19. On information and belief, Defendant, knew that their Salt Products were not from  
16 the Himalayas, but chose to include the Himalayan Claims because it did not believe its customers  
17 would know the difference.

18 20. Had Defendant not made the false, misleading, and deceptive representations and/or  
19 omissions alleged herein, Plaintiffs and Class Members would not have purchased the Salt  
20 Products or would not have paid as much as they did for such products. Thus, Plaintiffs and Class  
21 Members suffered an injury in fact and lost money or property as result of Defendant’s wrongful  
22 conduct.

### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

24 21. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference and re-allege herein the allegations  
25 contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.

26 22. Plaintiffs seek to represent a class defined as all people who purchased any Morton  
27 Salt product that falsely advertised that the product was mined from the Himalayan Mountains  
28 during the applicable statute of limitations (the “Class”). Specifically excluded from the Class are

1 Defendant, Defendant's officers, directors, agents, trustees, parents, children, corporations, trusts,  
2 representatives, employees, principals, servants, partners, joint ventures, or entities controlled by  
3 Defendant, and its heirs, successors, assigns, or other persons or entities related to or affiliated with  
4 Defendant and/or Defendant's officers and/or directors, the judge assigned to this action, and any  
5 member of the judge's immediate family.

6 23. Plaintiffs also seek to represent a subclass consisting of Class Members who reside  
7 in California (the "California Subclass").

8 24. Subject to additional information obtained through further investigation and  
9 discovery, the foregoing definitions of the Class and California Subclass may be expanded or  
10 narrowed by amendment or amended complaint.

11 25. **Numerosity.** The Class and California Subclass Members are geographically  
12 dispersed throughout the United States and are so numerous that individual joinder is  
13 impracticable. Upon information and belief, Plaintiffs reasonably estimate that there are hundreds  
14 of thousands of Members in the Class and in the California Subclass. Although the precise number  
15 of Class and California Subclass Members is unknown to Plaintiffs, it is known by Defendant and  
16 may be determined through discovery.

17 26. **Existence and predominance of common questions of law and fact.** Common  
18 questions of law and fact exist as to all Members of the Class and California Subclass and  
19 predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class or California Subclass members.  
20 These common legal and factual questions include, but are not limited to, the following:

21 (a) Whether Defendant made false and/or misleading statements to the  
22 consuming public concerning the origin of the Salt Products;

23 (b) Whether Defendant omitted material information to the consuming public  
24 concerning the origin of the Salt Products;

25 (c) Whether Defendant's labeling and packaging for the Salt Products is  
26 misleading and/or deceptive;

27 (d) Whether Defendant engaged in unfair, fraudulent, or unlawful business  
28 practices with respect to the advertising and sale of the Salt Products;



1 (e) Whether Defendant’s representations concerning the Salt Products were  
2 likely to deceive a reasonable consumer;

3 (f) Whether Defendant’s omissions concerning the Salt Products were likely to  
4 deceive a reasonable consumer;

5 (g) Whether Defendant represented to consumers that the Products have  
6 characteristics, benefits, or qualities that they do not have;

7 (h) Whether Defendant advertised the Salt Products with the intent to sell them  
8 not as advertised;

9 (i) Whether Defendant falsely advertised the Salt Products;

10 (j) Whether Defendant made and breached express and/or implied warranties to  
11 Plaintiffs and Class and California Subclass Members about the Salt Products;

12 (k) Whether Defendant’s representations, omissions, and/or breaches caused  
13 injury to Plaintiffs and Class and California Subclass Members; and

14 (l) Whether Plaintiffs and Class and California Subclass Members are entitled  
15 to damages.

16 27. **Typicality.** Plaintiffs’ claims are typical of the claims of the other Members of the  
17 Class and Subclass in that, among other things, all Class and California Subclass Members were  
18 deceived (or reasonably likely to be deceived) in the same way by Defendant’s false and  
19 misleading advertising claims about the origin of the Salt Products. All Class and California  
20 Subclass Members were comparably injured by Defendant’s wrongful conduct as set forth herein.  
21 Further, there are no defenses available to Defendant that are unique to Plaintiffs.

22 28. **Adequacy of Representation.** Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the  
23 interests of the Members of the Class and California Subclass. Plaintiffs have retained counsel that  
24 is highly experienced in complex consumer class action litigation, and Plaintiffs intend to  
25 vigorously prosecute this action on behalf of the Class and California Subclass. Furthermore,  
26 Plaintiffs have no interests that are antagonistic to those of the Class or California Subclass.

27 29. **Superiority.** A class action is superior to all other available means for the fair and  
28 efficient adjudication of this controversy. The damages or other financial detriment suffered by

1 individual Class and California Subclass Members are relatively small compared to the burden and  
2 expense of individual litigation of their claims against Defendant. It would, thus, be virtually  
3 impossible for Class or California Subclass Members to obtain effective redress on an individual  
4 basis for the wrongs committed against them. Even if Class or California Subclass Members could  
5 afford such individualized litigation, the court system could not. Individualized litigation would  
6 create the danger of inconsistent or contradictory judgments arising from the same set of facts. It  
7 would also increase the delay and expense to all parties and the court system from the issues raised  
8 by this action. The class action device provides the benefits of adjudication of these issues in a  
9 single proceeding, economies of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court, and  
10 presents no unusual management difficulties under the circumstances.

11 30. In the alternative, the Class and California Subclass may also be certified because:

12 (a) the prosecution of separate actions by individual Class and California  
13 Subclass Members would create a risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications with respect to  
14 individual Class or California Subclass Members that would establish incompatible standards of  
15 conduct for Defendant;

16 (b) the prosecution of separate actions by individual Class and California  
17 Subclass Members would create a risk of adjudications with respect to them that would, as a  
18 practical matter, be dispositive of the interests of other Class and California Subclass Members not  
19 parties to the adjudications, or substantially impair or impede their ability to protect their interests;  
20 and/or

21 (c) Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the  
22 Class and to the California Subclass as a whole, thereby making appropriate final declaratory  
23 and/or injunctive relief with respect to the Members of the Class and to the Members of the  
24 California Subclass as a whole.

25 **COUNT I**  
26 **Violation Of Consumers Legal Remedies Act (“CLRA”)**  
**Cal. Civ. Code § 1750, et seq.**  
27 **(On Behalf Of The California Subclass)**

28 31. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference and re-allege herein the allegations  
contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.

1           32. Plaintiffs bring this claim individually and on behalf of the Members of the  
2 proposed California Subclass against Defendant.

3           33. Defendant has violated California’s Consumers Legal Remedies Act (the “CLRA”)  
4 by engaging in the following unfair and deceptive business practices, as alleged above and herein:

5           (a) Defendant violated Cal. Civ. Code § 1770(a)(5) by using deceptive representations or  
6 designations of geographic origin in connection with the Products.

7           (b) Defendant violated Cal. Civ. Code § 1770(a)(5) by representing that the Products have  
8 characteristics that they do not have.

9           (c) Defendant violated Cal. Civ. Code § 1770(a)(9) by advertising the Products with the  
10 intent not to sell them as advertised.

11           34. The CLRA was enacted to protect consumers against such practices. The CLRA  
12 applies to Defendant’s conduct because the statute covers all sales of goods to consumers.

13           35. Plaintiffs and other Members of the California Subclass are “consumers” within the  
14 meaning of Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(d). By purchasing Defendant’s Products, Plaintiffs and other  
15 Members of the California Subclass engaged in “transactions” within the meaning of Cal. Civ.  
16 Code §§ 1761(e) and 1770.

17           36. Defendant is a “person” within the meaning of Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(c).

18           37. Defendant’s Salt Products are “goods” within the meaning of Cal. Civ. Code §  
19 1761(a).

20           38. Defendant’s unfair and deceptive business practices, as alleged above and herein  
21 were intended to and did result in the sale of the Products.

22           39. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant’s unfair and deceptive business  
23 practices, as alleged above and herein, Plaintiffs and other Members of the California Subclass  
24 suffered injury and damages in an amount to be determined at trial.

25           40. On information and belief, Defendant’s unfair and deceptive business practices, as  
26 alleged above and herein, were willful, wanton, and fraudulent.

1 41. On information and belief, Defendant’s officers, directors, and/or managing agents  
2 authorized the use of the false and misleading statements and material omissions regarding the  
3 serving yield of Defendant’s Products, as alleged above and herein.

4 42. On May 6, 2021, prior to the filing of this Complaint, Plaintiffs’ counsel sent  
5 Defendant a CLRA notice letter, which complies in all respects with California Civil Code  
6 §1782(a). The letter also provided notice of breach of express and implied warranties. The letter  
7 was sent via certified mail, return receipt requested, advising Defendant that it was in violation of  
8 the CLRA and demanding that it cease and desist from such violations and make full restitution by  
9 refunding the monies received therefrom. The letter stated that it was sent on behalf of Plaintiff  
10 Brown and all other similarly situated purchasers.

11 43. Plaintiffs and the California Subclass Members seek to enjoin the unlawful acts and  
12 practices described herein.

**COUNT II**  
**Violation Of Unfair Competition Law,**  
**Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200, *et seq.***  
**(On Behalf Of The California Subclass)**

13  
14  
15  
16 44. Plaintiffs and the California Subclass Members seek to enjoin the unlawful acts and  
practices described herein.

17 45. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference and re-allege herein the allegations  
18 contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.

19 46. Plaintiffs bring this claim individually and on behalf of the Members of the  
20 proposed California Subclass against Defendant.

21 47. Defendant violated California’s Unfair Competition Law (“UCL”), Cal. Bus. &  
22 Prof. Code §§ 17200-17210, by engaging in unfair, fraudulent, and unlawful business practices.

23 48. Plaintiffs have standing to pursue this claim because they have suffered an injury-in-  
24 fact and have lost money or property from Defendant’s unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent conduct.  
25 Specifically, Plaintiffs purchased Morton Salt Products for their own personal consumption. In  
26 doing so, Plaintiffs relied upon Defendant’s false representations that the Salt Product was mined  
27 from the Himalayas, when in fact it was mined in Pakistan. Plaintiffs spent money in the  
28

1 transaction that they otherwise would not have spent had they known the truth about Defendant's  
2 advertising claims.

3 ***“Unfair” Prong of the UCL***

4 49. A business act or practice is “unfair” under the UCL if it offends an established  
5 public policy or is immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous, or substantially injurious to  
6 consumers. That unfairness is determined by weighing the reasons, justifications, and motives for  
7 the business act or practice against the gravity of the harm to the alleged victims.

8 50. Defendant's conduct constitutes an “unfair” business practice because, as alleged  
9 herein, Defendant has engaged, and continue to engage, in a false, misleading, and deceptive  
10 advertising campaign that misleads consumers into believing that the Salt Products they purchased  
11 are mined from the Himalayas, when in fact they are mined in Pakistan.

12 51. Defendant's conduct, as alleged above and herein, was not motivated by any  
13 legitimate business or economic need or rationale, other than to maximize their profits at the  
14 expense of consumers. No legitimate reasons, justifications, or motives outweigh the harm and  
15 adverse impact of Defendant's conduct on members of the general consuming public.

16 52. Defendant engaged, and continues to engage, in such conduct solely to wrongfully  
17 extract monies from consumers, including Plaintiffs, to which Defendant is not entitled.

18 53. Defendant could have, but has not, used alternate means of effecting its legitimate  
19 business needs, such as by properly disclosing (1) that the Products are mined in Pakistan, and (2)  
20 that the products are not, in fact, mined from the Himalayan Mountains.

21 54. Defendant's conduct harms consumers and hurts market competition.

22 55. Defendant's conduct, as alleged herein, is immoral, unethical, oppressive,  
23 unscrupulous, unconscionable, and/or substantially injurious to Plaintiffs and Members of the  
24 California Subclass because it violates consumers' reasonable expectations. If Defendant had  
25 advertised its Salt Products in a non-misleading fashion, Plaintiffs and other California Subclass  
26 Members could have considered other options for purchasing salt.

1 ***“Fraudulent” Prong of the UCL***

2 56. A business act or practice is “fraudulent” under the UCL if it is likely to deceive  
3 members of the consuming public.

4 57. Defendant has engaged, and continues to engage, in a “fraudulent” business practice  
5 by knowingly representing to consumers that the Salt Products are “Himalayan” and the Products’  
6 descriptions also assert that the Salt Products were “harvested from ancient sea salt deposits deep  
7 within the Himalayas”, when in fact they are from a salt mine in Pakistan. Defendant’s conduct  
8 deceived Plaintiffs and other California Subclass Members who purchased the Salt Products in  
9 reliance on the Himalayan Claims, and it is highly likely to deceive members of the consuming  
10 public because, as alleged above, it violates consumers’ reasonable expectations the Salt Products’  
11 geographic origin. Such a business practice lacks utility and functions only to maximize  
12 Defendant’s profits at the expense of their customers. The gravity of the harm to Plaintiffs and  
13 other California Subclass Members, who lost money or property by paying for the Products, far  
14 outweighs any benefit from Defendant’s conduct.

15 58. Further, Defendant’s fraudulent business practice will continue to mislead  
16 consumers because it will be impossible for consumers to know whether Defendant has stopped  
17 misrepresenting the source of its Products. Accordingly, the risk of harm to Plaintiffs, Members of  
18 the California Subclass, and the consuming public is ongoing.

19 ***“Unlawful” Prong of the UCL***

20 59. A business act or practice is “unlawful” under the UCL if it violates any other law  
21 or regulation.

22 60. Defendant’s business practices, as alleged herein, constitute violations of  
23 California’s Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code § 1750, *et seq.* (the “CLRA”).

24 61. Specifically, Defendant has unlawfully marketed and advertised its Salt Products in  
25 violation of Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1770(a)(4), 1770(a)(5) and 1770(a)(9), as detailed below.

26 62. Defendant’s business practices also constitute violations of California’s False  
27 Advertising Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500, *et seq.* (the “FAL”), as detailed below.

28

1           63. Defendant’s unfair, fraudulent, and unlawful business practices, as enumerated and  
2 explained above, were the direct and proximate cause of financial injury to Plaintiffs and other  
3 Members of the California Subclass. Defendant has unjustly benefitted from its wrongful conduct.  
4 Accordingly, Plaintiffs and the California Subclass seek an order of this Court that includes, but is  
5 not limited to, requiring Defendant to: (a) provide restitution to Plaintiffs and other California  
6 Subclass Members; (b) disgorge all revenues obtained because of its violations of the UCL; (c) pay  
7 attorneys’ fees and costs for Plaintiffs and the California Subclass.

8   **COUNT III**  
9   **Violation Of False Advertising Law,**  
10    **Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500, et seq.**  
11    **(On Behalf Of The California Subclass)**

12           64. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference and re-allege herein the allegations  
13 contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.

14           65. Plaintiffs bring this claim individually and on behalf of the Members of the  
15 proposed California Subclass against Defendant.

16           66. Defendant violated California’s False Advertising Law (“FAL”), Cal. Bus. & Prof.  
17 Code § 17500 by publicly disseminating false, misleading, and/or unsubstantiated advertisements  
18 regarding their Salt Products as alleged above and herein.

19           67. Plaintiffs have standing to pursue this claim because they have suffered an injury-in-  
20 fact and they have lost money or property because of Defendant’s false advertising.

21           68. Specifically, Plaintiffs purchased a Morton Salt Product for their own personal  
22 consumption. In doing so, Plaintiffs relied upon Defendant’s false, and misleading representations  
23 that the Salt Products were “Himalayan” and were “harvested from ancient sea salt deposits deep  
24 within the Himalayas.” Plaintiffs spent money in the transaction that they otherwise would not  
25 have spent had they known the truth about Defendant’s advertising claims.

26           69. Defendant disseminated false and misleading advertisements to increase the sales of  
27 its Salt Products.

28           70. Defendant knew or should have known that the advertisements for its Salt Products  
were false and/or misleading.

71. Defendant knew or should have known that consumers, including Plaintiffs and other Members of the California Subclass, would believe that the Products were “Himalayan” and were “harvested from ancient sea salt deposits deep within the Himalayas” as prominently advertised on their labels.

72. Plaintiffs and Members of the California Subclass have suffered harm as a result of Defendant’s violations of the FAL because they paid monies for the Salt Products that they would not have paid but for Defendant’s false and misleading advertisements.

73. Accordingly, Plaintiffs and Members of the California Subclass seek an order of this Court that includes, but is not limited to, requiring Defendant to: (a) provide restitution to Plaintiffs and other California Subclass Members; (b) disgorge all revenues obtained from their violations of the FAL; (c) pay attorneys’ fees and costs for Plaintiffs and the California Subclass.

**COUNT IV**  
**Breach of Express Warranty**  
**(On Behalf Of The Class And The California Subclass)**

74. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference and re-allege herein the allegations contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.

75. Plaintiffs bring this claim individually and on behalf of the Members of the proposed Class and California Subclasses against Defendant.

76. As the designer, manufacturer, marketer, distributor, and/or seller of Morton Salt Products, Defendant issued an express warranty by representing to consumers at the point of purchase that each Salt Product is “Himalayan” and was “harvested from ancient sea salt deposits deep within the Himalayas.” Defendant’s representations were part of the description of the goods and the bargain upon which the goods were offered for sale and purchased by Plaintiffs and Members of the Class and California Subclasses.

77. In fact, the Salt Products are not “Himalayan” and were not “harvested from ancient sea salt deposits deep within the Himalayas.” Rather, they are mined in Pakistan, hundreds of miles away. By falsely representing the Salt Products in this way, Defendant breached express warranties. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant’s breach, Plaintiffs and Members of the Class and California Subclasses were injured because they: (1) paid money for Salt Products that



1 were not what Defendant represented; (2) were deprived of the benefit of the bargain because the  
2 Salt Products they purchased were different than Defendant advertised; and (3) were deprived of  
3 the benefit of the bargain because the Salt Products they purchased had less value than Defendant  
4 represented. Had Defendant not breached the express warranty by making the false representations  
5 alleged herein, Plaintiffs and Class and California Subclass Members would not have purchased the  
6 Salt Products or they would not have paid as much as they did for them.

7  
8 **COUNT V**  
9 **Breach of Implied Warranty**  
10 **(On Behalf Of The Class And The California Subclass)**

11 78. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference and re-allege herein the allegations  
12 contained in all preceding paragraphs of this complaint.

13 79. Plaintiffs bring this claim individually and on behalf of the Members of the  
14 proposed Class and California Subclass against Defendant.

15 80. Defendant routinely engages in the manufacture, distribution, and/or sale of the Salt  
16 Products and is a merchant that deals in such goods or otherwise holds itself out as having  
17 knowledge or skill particular to the practices and goods involved.

18 81. Plaintiffs and Members of the Class and California Subclass were consumers who  
19 purchased Defendant's Salt Products for the ordinary purpose of such products.

20 82. By representing that the Salt Products are "Himalayan" and were "harvested from  
21 ancient sea salt deposits deep within the Himalayas," Defendant impliedly warranted to consumers  
22 that the Salt Products were merchantable, such that they were of the same average grade, quality,  
23 and value as similar goods sold under similar circumstances.

24 83. However, the Salt Products were not of the same average grade, quality, and value  
25 as similar goods sold under similar circumstances. Thus, they were not merchantable and, as such,  
26 would not pass without objection in the trade or industry under the contract description.

27 84. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's breach, Plaintiff and Members of  
28 the Class and California Subclass were injured because they paid money for the Salt Products that  
would not pass without objection in the trade or industry under the contract description.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, seek judgment against Defendant as follows:

A. Certifying the nationwide Class and the California Subclass under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and naming Plaintiffs as representatives of the Class and California Subclass and Plaintiffs’ attorneys as Class Counsel to represent the Class and California Subclass Members;

B. Declaring that Defendant’s conduct violates the statutes referenced herein;

C. Finding in favor of Plaintiffs, the nationwide Class and the California Subclass against Defendant on all counts asserted herein;

D. Ordering Defendant to disgorge and make restitution of all monies Defendant acquired by means of the unlawful practices as set forth herein;

E. Awarding declaratory and injunctive relief as permitted by law or equity, including enjoining Defendant from continuing the unlawful practices as set forth herein, and directing Defendant to identify, with Court supervision, victims of its conduct and pay them all the money they are required to pay;

F. Awarding Plaintiffs and Class and California Subclass Members their costs and expenses incurred in the action, including reasonable attorneys’ fees;

G. Ordering Defendant to pay pre-judgment interest on all amounts awarded;

H. Providing such further relief as may be just and proper.

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b), Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury of any and all issues in this action so triable of right.

Dated: September 2, 2021

**BURSOR & FISHER, P.A.**

By:  /s/ L. Timothy Fisher  
L. Timothy Fisher

L. Timothy Fisher (State Bar No.191626)  
Brittany S. Scott (State Bar No. 327132)  
1990 North California Blvd., Suite 940

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

Walnut Creek, CA 94596  
Telephone: (925) 300-4455  
Facsimile: (925) 407-2700  
E-mail: ltfisher@bursor.com  
bscott@bursor.com

*Attorneys for Plaintiffs*

**CLRA Venue Declaration Pursuant to California Civil Code Section 1780(d)**

I, L. Timothy Fisher declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney at law licensed to practice in the State of California and a member of the bar of this Court. I am a partner at Bursor & Fisher, P.A., counsel of record for Plaintiffs in this action. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth in this declaration and, if called as a witness, I could and would competently testify thereto under oath.

2. The Complaint filed in this action is filed in the proper place for trial under Civil Code Section 1780(d) in that a substantial portion of the events alleged in the Complaint occurred in the Northern District of California.

I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and the United States that the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed at Walnut Creek, California this 2nd day of September, 2021.

/s/ L. Timothy Fisher  
L. Timothy Fisher

CIVIL COVER SHEET

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

VICTORIA BROWN and HEATHER BLUM, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

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

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

L. Timothy Fisher, Bursor & Fisher, P.A., 1990 N. California Blvd., Suite 940 Walnut Creek, CA 94596 Tel.: (925) 300-4455

DEFENDANTS

MORTON SALT, INC.,

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 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party) 2 U.S. Government Defendant 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 incorporation status.

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

Large table with categories: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, 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): 28 U.S.C. 1332(d)

Brief description of cause: Plaintiffs allege that Defendant falsely advertises its products

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, Fed. R. Civ. P. DEMAND \$ 5,000,001.00

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

VIII. RELATED CASE(S), IF ANY (See instructions):

JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT (Civil Local Rule 3-2)

(Place an "X" in One Box Only) X SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND SAN JOSE EUREKA-MCKINLEYVILLE

DATE 09/02/2021

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

/s/ L. Timothy Fisher