

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

DEBORAH BOSSO, on behalf of herself
and all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

vs.

THE J. M. SMUCKER COMPANY and THE
FOLGER COFFEE COMPANY,

Defendants.

Civil Action No.: 1:21-cv-1239

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiff Deborah Bosso (“Plaintiff”), on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, brings this class action against The J. M. Smucker Company and The Folger Coffee Company (collectively, “Defendants”), based on Defendants’ false and deceptive labeling and advertising of their Folgers ground coffee products (hereinafter collectively referred to as the “Products”).¹ Plaintiff makes the following allegations based on the investigation of her counsel and on information and belief, except as to allegations pertaining to Plaintiff individually, which are based on her personal knowledge.

INTRODUCTION

1. This case involves a straightforward and systematic course of false, misleading, and unlawful conduct: Defendants have grossly misrepresented the number of cups of coffee that the Products can make.

2. Throughout the statute of limitations period, Defendants have sold the Products to consumers based on the representation that they contain enough ground coffee to make up to a specific number of servings (e.g., “240 6 fl oz cups”). However, by following Defendants’ own

¹ “Products” are further defined *infra* in Paragraphs 14-15.

definitions and instructions, the Products do not contain enough ground coffee to make the number of servings represented or even close to it.

3. Indeed, it is a classic and unlawful bait-and-switch scheme that causes unsuspecting consumers to spend more money for less than the advertised amount of coffee they believe they are purchasing.

4. Plaintiff and other consumers purchased the Products because they reasonably believed – based on Defendants’ representations – that these Products contained enough coffee to make the specified number of servings. Had Plaintiff and other consumers known the truth (i.e., that the Products do not contain enough coffee to make the specified number of servings), they would have paid less for them, or would not have purchased them at all. As a result, Plaintiff and other consumers have been deceived and have suffered economic injury.

5. Plaintiff seeks relief in this action individually, and on behalf of all other similarly situated individuals who purchased Defendants’ falsely and deceptively labeled Products during the statute of limitations period.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

6. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2), because this is a class action filed under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, there are thousands of proposed Class² members, the aggregate amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000 exclusive of interest and costs, and Defendants are citizens of a state different from at least some members of the proposed Classes, including Plaintiff.

² “Class” is defined *infra* in Paragraph 41.

7. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because Defendants have sufficient minimum contacts with the State of New York, and/or otherwise intentionally avails itself of the markets in the State of New York through the promotion, marketing, and sale of their Products in this State to render the exercise of jurisdiction by this Court permissible under traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

8. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiff's claims occurred in this District. Plaintiff resides in this District and purchased the Products in this District.

PARTIES

9. Plaintiff Deborah Bosso is a citizen of the United States and the State of New York and she currently resides in Niagara County, New York. In or around May 2018, Plaintiff purchased the Folgers Breakfast Blend, 38.5 oz. product from a Walmart in Niagara County, New York, for her own personal use. In purchasing the Product, Plaintiff saw and relied on Defendants' representations made on the packaging. Specifically, Plaintiff reasonably believed that the Products contained enough ground coffee to make 315 cups or servings because she saw the representation "MAKES UP TO 315 6 FL OZ CUPS" prominently printed on the front of the canister. Plaintiff's reasonable belief that the Product she purchased could make the represented number of servings was an important factor in her decision to purchase the Product. Plaintiff would have paid significantly less for the Product had she known that the Product did not contain enough ground coffee to make the represented number of cups of coffee. Therefore, Plaintiff suffered injury in fact and lost money as a result of Defendants' misleading, false, unfair, and deceptive practices, as described herein.

10. Despite being misled by Defendants with respect to the Folgers ground coffee products she purchased, Plaintiff lacks personal knowledge as to Defendants' specific business

practices. Consequently, there is still doubt in her mind as to the possibility that some of the Products could contain enough coffee to make the advertised number of servings. For example, because there are many Folgers Products involved in Defendants' deceit, and due to the likelihood that Defendants may yet develop and market additional coffee products that misrepresent the serving yield, Plaintiff may again purchase a falsely-advertised ground coffee products from Defendants under the mistaken impression that the represented number of servings is accurate. Moreover, without scooping out every grain of ground coffee in the Products, Plaintiff would have no way of determining whether the servings representations on the front labeling are accurate. Also, Class members will continue to purchase the Products, reasonably but incorrectly believing that they contain enough coffee to make the advertised number of servings.

11. Plaintiff is also susceptible to reoccurring harm in that she desires to continue to purchase the Products but cannot be certain Defendants have corrected their deceptive and false advertising scheme. Indeed, Plaintiff regularly shops at stores where the Products are sold, and they would like to continue purchasing the Products. However, she currently cannot trust that Defendants will label and/or advertise the Products she purchased in the past truthfully and in compliance with applicable law.

12. The J. M. Smucker Company is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of Ohio, with its headquarters and principal place of business at One Strawberry Lane, Orrville, OH 44667. The J. M. Smucker Company is one of the world's biggest consumer packaged goods companies and it owns the Folgers brand.

13. The Folger Coffee Company is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of Ohio, with its headquarters and principal place of business at One Strawberry

Lane, Orrville, OH 44667. Folgers has a rich history dating back to 1850 and is arguably the most well-known coffee maker in the United States. The coffee giant excels in offering a wide range of products to customers, including varying flavors, roasts and strength of coffee. Beginning in 1850 in San Francisco, Folgers is now a household name recognized and sold around the world. Since the early 1990s, it has been the largest-selling ground coffee provider in the United States. In the 1980s, Folgers' slogan "The best part of waking up is Folgers in your cup!" and the well-associated jingle became recognizable in households across the country, along with the Folgers name. Folgers generates millions of dollars in sales each year, a significant portion of which is derived from sales of the Products. In 2008, Folgers was acquired by The J. M. Smucker Company from Procter & Gamble for a reported \$3 billion.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. The Folgers Ground Coffee Products At Issue

14. The Products at issue in this case consist of all varieties (e.g., different types of roasts) and sizes (e.g., 20 oz., 30.5 oz., etc.) of Folgers ground coffee canisters.

15. These Products include but are not limited to the following varieties of Folgers ground coffee canisters: Classic Roast, Classic Roast Decaf, ½ Caff, CoffeeHouse Blend, Country Roast, Simply Smooth, Simply Smooth Decaf, 100% Colombian, Black Silk, Black Silk Decaf, Brazilian Blend, Breakfast Blend, French Roast, Gourmet Supreme, House Blend, and Special Roast.

16. The Products are sold across the United States, including in New York, through third party retailers including grocery chains and large retail outlets.

B. Defendants Grossly Overstate The Number of Servings The Products Can Make

17. Defendants represent on the packaging of each of the Products that they contain enough ground coffee to make up to a specified number of servings. For example, Defendants

prominently state on the front canister of the 30.5 oz. canister of Folgers Classic Roast Coffee:

“MAKES UP TO 240 6 FL OZ CUPS.”

18. Representative images of the front of the canisters of some of the Products are depicted below:







19. Defendants place a materially identical representation on the front label of all the Products, although the number of represented servings of course varies based on the size of the Product.

20. On the back of all the Products, Defendants instruct consumers that they should use one tablespoon of ground coffee to make one serving (one 6 fl oz cup) of coffee.³

21. One tablespoon of ground coffee weighs approximately 5 grams.

22. Based on these standard measurements, it is evident that Defendants grossly overstate the number of servings the Products can make.

23. By way of example, Defendants represent on the 30.5 oz. canister of the Folgers Classic Roast that it “MAKES UP TO 240 6 FL OZ CUPS.”

24. As set forth above, one tablespoon of ground coffee is needed to make 1 serving. Therefore, 240 tablespoons of ground coffee are needed to make 240 servings.

25. As set forth above, one tablespoon of ground coffee = approximately 5 grams. Therefore, 1200 grams of ground coffee is needed to make 240 servings [240 tablespoons x 5 grams].

26. However, the 30.5 oz. canister has a net weight of 865 grams. Therefore, it contains only 72% of the amount of ground coffee required to make up to 240 cups of coffee [865 / 1200 x 100%]. This is equivalent to approximately 173 cups of coffee.

27. The same shortfall (i.e., only 173 cups of coffee) is calculated by dividing the total grams of coffee in the 30.5 oz. cannister by the number of grams required to make a single serving [865 grams / 5 grams].

³ Hereinafter, the term “cup” is synonymous, and used interchangeably with, the term “serving” and is equivalent to 6 fluid ounces, based on Defendants’ representations.

28. In sum, the 30.5 oz. canister only contains enough coffee to make 173 cups, which is equivalent to 72% of the amount of ground coffee that is required to make the 240 cups of coffee:

- 865 grams / 1200 grams = 72%
- 173 cups / 240 cups = 72%

29. Thus, it is impossible for the Product to contain enough ground coffee to make anywhere close to “240 6 fl oz cups” of coffee, as promised by Defendants. Defendants’ representation that the 30.5 oz. canister “MAKES UP TO 240 6 FL OZ CUPS” is therefore false, deceptive, and misleading.

30. The same calculations apply equally to all of the other Products. According to their net weight, as well as the weight per tablespoon of ground coffee, they are unable to make anywhere close to the represented number of cups. These calculations are set forth in the following chart:

Product Name	Net Weight	Number of “Up To” Servings Promised	Approximate Number of Servings Received	Approximate Percentage of Servings Received
Classic Roast	11.3 oz.	90	64	71.1%
Classic Roast	22.6 oz.	180	128	71.1%
Classic Roast	30.5 oz.	240	173	72.0%
Classic Roast	38.4 oz.	305	216	70.8%
Classic Roast	48 oz.	380	272	71.6%
Classic Roast	51 oz.	400	288	72%
Classic Decaf	11.3 oz.	90	64	71.1%
Classic Decaf	22.6 oz.	180	128	71.1%
Classic Decaf	30.5 oz.	240	173	72.0%
Classic Decaf	33.9 oz.	270	192.2	71.2%
1/2 Caff	10.8 oz.	90	61.2	68%
1/2 Caff	25.4 oz.	210	144	68.6%

CoffeeHouse Blend	10.8 oz.	90	61.2	68%
CoffeeHouse Blend	25.4 oz.	210	144	68.6%
Country Roast	25.1 oz.	240	142.2	59.3%
Country Roast	31.1 oz.	240	176.4	73.5%
Simply Smooth	11.5 oz.	90	65.2	72.4%
Simply Smooth	23 oz.	180	130.4	72.4%
Simply Smooth	31.1 oz.	240	176.4	73.5%
Simply Smooth	34.5 oz.	270	195.6	72.4%
Simply Smooth Decaf	11.5 oz.	90	65.2	72.4%
Simply Smooth Decaf	23 oz.	180	130.4	72.4%
100% Colombian	10.3 oz.	90	58.4	64.9%
100% Colombian	24.2 oz.	210	137.2	65.3%
Black Silk	10.3 oz.	90	58.4	64.9%
Black Silk	24.2 oz.	210	137.2	65.3%
Black Silk Decaf	10.3 oz.	90	58.4	64.9%
Black Silk Decaf	20.6 oz.	180	116.8	64.9%
Brazilian Blend	10.3 oz.	90	58.4	64.9%
Brazilian Blend	24.2 oz.	210	137.2	65.3%
Breakfast Blend	10.8 oz.	90	61.2	68%
Breakfast Blend	25.4 oz.	210	144	68.6%
Breakfast Blend	38.5 oz.	315	218	69.2%
French Roast	10.3 oz.	90	58.4	64.9%
French Roast	24.2 oz.	210	137.2	65.3%
Gourmet Supreme	10.3 oz.	90	58.4	64.9%
Gourmet Supreme	24.2 oz.	210	137.2	65.3%
Gourmet Supreme	27.8oz	240	157.8	65.7%
House Blend	10.3 oz.	90	58.4	64.9%
House Blend	24.2 oz.	210	137.2	65.3%
Special Roast	10.3 oz.	90	58.4	64.9%
Special Roast	24.2 oz.	210	137.2	65.3%

31. There are 42 varieties of the Products listed in the chart above. Each and every one of them contains substantially less ground coffee than is required to make the recommended number of “up to” servings promised on the packaging. On average, these Products contain

enough ground coffee to make only 68.29% of the number of servings promised on the packaging, thus revealing a systematic course of unlawful conduct by Defendants to deceive and shortchange consumers.

C. The False and Deceptive Serving Amount Representations Harm Consumers

32. Plaintiff and other consumers purchased the Products relying on Defendants' serving amount representations on the Products' packaging.

33. Plaintiff and other consumers reasonably expect that, if they follow the serving instructions, the Products will produce the number of servings/cups of coffee as represented on the Products' packaging.

34. Plaintiff's and consumers' reasonable belief that the Products are able to make up to the represented number of cups of coffee was a significant factor in each of their decisions to purchase the Products.

35. Plaintiff and Class members did not know, and had no reason to know, that the Products' labeling vastly overstates the number of cups of coffee they are able to make. At the time of purchase, a reasonable consumer cannot measure or calculate how many servings the Products can make. Nor are reasonable consumers expected to keep track of the precise number of cups of coffee they make over a period of time.

36. As the entity responsible for the development, manufacturing, packaging, advertising, distribution and sale of the Products, Defendants knew or should have known that each of the Products falsely and deceptively overstates the number of servings of coffee that can be made.

37. Defendants also knew or should have known that Plaintiff and other consumers, in purchasing the Products, would rely on Defendants' serving size representations. Nonetheless, Defendants deceptively advertise the Products in order to deceive consumers into believing they

are getting considerably more coffee than they are paying for.

38. Consumers are willing to pay more for the Products based on the belief that the Products contain enough ground coffee to make up to the represented number of servings. Plaintiff and other consumers would have paid significantly less for the Products, or would not have purchased them at all, had they known that they were getting fewer servings of coffee than what they were promised.

39. By analogy, if a consumer purchased a six-pack of soda, but only received four cans of soda, the consumer would only be receiving 66.67% of what she paid for. The situation here is no different in terms of the harm to the consumer. The only difference is that, due to the nature of the Products, Defendants are able to conceal the gross shortfall of coffee because reasonable consumers do not keep track of the number of cups of coffee they make over a period of time.

40. Therefore, Plaintiff and other consumers purchasing the Products have suffered injury in fact and lost money as a result of Defendants' false and deceptive practices, as described herein.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

41. Plaintiff brings this class action pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, individually and on behalf of all members of the following Classes:

Nationwide Class:

All persons who purchased any of the Products in the United States for personal, family, or household purposes, within the applicable statute-of-limitations period.

New York Class:

All persons who, within the relevant statute of limitations period, purchased any of the Products for personal, family, or household purposes in the state of New York.

42. Excluded from the Classes are the following individuals and/or entities: Defendants and its parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers and directors, current or former employees, and any entity in which Defendants have a controlling interest; all individuals who make a timely election to be excluded from this proceeding using the correct protocol for opting out; and all judges assigned to hear any aspect of this litigation, as well as their immediate family members.

43. Plaintiff reserves the right to modify or amend the definition of the proposed Classes after having had an opportunity to conduct discovery.

44. Numerosity: The proposed Classes are so numerous that joinder of all members would be impractical. The Products are sold throughout New York and the United States generally, by third-party retailers. The number of individuals who purchased the Products in New York and the United States during relevant time period is at least in the thousands. Accordingly, Class members are so numerous that their individual joinder herein is impractical. While the precise number of Class members and their identities are unknown to Plaintiff at this time, these Class members are identifiable and ascertainable.

45. Common Questions Predominate: There are questions of law and fact common to the proposed Classes that will drive the resolution of this action and will predominate over questions affecting only individual Class members. These questions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Whether Defendants misrepresented material facts and/or failed to disclose material facts in connection with the packaging, marketing, distribution, and sale of the Products;
- b. Whether Defendants' use of false or deceptive packaging and advertising

constituted false or deceptive advertising;

- c. Whether Defendants engaged in unfair, unlawful and/or fraudulent business practices;
- d. Whether Defendants' conduct violated the numerous state consumer protection statutes alleged herein;
- e. Whether Defendants' unlawful conduct, as alleged herein, was intentional and knowing;
- f. Whether Plaintiff and the Classes are entitled to damages and/or restitution, and in what amount;
- g. Whether Defendants are likely to continue using false, misleading or unlawful conduct such that an injunction is necessary; and
- h. Whether Plaintiff and the Classes are entitled to an award of reasonable attorneys' fees, interest, and costs of suit.

46. Defendants have engaged in a common course of conduct giving rise to violations of the legal rights sought to be enforced uniformly by Plaintiff and Class members. Similar or identical statutory and common law violations, business practices, and injuries are involved. The injuries sustained by members of the proposed Classes flow, in each instance, from a common nucleus of operative fact, namely, Defendants' deceptive packaging and advertising of the Products. Each instance of harm suffered by Plaintiff and Class members has directly resulted from a single course of illegal conduct. Therefore, individual questions, if any, pale in comparison to the numerous common questions presented in this action.

47. Superiority: Because of the relatively small size of the individual Class members' claims, no Class member could afford to seek legal redress on an individual basis. Furthermore,

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. A class action is superior to any alternative means of prosecution.

48. Typicality: The representative Plaintiff's claims are typical of those of the proposed Classes, as all members of the proposed Classes are similarly affected by Defendants' uniform unlawful conduct as alleged herein.

49. Adequacy: Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the proposed Classes as her interests do not conflict with the interests of the members of the proposed Classes she seeks to represent, and she has retained counsel competent and experienced in class action litigation. The interests of the members of the Classes will be fairly and adequately protected by the Plaintiff and her counsel.

50. This lawsuit is maintainable as a class action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 because Defendant acted, or failed to act, on grounds generally applicable to Plaintiff and the proposed Classes, supporting the imposition of uniform relief to ensure compatible standards of conduct toward the members of the Classes.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Violation of N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 349
(for the New York Class)

51. Plaintiff repeats the allegations contained in paragraphs 1-50 above as if fully set forth herein.

52. Plaintiff brings this claim on behalf of herself and on behalf of the members of the New York Class.

53. New York General Business Law ("GBL") § 349 declares unlawful "[d]eceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any business, trade or commerce . . ." GBL § 349(a).

54. The practices alleged herein namely, deceiving consumers into believing that the Products contain enough ground coffee to make substantially more servings than they can actually make – are unfair, deceptive, and misleading, in violation of GBL § 349.

55. The foregoing deceptive acts and practices were directed at Plaintiff and members of the New York Class.

56. Defendants' misrepresentation regarding the Products is material to a reasonable consumer because it relates to the amount of product the consumer is receiving and paying for. A reasonable consumer attaches importance to such representation and is induced to act thereon in making purchase decisions.

57. Plaintiff and members of the New York Class have been injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendants' violations described above as they would have paid significantly less for the Products, had they known that they do not contain enough ground coffee to make the represented number of servings.

58. As a result of Defendants' unlawful action, Plaintiff and members of the New York Class seek to enjoin Defendants' deceptive and unlawful acts and practices described herein, to recover actual damages, fifty dollars (or both), whichever is greater, as well as treble damages, reasonable attorneys' fees, and all other remedies this Court deems proper.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Violation of N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 350
(for the New York Class)

59. Plaintiff repeats the allegations contained in paragraphs 1-50 above as if fully set forth herein.

60. Plaintiff brings this claim on behalf of herself and on behalf of the members of the New York Class.

61. GBL § 350 provides in relevant part: "False advertising in the conduct of any

business, trade or commerce . . . in this state is hereby declared unlawful.”

62. In turn, GBL § 350-a defines false advertising as:

“[a]dvertising, including labeling, of a commodity . . . if such advertising is misleading in a material respect. In determining whether any advertising is misleading, there shall be taken into account (among other things) not only representations made by statement, word, design, device, sound or any combination thereof, but also the extent to which the advertising fails to reveal facts material in the light of such representations with respect to the commodity . . . to which the advertising relates under the conditions proscribed in said advertisement, or under such conditions as are customary or usual.”

63. Defendants’ actions are untrue and misleading through their deceptive packaging of the Products, which represent that the Products contain enough ground coffee to make substantially more servings than they can actually make.

64. The foregoing misleading acts and practices were directed at Plaintiff and members of the New York Class.

65. Defendants’ misrepresentations regarding the Products are material to a reasonable consumer because they relate to the contents of the Products (i.e., the amount of coffee available) purchased by the consumer. A reasonable consumer attaches importance to such representations and is induced to act thereon in making purchase decisions.

66. The foregoing misrepresentations have resulted in consumer injury or harm to the New York public.

67. Plaintiff and members of the New York Class have been injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendants’ violations described above, as they would not have purchased the Products, or would have paid significantly less for them, had they known that the Products are unable to make the number of servings as represented on the Products’ front label.

68. As a result of Defendants’ unlawful action, Plaintiff and members of the New York Class seek to enjoin Defendants’ misleading and unlawful acts and practices described

herein, to recover actual damages or five hundred dollars per violation, whichever is greater (or both), as well as treble damages, reasonable attorneys' fees, and all other remedies this Court deems proper.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Breach of New York Express Warranty
N.Y. U.C.C. § 2-313
(for the New York Class)

69. Plaintiff repeats the allegations contained in paragraphs 1-50 above as if fully set forth herein.

70. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the proposed New York Class who purchased the Products.

71. New York U.C.C. § 2-313 provides that “(a) Any affirmation of fact or promise made by the seller to the buyer which relates to the goods and becomes part of the basis of the bargain creates an express warranty that the goods shall conform to the affirmation or promise,” and “(b) Any description of the goods which is made part of the basis of the bargain creates an express warranty that the goods shall conform to the description.” N.Y. U.C.C. § 2-313.

72. Plaintiff and the members of the New York Class formed a contract with Defendants at the time they purchased the Product. As part of that contract, Defendants have expressly warranted on the Products' packaging that they can make up to a specific number of servings. For example, Defendants expressly state on the packaging of the 30.5 oz. canister that it “MAKES UP TO 240 6 FL OZ CUPS.” However, as alleged herein, this express representation is patently false, as the 30.5 oz. canister can only make up to 173 cups of coffee, or only 72% of the amount of ground coffee promised by Defendants. All of the other varieties of the Products contain materially identical express representations that are likewise false.

73. These representations about the Products: (a) are affirmations of fact or promises

made by Defendants to consumers that the Products contain enough ground coffee to make a specific number of servings; (b) became part of the basis of the bargain to purchase the Products when Plaintiff and other consumers relied on the representation; and (c) created an express warranty that the Products would conform to the affirmations of fact or promises. In the alternative, the representations about the Products are descriptions of goods which were made as part of the basis of the bargain to purchase the Products, and which created an express warranty that the Products would conform to the product description.

74. Defendants made the serving representations to induce Plaintiff and members of the New York Class to purchase the Products, and Plaintiff and members of the New York Class relied on the representations in purchasing the Products.

75. Each such representation constitutes an express warranty and became part of the basis of the bargain between Plaintiff and members of the New York Class, on the one hand, and Defendants, on the other.

76. All conditions precedent to Defendants' liability under the above-referenced contract have been performed by Plaintiff and members of the New York Class.

77. Defendants breached the express warranties about the Products because, as alleged above, the Products are not able to make the number of servings that are represented on the Products' labeling.

78. Plaintiff and members of the New York Class reasonably and justifiably relied on the foregoing express warranties, believing that Products did in fact conform to the warranties.

79. Plaintiff and members of the New York Class paid a premium price for the Products but did not obtain the full value of the Products as represented. If Plaintiff and members of the New York Class had known of the true nature of the Products, they would not have

purchased them or would have paid significantly less for them. Thus, as a result of Defendants' breaches of express warranty, Plaintiff and members of the New York Class were damaged in the amount of the premium price they paid for the Product, in amounts to be proven at trial.

80. As a result of Defendants' breach of express warranties, Plaintiff and members of the New York Class suffered injury and deserve to recover all damages afforded under the law.

81. On May 7, 2020, Plaintiff's counsel sent Defendant J.M. Smucker a letter by certified mail, noticing Defendant of its breach of express warranty.

FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Breach of New York Implied Warranty
N.Y. U.C.C. § 2-314
(for the New York Class)

82. Plaintiff repeats the allegations contained in paragraphs 1-50 above as if fully set forth herein.

83. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the proposed New York Class who purchased the Products.

84. New York U.C.C. § 2-314 provides that "a warranty that the goods shall be merchantable is implied in a contract for their sale if the seller is a merchant with respect to goods of that kind." New York U.C.C. § 2-314(1).

85. New York U.C.C. § 2-314(2) provides that "[g]oods to be merchantable must be at least such as . . . (f) conform to the promises or affirmations of fact made on the container or label if any." New York U.C.C. § 2-314(2)(f).

86. Defendants are merchants with respect to the sale of the Products here. Therefore, a warranty of merchantability is implied in every contract for sale of the Products to New York consumers.

87. By advertising the Products with their current packaging, Defendants made an implied promise that the Products contain enough ground coffee to make up to a specific number of servings. The Products have not “conformed to the promises...made on the container or label” because they do not contain enough ground coffee to make up to the specified number of servings. Plaintiff and other members of the proposed New York Class did not receive the goods as impliedly warranted by Defendants to be merchantable.

88. Therefore, the Products are not merchantable under New York law and Defendant has breached its implied warranty of merchantability in regard to the Products.

89. If Plaintiff and members of the New York Class had known that the Products could not make as many servings of coffee as represented, they would not have been willing to pay the premium price associated with them. Therefore, as a direct and/or indirect result of Defendants’ breach, Plaintiff and members of the New York Class have suffered injury and deserve to recover all damages afforded under the law.

90. On May 7, 2020, Plaintiff’s counsel sent Defendant J.M. Smucker a letter by certified mail, noticing Defendant of its breach of implied warranty.

FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Common Law Fraud
(for the Classes)

91. Plaintiff repeats the allegations contained in paragraphs 1-50 above as if fully set forth herein.

92. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the proposed Nationwide Class. Alternatively, Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the proposed New York Class.

93. Defendants marketed the Products in a manner indicating that they contain enough ground coffee to make up to a specific number of servings. However, the Products

cannot make anywhere close to the represented number of servings. Therefore, Defendants have made misrepresentations about the Products.

94. Defendants' misrepresentations regarding the Products are material to a reasonable consumer because they relate to the amount of product the consumer is receiving and paying for. A reasonable consumer would attach importance to such representations and would be induced to act thereon in making purchase decisions.

95. At all relevant times when such misrepresentations were made, Defendants knew that the representations were misleading, or have acted recklessly in making the representations, without regard to the truth.

96. Defendants intend that Plaintiff and other consumers rely on these representations, as evidenced by the intentional and conspicuous placement of the misleading representations on the Products' packaging by Defendants.

97. Plaintiff and members of the Classes have reasonably and justifiably relied on Defendants' intentional misrepresentations when purchasing the Products, and had the correct facts been known, would not have purchased them at the prices at which they were offered.

98. Therefore, as a direct and proximate result of Defendants' intentional misrepresentations, Plaintiff and members of the Classes have suffered economic losses and other general and specific damages, including but not limited to the amounts paid for the Products, and any interest that would have accrued on those monies, all in an amount to be proven at trial.

SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Quasi Contract/Unjust Enrichment/Restitution
(for the Classes)

99. Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates Paragraphs 1-50 as if fully set forth herein.

100. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the

proposed Nationwide Class. Alternatively, Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the proposed New York Class.

101. As alleged herein, Defendants have intentionally and recklessly made misleading representations to Plaintiff and members of the Classes to induce them to purchase the Products. Plaintiff and members of the Classes have reasonably relied on the misleading representations and have not received all of the benefits promised by Defendants. Plaintiff and members of the Classes therefore have been induced by Defendants' misleading and deceptive representations about the Products, and paid more money to Defendants for the Products than they otherwise would and/or should have paid.

102. Plaintiff and members of the Classes have conferred a benefit upon Defendants as Defendants have retained monies paid to them by Plaintiff and members of the Classes.

103. The monies received were obtained under circumstances that were at the expense of Plaintiff and members of the Classes – i.e., Plaintiff and members of the Classes did not receive the full value of the benefit conferred upon Defendants.

104. Therefore, it is inequitable and unjust for Defendants to retain the profit, benefit, or compensation conferred upon them without paying Plaintiff and the members of the Classes back for the difference of the full value of the benefits compared to the value actually received.

105. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unjust enrichment, Plaintiff and members of the Classes are entitled to restitution, disgorgement, and/or the imposition of a constructive trust upon all profits, benefits, and other compensation obtained by Defendants from their deceptive, misleading, and unlawful conduct as alleged herein.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the Classes, respectfully prays for following relief:

A. Certification of this case as a class action on behalf of Classes defined above, appointment of Plaintiff as Class representative, and appointment of her counsel as Class counsel;

B. A declaration that Defendants' actions, as described herein, violate the claims described herein;

C. An award of injunctive and other equitable relief as is necessary to protect the interests of Plaintiff and the Classes, including, *inter alia*, an order prohibiting Defendants from engaging in the unlawful act described above;

D. An award to Plaintiff and the proposed Classes of restitution and/or other equitable relief, including, without limitation, restitutionary disgorgement of all profits and unjust enrichment that Defendants obtained from Plaintiff and the proposed Classes as a result of its unlawful, unfair and fraudulent business practices described herein;

E. An award of all economic, monetary, actual, consequential, compensatory, and treble damages caused by Defendants' conduct;

F. An award of punitive damages;

G. An award to Plaintiff and her counsel of her reasonable expenses and attorneys' fees;

H. An award to Plaintiff and the proposed Classes of pre and post-judgment interest, to the extent allowable; and

I. For such further relief that the Court may deem just and proper.

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and the proposed Classes, hereby demands a jury trial with respect to all issues triable of right by jury.

DATED: November 23, 2021

By: /s/ Innessa M. Huot

Innessa M. Huot
FARUQI & FARUQI, LLP
685 Third Avenue, 26th Floor
New York New York 10017
Telephone: (212) 983-9330
Facsimile: (212) 983-9331
ihuot@faruqilaw.com

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

DEBORAH BOSSO, on behalf of herself
and all others similarly situated,

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

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

Faruqi & Faruqi, LLP
685 Third Avenue, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10017
Tel: 212-983-9330

DEFENDANTS

THE J. M. SMUCKER COMPANY and THE FOLGER COFFEE
COMPANY

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)

- | | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Citizen of This State | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

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

Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.](#)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty Other: <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement	LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609

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):
N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 349 & § 350; N.Y. U.C.C. § 2-313 & § 2-314; Common Law Fraud; Quasi Contract/Unjust Enrichment/Restitution

Brief description of cause:
Consumer class action regarding coffee products that overstate the amount of coffee that they can make.

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

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

DEMAND \$ 5,000,000.00

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

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

11/23/2021

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

s/Innessa M. Huot

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.

Western District of New York

Civil Action No. 1:21-cv-1239

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. 1:21-cv-1239

PROOF OF SERVICE*(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 (l))*

This summons for *(name of individual and title, if any)* _____
 was received by me on *(date)* _____ .

☐ I personally served the summons on the individual at *(place)* _____
 _____ on *(date)* _____ ; or

☐ I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* _____
 _____ , a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,
 on *(date)* _____ , and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

☐ I served the summons on *(name of individual)* _____ , who is
 designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____
 _____ on *(date)* _____ ; or

☐ I returned the summons unexecuted because _____ ; or

☐ Other *(specify)*: _____

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ 0.00 .

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

Western District of New York

Civil Action No. 1:21-cv-1239

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. 1:21-cv-1239

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 _____ on *(date)* _____ ; or

☐ I left the summons at the individual's residence or usual place of abode with *(name)* _____
 _____, a person of suitable age and discretion who resides there,
 on *(date)* _____, and mailed a copy to the individual's last known address; or

☐ I served the summons on *(name of individual)* _____, who is
 designated by law to accept service of process on behalf of *(name of organization)* _____
 _____ on *(date)* _____ ; or

☐ I returned the summons unexecuted because _____ ; or

☐ Other *(specify)*: _____

My fees are \$ _____ for travel and \$ _____ for services, for a total of \$ 0.00 .

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc: