

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

REESE LLP
Michael R. Reese (SBN 206773)
Sue J. Nam (SBN 206729)
100 West 93rd Street, 16th Floor
New York, New York 10025
Telephone: (212) 643-0500
Email: *mreese@reesellp.com*
snam@reesellp.com

REESE LLP
George V. Granade (SBN 316050)
8484 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 515
Los Angeles, California 90211
Telephone: (310) 393-0070
Facsimile (212) 253-4272
Email: *ggranade@reesellp.com*

REESE LLP
Charles D. Moore (to be admitted *pro hac vice*)
100 South 5th Street, Suite 1900
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: 212-643-0500
Fax: 212-253-4272
Email: *cmoore@reesellp.com*

QUAT LAW OFFICES
Kenneth D. Quat (to be admitted *pro hac vice*)
373 Winch Street
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701
Telephone: (508) 872-1261
Email: *ken@quatlaw.com*

*Counsel for Plaintiff Haley Canaday
and the Proposed Class*

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

HALEY CANADAY, individually
and on behalf of all others similarly
situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

THE PROCTER & GAMBLE
COMPANY,

Defendant.

Case No. '21CV2024 AJB JLB
CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 Plaintiff HALEY CANADAY (“Plaintiff”) brings this Class Action
2 Complaint, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, against Defendant
3 THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY (“Defendant”), demanding a trial by
4 jury, and alleges as follows:

5 **SUMMARY OF THE ACTION**

6 1. This is a proposed class action complaint brought on behalf of a Class,
7 as defined below, of California consumers who purchased aerosol antiperspirant
8 products manufactured, marketed, advertised, sold and labeled by Defendant under
9 the brand names “Secret” and “Old Spice” (the “Products”).

10 2. Defendant failed inform Plaintiff and the Class members that the
11 Products are benzene, a known carcinogen. Making matters worse, Defendant
12 discloses some ingredients, but failed to disclose the presence of benzene.

13 3. Defendant’s misrepresentations and omissions about the Products were
14 uniform and were communicated to Plaintiff, and every other member of the Class,
15 at every point of purchase and consumption throughout the Class Period.¹

16 4. This lawsuit seeks to enjoin Defendant’s false and misleading practices
17 and to recover damages and restitution on behalf of the class under applicable state
18 laws.

19 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

20 5. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under the Class Action
21 Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d) in that: (1) this is a class action involving more
22 than 100 class members; (2) Plaintiff is a citizen of the State of California and the
23 class she seeks to represent are also citizens of California and Defendant is a citizen
24 of the State of Ohio; and (3) the amount in controversy exceeds the sum of
25 \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

26 _____

27 ¹ The Class Period shall encompass all sales from December 1, 2017 through the
28 date of entry of class certification (the “Class Period”).

1 Product, and, consequently, she would not have been willing to purchase the Product
2 at all. Plaintiff purchased and/or paid more for the Product than she would have if
3 she had known the truth about the Product. The Product Plaintiff received was worth
4 less than the Product for which she paid. Plaintiff was injured in fact and lost money
5 as a result of Defendant's improper conduct.

6 11. Defendant THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY is incorporated
7 in the State of Ohio, with its principal place of business at 1 Procter & Gamble Plaza,
8 Cincinnati, Ohio 45202.

9 12. Defendant manufactures, markets, advertises and sells personal care
10 products, also known as PCPs, including the Products, one or more of which were
11 purchased by Plaintiff and members of the proposed Class. Defendant manufactured,
12 marketed, advertised, distributed and sold its Products widely throughout the State
13 of California and the Southern District of California during the Class Period.

14 13. Defendant is a top manufacturer and distributor of PCPs, including
15 deodorant and antiperspirant products.

16 14. On information and belief, in committing the wrongful acts alleged
17 herein, Defendant, in connection with its subsidiaries, affiliates, and/or other related
18 entities and their employees, planned, participated in and furthered a common
19 scheme to induce members of the public to purchase the Products by means of false,
20 misleading, deceptive and fraudulent acts and omissions.

21 **FACTS COMMON TO ALL CAUSES OF ACTION**

22 15. Appended hereto is a true copy of a Citizen Petition ("Petition") dated
23 November 3, 2021, submitted to the Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") by
24 Valisure, LLC. Valisure is "an analytical laboratory that is accredited to
25 International Organization for Standardization ("ISO/TEC") 17025:2017 standards
26 for chemical testing (PJLA Accreditation Number 94238)." Exhibit A.

27 16. The Petition concerns results of analytical testing conducted by
28

1 Valisure on a variety of “body spray” products, including the Products that are the
2 subject of this Complaint. The testing indicated that all of the Products contained
3 benzene.

4 17. Benzene “is used as a constituent in motor fuels; as a solvent for fats,
5 waxes, resins, oils, inks, paints, plastics, and rubber; in the extraction of oils from
6 seeds and nuts; and in photogravure printing. It is also used as a chemical
7 intermediate. Benzene is also used in the manufacture of detergents, explosives,
8 pharmaceuticals, and dyestuffs.”²

9 18. The harmful effects of benzene on human health are well documented
10 and well accepted. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
11 (“CDC”):

12 The major effect of benzene from long-term exposure is on the
13 blood. (Long-term exposure means exposure of a year or more.)
14 Benzene causes harmful effects on the bone marrow and can
15 cause a decrease in red blood cells, leading to anemia. It can also
16 cause excessive bleeding and can affect the immune system,
17 increasing the chance for infection. Some women who breathed
18 high levels of benzene for many months had irregular menstrual
19 periods and a decrease in the size of their ovaries. . . . Animal
20 studies have shown low birth weights, delayed bone formation,
21 and bone marrow damage when pregnant animals breathed
22 benzene.³

23 19. Thus, “[t]he Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has
24 determined that benzene causes cancer in humans. Long-term exposure to high
25 levels of benzene in the air can cause leukemia, cancer of the blood-forming organs.”
26 *Id.*

27 20. Indeed, in 1948, the American Petroleum Institute stated: “it is
28

26 ² <https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-09/documents/benzene.pdf>

27 ³ <https://emergency.cdc.gov/agent/benzene/basics/facts.asp>

1 generally considered that the only absolutely safe concentration for benzene is
2 zero.”⁴

3 21. The Petition describes the dangers of benzene to human health as
4 follows:

5 The centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) has
6 determined that benzene causes cancer in humans. The World
7 Health Organization (“WHO”) and the International Agency for
8 Research on Cancer (“IARC”) Have classified benzene as a
9 Group 1 compound and lists it as a “Class 1 solvent” that “should
10 not be employed in the manufacture of drug substances,
11 excipients, and drug products because of their unacceptable
12 toxicity . . . However, if their use is unavoidable in order to
13 produce a be restricted” and benzene is restricted under such
14 guidance to 2 parts per million (“ppm”).

12 22. The Petition goes on to state:
13 Because many of the body spray products Valisure tested did not
14 contain detectable levels of benzene, it does not appear that
15 benzene use is unavoidable for their manufacture, and
16 considering the log history and widespread use of these
17 products,. It does not appear that they currently constitute a
18 significant therapeutic advance; therefore, any significant
19 detection of benzene should be deemed unacceptable.⁵

18 23. The Petition asks the FDA to, *inter alia*, recall the batches of products
19 tested, to notify the public of the products’ dangers, and to conduct further
20 examination and testing of such products.

21 24. The FDA regulates antiperspirants as over-the-counter (“OTC”) drugs,
22 not as cosmetics. 21 C.F.R. § 350.3.

23 25. It is a violation of Food Drug and Cosmetic Act (“FDCA”) to
24 manufacture or to introduce into commerce any misbranded or adulterated drug. 21

25 _____

26 ⁴ American Petroleum Institute, API Toxicology Review, Benzene 1948.

27 ⁵ Exhibit A.

28

1 C.F.R. § 350.1(a), (g).

2 26. An OTC antiperspirant “is generally recognized as safe and effective
3 and is not misbranded if it meets . . . *each* condition established in § 330.1” 21 C.F.R.
4 § 350.1(a) (emphasis added).

5 27. Section 330.1(c)(1) mandates that the label be in compliance with
6 section 201.66 of the FDCA. Section 201.66(c) mandates that the label identify the
7 active and inactive ingredients. *See* 21 C.F.R. § 201.66(c)(2) & (8). By failing to list
8 benzene, the Products do not meet the requirements of sections 201.66 and 330.01
9 and is therefore misbranded.

10 28. Further, section 330.1(e) mandates that it contain only suitable inactive
11 ingredients which are safe in the amounts administered. 21 C.F.R. § 330.1(e). As a
12 known carcinogen, benzene is not included in the list of ingredients that the FDA
13 allows to be contained in antiperspirant products. 21 C.F.R. § 350.10. As a result,
14 the Products are misbranded.

15 29. Still further, a drug is misbranded “if its labeling is false or misleading
16 in any particular.” 21 U.S.C. § 352(a)(1). It is also considered misbranded if its
17 labeling does not list “the proportion of each active ingredient” (21 U.S.C.
18 §352(e)(1)(A)(ii)). or “[i]f it is dangerous to health when used in the dosage or
19 manner, or with the frequency or duration prescribed, recommended, or suggested
20 in the labeling thereof.” 21 U.S.C. §352(j).

21 30. A drug is adulterated “if it consists in whole or in part of any filthy,
22 putrid, or decomposed substance; or . . . whereby it may have been rendered injurious
23 to health.” 21 U.S.C. § 352(a)(2)(B).

24 31. Valisure tested several batches of Secret Powder Fresh 24 Hour Aerosol
25 Antiperspirant. The testing indicated benzene levels of 16.2 PPM, 16.1 PPM, and
26 12.5 PPM. The first batch listed was also tested by the Chemical and Biophysical
27 Instrumentation Center at Yale University, which found a benzene contamination
28

1 level of 13.1 PPM.

2 32. Valisure also tested several batches of Secret Cool Light & Airy
3 Smooth Feel Dry Spray Antiperspirant, finding benzene contamination levels of 4.85
4 PPM, 2.58 PPM, 1.64 PPM and 1.35 PPM.

5 33. Valisure also tested Secret Out Last Protecting Powder, 48 Hour Sweat
6 & Odor Protection Antiperspirant, finding a benzene contamination level of 1.24
7 PPM.

8 34. Valisure tested three batches of Old Spice Pure Sport antiperspirant,
9 finding benzene contamination levels of 17.7 PPM, 17.4 PPM, and 3.34 PPM.

10 35. Valisure tested Old Spice Sweat Defense, Stronger Swagger Dry Spray
11 antiperspirant, finding a benzene contamination level of 4.54 PPM.

12 36. Valisure tested Old Spice Sweat Defense, Ultimate Captain Dry Spray,
13 finding a benzene contamination level of 0.44 PPM.

14 37. None of the Products' labels identify benzene as an active or inactive
15 ingredient.

16 38. None of the Products' labels identify the presence of benzene within
17 the Products.

18 39. Defendant's deceptive acts about the Products as set forth herein were
19 uniform and were communicated to Plaintiff, and to every other member of the
20 Class, at every point of purchase and consumption.

21 40. By failing to disclose the presence of benzene, particularly when it
22 discloses the presence of other ingredients, Defendant deceives and misleads
23 reasonable consumers. A reasonable consumer purchases the Products believing
24 they do not contain benzene based on the Products' labeling.

25 41. Reasonable consumers, including Plaintiff, purchased the Products
26 based upon their belief that they do not contain benzene.

27 42. Unfortunately for consumers, the Products contain benzene.

28

1 43. Hence, Defendant's labeling is false and misleading.

2 44. Defendant has profited enormously from its false and misleading
3 marketing of the Products. Consumers either would not have purchased the Products
4 had they known they contain benzene or would have purchased less expensive
5 products.

6 45. In making the false, misleading, and deceptive representations and
7 omissions described herein, Defendant knew and intended that consumers would pay
8 for, and/or pay a premium for, Products that did not disclose that they contain
9 benzene.

10 46. As an immediate, direct, and proximate result of Defendant's false,
11 misleading, and deceptive representations and omissions, Defendant injured
12 Plaintiff and the Class members in that they:

- 13 a. Paid a sum of money for the Products, which were not what
14 Defendant represented;
- 15 b. Paid a premium price for the Products, which were not what
16 Defendant represented;
- 17 c. Were deprived of the benefit of the bargain because the Products
18 they purchased were different from what Defendant represented;
- 19 d. Were deprived of the benefit of the bargain because the Products
20 they purchased had less value than what Defendant represented;
- 21 e. Could not safely be used for the purpose for which they were
22 purchased; and
- 23 f. Were of a different quality than what Defendant promised.

24 47. Had Defendant not made the false, misleading, and deceptive
25 representations and omissions, Plaintiff and the Class members would not have been
26 willing to pay the same amount for the Products they purchased, and/or Plaintiff and
27 the Class members would not have been willing to purchase the Products at all.

28

1 48. Plaintiff and the Class members paid for Products that did not contain
2 benzene but received Products that contained benzene. The Products Plaintiff and
3 the Class members received were worth less than the Products for which they paid.

4 49. Based on Defendant's misleading and deceptive representations,
5 Defendant was able to, and did, charge a premium price for the Products over the
6 cost of competitive products that did not contain benzene.

7 50. Plaintiff and the Class members all paid money for the Products.
8 However, Plaintiff and the Class members did not obtain the full value of the
9 advertised Products due to Defendant's misrepresentations and omissions. Plaintiff
10 and the Class members purchased and/or paid more for, the Products than they would
11 have had they known the truth about the Products. Consequently, Plaintiff and the
12 Class members have suffered injury in fact and lost money as a result of Defendant's
13 wrongful conduct.

14 **RULE 9(b) ALLEGATIONS**

15 51. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure ("Rule") 9(b) provides that "[i]n
16 alleging fraud or mistake, a party must state with particularity the circumstances
17 constituting fraud or mistake." Fed. R. Civ. P. 9(b). As detailed in the paragraphs
18 above, Plaintiff has satisfied the requirements of Rule 9(b) by establishing the
19 following elements with sufficient particularity:

20 52. WHO: Defendant made material misrepresentations and omissions by
21 failing to adequately disclose material facts as detailed herein. Except as identified
22 herein, Plaintiff is unaware, and therefore unable to identify, the true names and
23 identities of those individuals at Defendant who are responsible for such material
24 misrepresentations and/or omissions.

25 53. WHAT: Defendant made material misrepresentations regarding the
26 inclusion of benzene in the Products. Specifically, Defendant labeled the Products
27 with some ingredients but failed to disclose the presence of benzene within the
28

1 Products. By labeling the Products with some ingredients, but not benzene,
2 Defendant communicated to reasonably consumers that the Products did not contain
3 benzene. These representations were false and misleading because the Products
4 contained benzene.

5 54. WHEN: Defendant made the material misrepresentations, omissions,
6 and non-disclosures detailed herein continuously at every point of purchase and
7 consumption throughout the Class Period.

8 55. WHERE: Defendant's material misrepresentations, omissions, and
9 non-disclosures detailed herein were made, *inter alia*, on the packaging of the
10 Products.

11 56. HOW: Defendant made numerous, written material misrepresentations,
12 omissions, and non-disclosures on the packaging of the Products that were designed
13 to, and, in fact, did, mislead Plaintiff and Class members into purchasing the
14 Products.

15 57. WHY: Defendant engaged in the material misrepresentations,
16 omissions, and non-disclosures detailed herein for the express purpose of inducing
17 Plaintiff and other reasonable consumers to purchase and/or pay a premium for the
18 Products based on the belief that the Products did not contain benzene. Defendant
19 profited by selling the Products to thousands of unsuspecting consumers.

20 **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

21 58. Plaintiff brings this action as a class action pursuant to Federal Rule of
22 Civil Procedure 23. Plaintiff seeks to represent the following class ("Class" or
23 "California Class") defined as follows:

24 All consumers within the State of California who purchased the
25 Products from December 1, 2017 through the date of entry of
26 class certification for their personal use, rather than for resale or
27 distribution. Excluded from the Class are Defendant's current or
28

1 former officers, directors, and employees; counsel for Plaintiff
2 and Defendant; and the judicial officer to whom this lawsuit is
3 assigned.

4 The requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 are satisfied because:

5 A. Numerosity: The members of the class are so numerous that
6 joinder of all members is impracticable. While the exact number of class members
7 is presently unknown to Plaintiff, based on Defendant's volume of sales, Plaintiff
8 estimates that it is in the thousands.

9 B. Commonality: There are questions of law and fact that are
10 common to the class members and that predominate over individual questions.
11 These include the following:

- 12 i. Whether Defendant materially misrepresented, omitted,
13 and/or failed to disclose to the class members that the
14 Products contained benzene;
- 15 ii. Whether Defendant's misrepresentations and omissions
16 were material to reasonable consumers;
- 17 iii. Whether Defendant's labeling, marketing, and sale of the
18 Products constitutes an unfair, unlawful, or fraudulent
19 business practice;
- 20 iv. Whether Defendant's labeling, marketing, and sale of the
21 Products constitutes false advertising;
- 22 v. Whether Defendant's conduct injured consumers and, if
23 so, the extent of the injury; and
- 24 vi. The appropriate remedies for Defendant's conduct.

25 C. Typicality: Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the class
26 members because Plaintiff suffered the same injury as the class members—*i.e.*,
27 Plaintiff purchased the Products based on Defendant's misleading
28

1 misrepresentations, omissions, and non-disclosures that the Products did not contain
2 benzene.

3 D. Adequacy: Plaintiff will fairly and adequately represent and
4 protect the interests of the members of each class. Plaintiff does not have any
5 interests that are adverse to those of the class members. Plaintiff has retained
6 competent counsel experienced in class action litigation and intends to prosecute this
7 action vigorously.

8 E. Superiority: A class action is superior to other available methods
9 for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. Class action treatment will
10 permit a large number of similarly situated persons to prosecute their common
11 claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without the unnecessary
12 duplication of effort and expense that numerous individual actions would engender.
13 Since the damages suffered by individual class members are relatively small, the
14 expense and burden of individual litigation make it virtually impossible for the class
15 members to seek redress for the wrongful conduct alleged, while an important public
16 interest will be served by addressing the matter as a class action.

17 59. The prerequisites for maintaining a class action for injunctive or
18 equitable relief under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(2) are met because
19 Defendant had acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to each class,
20 thereby making appropriate final injunctive or equitable relief with respect to each
21 class as a whole.

22 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**
23 **Violation of the Unfair Competition Law,**
24 **California Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 *et seq.***
(On Behalf of the Class)

25 60. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth above.

26 61. Plaintiff brings this claim for violation of the Unfair Competition Law,
27 BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17200 *et seq.* (“UCL”), on behalf of the Class.

28 62. The circumstances giving rise to Plaintiff’s and the Class members’

1 allegations include Defendant’s corporate policies regarding the sale and marketing
2 of the Products.

3 63. Under the UCL, “unfair competition” means and includes “any
4 unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act or practice and unfair, deceptive, untrue
5 or misleading advertising and any act prohibited by” the CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE
6 § 17200.

7 64. By engaging in the acts and practices described herein, Defendant
8 commits one or more acts of “unfair competition” as the UCL defines the term.

9 65. Defendant committed, and continues to commit, “unlawful” business
10 acts or practices by, among other things, violating:

11 a. The FDCA by introducing into commerce misbranded and/or
12 adulterated OTC antiperspirants, *see* 21 U.S.C. §§ 351 and 352;
13 and 21 C.F.R. § 350.1(a); *see also* ¶¶ 24-30.

14 b. The Fair Packaging and Labeling Program (“FPLP”) by
15 introducing into commerce consumer commodities that did not
16 accurately list all the contents (i.e. benzene), *ee* 15 U.S.C. §§
17 1452 and 1453. By failing to list benzene, Defendants violated
18 the FPLP;

19 c. The Sherman Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, *see* Cal. Health and
20 Safety Code §§ 111440 and 111445, by misbranding the
21 Products as follows:

22 i. Labeling the Products with false and misleading labeling
23 by failing to disclose the presence of benzene, *see* Cal.
24 Health and Safety Code § 111330;

25 ii. Failing to conform with labeling requirements,
26 specifically, failing to disclose the presence of benzene,
27 *see* Cal. Health and Safety Code §§ 111335 and 110290;

28

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

and

iii. Failing include an accurate statement of the quantity of the contents, specifically, benzene, *see* Cal. Health and Safety Code § 111340; and

d. The CLRA and the FAL as described herein.

66. Defendant committed, and continues to commit, “unfair” business acts or practices by, among other things:

a. Engaging in conduct for which the utility of the conduct, if any, is outweighed by the gravity of the consequences to Plaintiff and the members of the Class;

b. Engaging in conduct that is immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous, or substantially injurious to Plaintiff and the members of the Class; and

c. Engaging in conduct that undermines or violates the spirit or intent of the consumer protection laws that this Class Action Complaint invokes.

67. Defendant committed, and continues to commit, “fraudulent” business acts or practices because, as alleged above, Defendant’s misrepresentations, omissions, and non-disclosures concerning the Products were false and misleading, and Plaintiff and the Class members relied on those misrepresentations, omissions, and non-disclosures in purchasing the Products.

68. Defendant commits unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent business acts or practices by, among other things, engaging in conduct Defendant knew or should have known was likely to and did deceive reasonable consumers, including Plaintiff and the Class members.

69. As detailed above, Defendant’s unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent practices include making false and misleading misrepresentations, omissions, and

1 non-disclosures by failing to disclose that the Products contained benzene.

2 70. Plaintiff and the Class members believed Defendant's that the Products
3 did not contain benzene based on Defendant's failure to state as such while
4 simultaneously stating the Products contained other ingredients. Plaintiff and the
5 Class members would not purchase the Products, but for Defendant's misleading
6 misrepresentations, omissions, and non-disclosures.

7 71. Defendant's failure to disclose the existence of benzene in the Products
8 caused an unreasonable safety hazard by exposing Plaintiff and the Class members
9 to a known carcinogen.

10 72. Plaintiff and the Class members are injured in fact and lost money as a
11 result of Defendant's conduct of failing to disclose that the Products contained
12 benzene. Plaintiff and the Class members pay for Products that did not contain
13 benzene, but received Products that contained benzene.

14 73. Plaintiff and the Class members seek declaratory relief, injunctive
15 relief, and other relief allowable under Business and Professions Code section
16 17203, including but not limited to enjoining Defendant from continuing to engage
17 in its unfair, unlawful, and fraudulent conduct alleged herein.

18 74. Therefore, Plaintiff prays for relief as set forth below.

19 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**
20 **Violation of the Consumers Legal Remedies Act**
21 **California Civ. Code § 1750 *et seq.***
22 **(On Behalf of the Class)**

23 75. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth above.

24 76. Plaintiff and the California Class members are "consumers" under the
25 California Consumers Legal Remedies Act ("CLRA"), California Civil Code section
26 1761(d).

27 77. The Products are "goods" under California Civil Code section 1761(a).

28 78. The purchases by Plaintiff and the California Class members of the

1 Products are “transactions” under California Civil Code section 1761(e).

2 79. Under section 1770 of the CLRA:

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

7 * * * * *

8 (5) Representing that goods or services have sponsorship,
9 approval, characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or
10 quantities which they do not have or that a person has a
11 sponsorship, approval, status, affiliation, or connection
which he or she does not have.

12 * * * * *

13 (7) Representing that goods or services are of a particular
14 standard, quality, or grade, or that goods are of a
15 particular style or model, if they are of another.

16 * * * * *

17 (9) Advertising goods or services with intent not to sell
18 them as advertised.

19 * * * * *

20 (16) Representing that the subject of a transaction has
21 been supplied in accordance with a previous
representation when it has not.

22 *Id.* § 1770.

23 80. As alleged above, Defendant violated, and continues to violate, Civil
24 Code section 1770(a)(5) by representing the Products have characteristics, uses,
25 benefits, and qualities which they do not. Specifically, Defendant represents the
26 Products do not contain benzene, and with it, are free of carcinogens, when, in fact,
27 the Products contained benzene, a carcinogen.

28

1 81. Further, as alleged above, Defendant violated, and continues to violate,
2 Civil Code section 1770(a)(7) by representing the Products are of a particular
3 standard or quality when they are of another. Specifically, Defendant represents the
4 Products do not contain benzene, and with it, are free of carcinogens, when, in fact,
5 the Products contained benzene, a carcinogen.

6 82. Further, as alleged above, Defendant violated, and continues to violate,
7 Civil Code section 1770(a)(9) by advertising the Products do not contain benzene,
8 and with it, are free of carcinogens, when, in fact, the Products contained benzene,
9 a carcinogen.

10 83. Finally, as alleged above, Defendant violated, and continues to violate,
11 Civil Code section 1770(a)(16) by representing that the Products it sold Plaintiff and
12 the Class members contained only the ingredients listed on the label, in fact, the
13 Products do not.

14 84. Defendant violates the CLRA by failing to disclose that the Products
15 contain benzene, as described above, when it knows, or should know, that the
16 Products do in fact contain benzene.

17 85. Plaintiff and the Class members believed the Products did not contain
18 benzene based on Defendant's failure to state the Products contain benzene when it
19 listed other ingredients. Plaintiff and the Class members would not purchase the
20 Products, but for Defendant's misleading misrepresentations, omissions, and non-
21 disclosures.

22 86. Defendant's failure to disclose the existence of benzene in the Products
23 caused an unreasonable safety hazard by exposing Plaintiff and the Class members
24 to a known carcinogen.

25 87. Plaintiff and the Class members are injured in fact and lose money as a
26 result of Defendant's conduct. Plaintiff and the Class members pay for Products that
27 do not contain benzene but do not receive such Products because the Products
28

1 contained benzene.

2 88. On information and belief, Defendant’s actions were willful, wanton,
3 and fraudulent.

4 89. On information and belief, officers, directors, or managing agents at
5 Defendant authorized the use of the misleading statements about the Products.

6 90. Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief only, but reserves the right to amend to
7 include claims for damages at a later date.

8 91. Pursuant to Civil Code sections 1780 and 1782, Plaintiff and California
9 Class members seek an injunction to bar Defendant from continuing their deceptive
10 advertising practices, and reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs.

11 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**
12 **Violation of the False Advertising Law,**
13 **California Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500 *et seq.***
14 **(On Behalf of the Class)**

14 92. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth above.

15 93. Plaintiff brings this claim for violation of the False Advertising Law,
16 BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17500 *et seq.* (“FAL”), on behalf of the Class.

17 94. The FAL makes it unlawful for a person, firm, corporation, or
18 association to induce the public to buy its products by through misleading
19 misrepresentations, omissions, and non-disclosures about the Products.

20 95. At all relevant times, Defendant failed to disclose, and continues to fail
21 to disclose, that the Products contained benzene.

22 96. Defendant failed to make the disclosure with the intent to directly
23 induce consumers, including Plaintiff and the Class members, to purchase the
24 Products.

25 97. Through misleading misrepresentations, omissions, and non-
26 disclosures alleged herein, Defendant knew or should have known the existence of
27 benzene in the Products was material to consumers and it failure to disclose its
28

1 presence in the Products lead consumers to believe it was not in the Products.

2 98. Plaintiff and the Class members believed the Products did not contain
3 benzene. Plaintiff and the Class members would not purchase the Products if they
4 knew the Products contained benzene.

5 99. Defendant's failure to disclose the existence of benzene in the Products
6 caused an unreasonable safety hazard by exposing Plaintiff and the Class members
7 to a known carcinogen.

8 100. Plaintiff and the Class members are injured in fact and lost money as a
9 result of Defendant's misleading misrepresentations, omissions, and non-
10 disclosures. Plaintiff and the Class members pay for Products that did not contain
11 benzene, but receive Products that contain benzene.

12 101. The Products Plaintiff and the Class members receive are worth less
13 than the Products for which they pay. Plaintiff and the Class members pay a premium
14 price on account of Defendant's misleading misrepresentations, omissions, and non-
15 disclosures.

16 102. Pursuant to California Business & Professions Code section 17535,
17 Plaintiff and the California Class members seek restitution of the purchase price paid
18 for the Products and an injunction barring Defendant from continuing its deceptive
19 practices.

20 103. Therefore, Plaintiff prays for relief as set forth below.

21 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

22 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the members of the
23 Class, respectfully requests the Court to enter an Order:

24 A. certifying the proposed Class under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
25 23(a), (b)(2), and (b)(3), as set forth above;

26 B. declaring that Defendant is financially responsible for notifying the
27 Class members of the pendency of this suit;

28

- 1 C. declaring that Defendant has committed the violations of law alleged
- 2 herein;
- 3 D. providing for any and all injunctive relief the Court deems appropriate;
- 4 E. awarding statutory damages in the maximum amount for which the law
- 5 provides;
- 6 F. awarding monetary damages, including but not limited to any
- 7 compensatory, incidental, or consequential damages in an amount that
- 8 the Court or jury will determine, in accordance with applicable law;
- 9 G. awarding punitive or exemplary damages in accordance with proof and
- 10 in an amount consistent with applicable precedent;
- 11 H. awarding Plaintiff reasonable costs and expenses of suit, including
- 12 attorneys' fees;
- 13 I. awarding pre- and post-judgment interest to the extent the law allows;
- 14 and
- 15 J. for such further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

16 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

17 Plaintiff hereby demands trial by jury on all claims so triable.

18 Date: December 1, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

19 /s/ George V. Granade

20 George V. Granade (SBN 316050)

REESE LLP

21 8484 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 515

22 Los Angeles, California 90211

23 Telephone: (310) 393-0070

Facsimile (212) 253-4272

24 Email: ggranade@reesellp.com

25 **REESE LLP**

26 Michael R. Reese (SBN 206773)

Sue J. Nam (SBN 206729)

27 100 West 93rd Street, 16th Floor

28 New York, New York 10025

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

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

Telephone: (212) 643-0500
Email: *mreese@reesellp.com*
snam@reesellp.com

REESE LLP

Charles D. Moore (to be admitted *pro hac vice*)
100 South 5th Street, Suite 1900
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: 212-643-0500
Fax: 212-253-4272
Email: *cmoore@reesellp.com*

QUAT LAW OFFICES

Kenneth D. Quat (to be admitted *pro hac vice*)
373 Winch Street
Framingham, Massachusetts 01701
Telephone: (508) 872-1261
Email: *ken@quatlaw.com*

*Counsel for Plaintiff Haley Canaday and the
Proposed Class*

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
HALEY CANADAY, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff San Diego County
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)
REESE LLP, 8484 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 515, Los Angeles, California, Telephone: (212) 643-0500

DEFENDANTS
THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY
County of Residence of First Listed Defendant
NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.
Attorneys (If Known)
'21CV2024 AJB JLB

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
Citizen of This State X 1 1 Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State
Citizen of Another State 2 2 Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country 3 3 Foreign Nation

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)
Table with columns: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, CIVIL RIGHTS, TORTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES.

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)
1 Original Proceeding
2 Removed from State Court
3 Remanded from Appellate Court
4 Reinstated or Reopened
5 Transferred from Another District
6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer
7 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:
Consumer fraud action regarding benzene in aerosol antiperspirant products

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: X Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY
(See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

DATE Dec 1, 2021 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/ George V. Granade

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.
 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.