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9
10 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
11 **FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

12 SILVER WEINHOLTZ, *on behalf of all*)
13 *those similarly situated,*)
14)
15 *Plaintiff,*)

No. '22CV1255 MMAJLB

16 v.)

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

17 RARI NUTRITION LLC, *a Florida limited*)
18 *liability company,*)
19)
20 *Defendant.*)

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

21 _____
22 Silver Weinholtz (“Plaintiff”), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,
23 by and through undersigned counsel, hereby brings this action against RARI Nutrition LLC
24 (“Defendant” or “RARI”). Plaintiff alleges that the Infinity Pre Workout Powders (“the
25 Products”) that are manufactured, packaged, labeled, advertised, distributed and sold by
26 Defendant, are misbranded and falsely advertised in California and nationwide and otherwise
27 violate California law, and upon information and belief and investigation of counsel alleges as
28 follows:

PARTIES

1. Plaintiff Silver Weinholtz is and at all times relevant was a citizen of California,
domiciled in San Diego, California. He is a health-conscious athlete and weightlifter who

1 consumes dietary supplements with intentionality. Consistent with his intentional and health-
2 conscious eating habits he deliberately seeks products that contain natural ingredients.

3 2. Defendant RARI Nutrition LLC is a Florida limited liability company with its
4 principal place of business in Plantation, Florida.

5 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

6 3. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to the Class
7 Action Fairness Act, Pub. L. 109-2, 119 Stat. 4 (codified in scattered sections of Title 28 of the
8 United States Code); specifically, under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d), which provides for the original
9 jurisdiction of the federal district courts over “any civil action in which the matter in controversy
10 exceeds the sum or value of \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs, and [that] is a class
11 action in which . . . any member of a class of plaintiffs is a citizen of a State different from any
12 defendant.” 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A).

13 4. Plaintiff seeks to represent Class members who are citizens of states different from
14 the Defendant.

15 5. The matter in controversy in this case exceeds \$5,000,000 in the aggregate,
16 exclusive of interests and costs.

17 6. In addition, “the number of members of all proposed plaintiff classes in the
18 aggregate” is greater than 100. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(5)(B).

19 7. In the alternative, this Court has diversity jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §
20 1332.

21 8. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because this action arises out
22 of and relates to Defendant’s contacts with this forum.

23 9. Those contacts include but are not limited to sales of the Products directly to
24 commercial and individual consumers located in this district, including Plaintiff; shipping the
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1 Products to commercial and individual consumers in this district, including Plaintiff; knowingly
2 directing advertising and marketing materials concerning the Products into this district through
3 wires and mails, both directly and through electronic and print publications that are directed to
4 commercial and individual consumers in this district; and operating an e-commerce web site
5 that offers the Products for sale to commercial and individual consumers in this district, as well
6 as offering the Products for sale through third-party e-commerce websites, through both of
7 which commercial and individual consumers residing in this district have purchased the
8 Products.
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10 10. Defendant knowingly directs electronic activity and ships the Products into this
11 district with the intent to engage in business interactions for profit, and it has in fact engaged in
12 such interactions, including the sale of the Products to Plaintiff.
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14 11. Defendant also sells the Products to retailers and wholesalers in this district for
15 the purpose of making the Products available for purchase by individual consumers in this
16 district.
17

18 12. Plaintiff's losses and those of other Class members were sustained in this district.

19 13. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial part of
20 the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiff's claims occurred within this district.
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22 14. Venue is also proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c)(2) because this Court
23 maintains personal jurisdiction over defendant.

24 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

25 **A. Consumers Will Pay A Premium for "Clean Labels."**

26 15. Across the globe, consumers are increasingly attuned to claims that foods are "all-
27 natural," minimally processed, or otherwise free of artificial flavors and preservatives.

28 16. For example, a 2018 survey by L.E.K. Consulting found that overwhelming
numbers of consumers were committed or casual adherents to so-called "clean label" food

1 attributes: “No artificial ingredients” (69 percent); “No preservatives” (67 percent); or “All-
2 natural” (66 percent). These were the three most attractive attributes in the consumer survey.
3 Roughly 60 to 70 percent of consumers reported a willingness to pay a price premium for “clean
4 label” foods. See <https://www.lek.com/insights/ei/next-generation-mindful-food-consumption>.

5
6 17. This consumer preference has led to an explosion in the category of “clean label”
7 foods and beverages. Leading analyst Allied Market Research estimated that the “natural foods
8 and drinks” category would grow by an estimated compound annual growth rate of 13.7 percent
9 from 2016 to 2023, reaching \$191 billion in annual sales by 2023. See
10 <https://www.alliedmarketresearch.com/natural-food-and-drinks-market>.

11 18. According to Nielsen, more than 40 percent of consumers rate the absence of
12 artificial flavors in their foods as important to them when deciding between competing products,
13 and more than 60 percent try to avoid artificial flavors at least some of the time.

14
15 19. Consumers also have a specific sense of the attributes of “natural” foods. Research
16 by Consumer Reports indicates that nearly 90 percent of consumers believe and expect that
17 foods described as “natural” should contain no artificial ingredients.

18 **B. Defendant’s Use of Synthetic Flavorings.**

19 20. Defendant RARI Nutrition LLC formulates, manufactures, and sells a line of
20 “Infinity Pre Workout Powders” (“the Products”) that are meant to improve workouts and
21 provide energy to athletes and bodybuilders. The Products are sold in four flavors: blue
22 raspberry, strawberry lemonade, candy watermelon, and sour gummy worm.

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24 21. On or about November 4, 2021, Weinholtz purchased a container of RARI’s
25 Infinity Pre Workout powder, blue raspberry flavor, from third party retailer Amazon.com
26 (Order No. #112-2477318-4096239).

1 22. To appeal to consumers who seek out natural food products and are willing to pay
2 more for them, Defendant labels and advertises the Products as if they were exclusively naturally
3 flavored.

4 23. For example, the labels of the Product purchased by Plaintiff states that the it
5 contains “Natural Flavor” and includes a depiction of the fruit that purportedly provides the
6 characterizing flavor:
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24 24. The label for each flavor of the Product repeats these depictions of fruits or other
25 items that create the characterizing flavor, and also repeats the “Natural Flavor” claim.

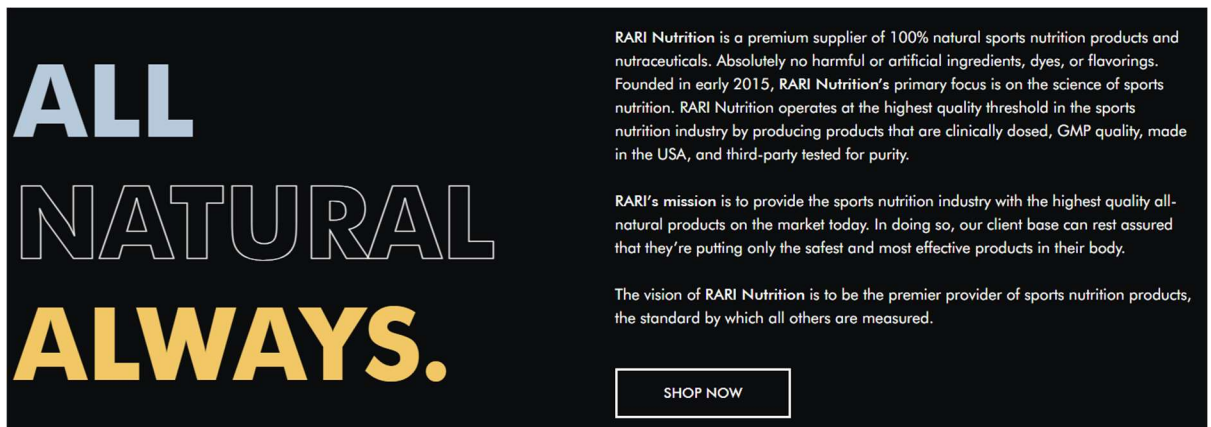
26 25. The RARI website also touts the Products’ use of “All-Natural Ingredients”:
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See <https://www.rarinutrition.com/products/infinity> (last visited August 23, 2022).

26. RARI’s website also depicts all of the company’s products as “All Natural Always” and states that the company uses “Absolutely no harmful or artificial ingredients, dyes, or flavorings”:



See <https://www.rarinutrition.com/pages/about-us> (last visited August 23, 2022).

27. The Amazon web pages maintained by RARI for the Products repeat the “Natural Flavor” claim and the use of depictions of fruits providing the characterizing flavor, as in this example:

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See <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B01DB5RQBQ?th=1> (last visited August 23, 2022).

28. By using depictions of fruits on the labels and through its “Natural Flavor” claim, RARI signals to consumers, and consumers reasonably understand RARI to be claiming, that the Products are flavored only by the depicted fruits.

29. These claims made on the labels and associated marketing materials of the Products are false. The Products are artificially flavored.

30. Each of the Products contains an ingredient identified as “malic acid.” While there is a naturally occurring form of malic acid, it is extremely expensive to formulate in the large quantities and is almost never used in mass-produced food products. Instead, the malic acid that

1 Defendant uses in these Products is DL malic acid, a synthetic substance derived from
2 petrochemicals.¹

3 31. This type of malic acid is manufactured in petrochemical plants from benzene or
4 butane—components of gasoline and lighter fluid, respectively—through a series of chemical
5 reactions, some of which involve highly toxic chemical precursors and byproducts.
6

7 32. Fruit flavors in a food are imparted by the interactions between sugars, acids,
8 lipids, and various volatile compounds. The sweetness or tartness of a fruit flavor is determined
9 by the ratio between the sugars (mainly glucose and fructose) and acids, such as malic acid.

10 33. The quality and consumer acceptability of fruit flavors is based on their perceived
11 sweetness and tartness, which in turn is driven by the ratio between sugars and acids. Fruits such
12 as raspberries, lemons, strawberries, and watermelons have their own natural ratio of sugars and
13 acids.
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15 34. The malic acid used in the Products is used to create, enhance, simulate, and/or
16 reinforce the sweet and tart taste that consumers associate with the fruits and items that are
17 depicted on the Products' labels.

18 35. Defendant uses the petrochemical-derived DL malic acid in its Products to create
19 this sweet and tart flavor but pretends otherwise, conflating natural and artificial flavorings,
20 misbranding the Products, and deceiving consumers.
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22 36. The ingredients on the Products' label are declared in a way that is misleading and
23 contrary to law, because Defendant designates the ingredient by its generic name, "malic acid,"
24 instead of by its specific name, "DL malic acid."

25 37. Testing of the Products performed by an independent third-party laboratory has
26 confirmed the use of DL malic acid in the Products.
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¹ DL malic acid is also called d-hydroxybutanedioic acid or (R)-(+)-2-Hydroxysuccinic acid.

1 **C. Requirements for Labelling**

2 38. California’s Sherman Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Law, Cal. Health & Saf. Code §
3 109875, et seq., incorporates all food flavoring and additive regulations of the Federal Food,
4 Drug, and Cosmetic Act (“FDCA”). The regulations require that a food’s label accurately
5 describe the nature of the food product and its characterizing flavors. 21 C.F.R. § 102.5(a).

6 39. Artificial flavor is defined as “any substance, the function of which is to impart
7 flavor, which is not derived from a spice, fruit or fruit juice, vegetable or vegetable juice, edible
8 yeast, herb, bark, bud, root, leaf or similar plant material, meat, fish, poultry, eggs, dairy
9 products, or fermentation products thereof.” 21 C.F.R § 101.22(a)(1).

10 40. Natural flavor is defined as “essential oil, oleoresin, essence or extractive, protein
11 hydrolysate, distillate, or any product of roasting, heating or enzymolysis, which contains the
12 flavoring constituents” from fruits or vegetables, “whose significant function in food is flavoring
13 rather than nutritional.” 21 C.F.R § 101.22(a)(3).

14 41. Any recognizable primary flavor identified directly or indirectly on the front label
15 of a food Product, whether by word, vignette, depiction of a fruit, or other means is referred to
16 as a “characterizing flavor.” 21 C.F.R. § 101.22.

17 42. Here, the Products’ labels both state the characterizing flavors (such as
18 strawberries, raspberries, lemons, and watermelon) and reinforce the statement of the
19 characterizing flavor by depiction of fruits.

20 43. If a food product’s characterizing flavor is not created exclusively by the named
21 flavor ingredient, the product’s front label must state that the product’s flavor was simulated or
22 reinforced with either natural or artificial flavorings or both. If any artificial flavor is present
23 which “simulates, resembles or reinforces” the characterizing flavor, the front label must
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1 prominently inform consumers that the product is “Artificially Flavored.” 21 C.F.R. §
2 101.22(i)(2).

3 44. A food product’s label also must include a statement of the “presence or absence
4 of any characterizing ingredient(s) or component(s) . . . when the presence or absence of such
5 ingredient(s) or component(s) in the food has a material bearing on price or consumer
6 acceptance . . . and consumers may otherwise be misled about the presence or absence of the
7 ingredient(s) or component(s) in the food.” 21 C.F.R. § 102.5.

9 45. Such statement must be in boldface print on the front display panel and of
10 sufficient size for an average consumer to notice.

11 46. By changing the ratio between sugars and acids that is naturally found in fruits
12 such as blood oranges, the DL malic acid used in the Product reinforces, stimulates, or enhances
13 the characterizing flavors, regardless of any other effect it may have or purpose for which it was
14 included.

16 47. DL malic acid is not a “natural flavor” as this term is defined by federal and state
17 regulations and is not derived from a fruit or vegetable or any other natural source. The Products
18 therefore contain artificial flavorings.

19 48. Because the Products contain artificial flavoring, California law requires the
20 Products to display both front- and back-label disclosures to inform consumers that the Products
21 are artificially flavored.

23 49. The Products have none of the required disclosures regarding the use of artificial
24 flavors.

25 50. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend this Complaint to add further products that
26 contain similar label misrepresentations as testing continues.

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1 51. Labels are the chief means by which food product manufacturers convey critical
2 information to consumers, and consumers have been conditioned to rely on the accuracy of the
3 claims made on these labels. As the California Supreme Court stated in a case involving alleged
4 violations of the UCL and FAL, “Simply stated: labels matter. The marketing industry is based
5 on the premise that labels matter, that consumers will choose one product over another similar
6 product based on its label.” *Kwikset Corp. v. Superior Court*, 51 Cal.4th 310, 328 (2011).
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8 52. Given the Defendant’s advertising material and other assurances, consumers
9 including Plaintiff would reasonably understand Defendant’s statements to mean that each
10 Products were free of artificial flavorings as advertised and represented. These statements were
11 false.
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13 53. Consumers including Plaintiff would reasonably rely on Defendant’s statements
14 such that they would not have purchased the Products from Defendant if the truth about the
15 products’ flavoring were known, or would have only been willing to pay a substantially reduced
16 price for the Products had they known that Defendant’s representations were false and
17 misleading.
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19 54. Consumers including Plaintiff especially rely on the claims made by food product
20 manufacturers such as RARI. In fact, they have no way of judging the accuracy of the flavoring
21 claims made on the Products’ labelling simply by viewing or even consuming the Products.
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23 55. Plaintiff suffered economic injury by Defendant’s fraudulent and deceptive
24 conduct as stated herein, and there is a causal nexus between Defendant’s deceptive conduct and
25 Plaintiff’s injury.
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27 56. All flavors of the Products are substantially similar to the others, in that they are
28 sold for the same price in the same amounts, use similar depictions of the fruits or items that

1 provide the characterizing flavor, make similar “Natural Flavor” claims that are all deceptive in
2 the same way, and contain largely the same ingredients, including DL malic acid.

3 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

4 57. Plaintiff brings this action individually and as representative of all those similarly
5 situated pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23 on behalf of all persons with the United
6 States who purchased the Products within four years prior to the filing of this Complaint.
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8 58. Excluded from the Class are Defendant and its affiliates, parents, subsidiaries,
9 employees, officers, agents, and directors. Also excluded are any judicial officers presiding over
10 this matter and the members of their immediate families and judicial staff.

11 59. Plaintiff reserves the right to alter the Class definition, and to amend this
12 Complaint to add Subclasses, as necessary to the full extent permitted by applicable law.

13 60. Certification of Plaintiff’s claims for class-wide treatment is appropriate because
14 Plaintiff can prove the elements of the claims on a class-wide basis using the same evidence as
15 individual Class members would use to prove those elements in individual actions alleging the
16 same claims.
17

18 61. **Numerosity – Rule 23(a)(1):** The size of the Class is so large that joinder of all
19 Class members is impracticable. Plaintiff believes and avers there are thousands of Class
20 members geographically dispersed throughout the Nation.
21

22 62. **Existence and Predominance of Common Questions of Law and Fact – Rule**
23 **23(a)(2), (b)(3):** There are questions of law and fact common to the Class. These questions
24 predominate over any questions that affect only individual Class members. Common legal and
25 factual questions and issues include but are not limited to:

- 26 a. Whether the marketing, advertising, packaging, labeling, and other promotional
27 materials for the Products is misleading and deceptive;
28

- 1 b. Whether a reasonable consumer would understand the Products' labelling to
- 2 indicate that the Products contained only natural flavorings, and reasonably relied
- 3 upon those representations;
- 4 c. Whether Defendant was unjustly enriched at the expense of the Plaintiff and Class
- 5 members;
- 6 d. the proper amount of damages and disgorgement or restitution;
- 7 e. the proper scope of injunctive relief; and
- 8 f. the proper amount of attorneys' fees.

9 63. Defendant engaged in a common course of conduct in contravention of the laws
10 Plaintiff seeks to enforce individually and on behalf of the Class. Similar or identical violations
11 of law, business practices, and injuries are involved. Individual questions, if any, pale by
12 comparison, in both quality and quantity, to the numerous common questions that predominate
13 this action. The common questions will yield common answers that will substantially advance
14 the resolution of the case.

15 64. In short, these common questions of fact and law predominate over questions that
16 affect only individual Class members.

17 65. **Typicality – Rule 23(a)(3):** Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class
18 members because they are based on the same underlying facts, events, and circumstances
19 relating to Defendant's conduct.

20 66. Specifically, all Class members, including Plaintiff, were harmed in the same way
21 due to Defendant's uniform misconduct described herein; all Class members suffered similar
22 economic injury due to Defendant's misrepresentations; and Plaintiff seeks the same relief as
23 the Class members.

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1 67. There are no defenses available to Defendant that are unique to the named
2 Plaintiff.

3 68. **Adequacy of Representation – Rule 23(a)(4):** Plaintiff is a fair and adequate
4 representatives of the Class because Plaintiff’s interests do not conflict with the Class members’
5 interests. Plaintiff will prosecute this action vigorously and is highly motivated to seek redress
6 against Defendant.
7

8 69. Furthermore, Plaintiff has selected competent counsel who are experienced in
9 class action and other complex litigation. Plaintiff and Plaintiff’s counsel are committed to
10 prosecuting this action vigorously on behalf of the Class and have the resources to do so.

11 70. **Superiority – Rule 23(b)(3):** The class action mechanism is superior to other
12 available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy for at least the
13 following reasons:
14

- 15 a. the damages individual Class members suffered are small compared to the burden
16 and expense of individual prosecution of the complex and extensive litigation
17 needed to address Defendant’s conduct such that it would be virtually impossible
18 for the Class members individually to redress the wrongs done to them. In fact,
19 they would have little incentive to do so given the amount of damage each member
20 has suffered when weighed against the costs and burdens of litigation;
- 21 b. the class procedure presents fewer management difficulties than individual
22 litigation and provides the benefits of single adjudication, economies of scale, and
23 supervision by a single Court;
- 24 c. the prosecution of separate actions by individual Class members would create a
25 risk of inconsistent or varying adjudications, which would establish incompatible
26 standards of conduct for Defendant; and
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1 d. the prosecution of separate actions by individual Class members would create a
2 risk of adjudications with respect to them that would be dispositive of the interests
3 of other Class members or would substantively impair or impede their ability to
4 protect their interests.

5
6 71. Unless the Class is certified, Defendant will retain monies received as a result of
7 its unlawful and deceptive conduct alleged herein.

8 72. Unless a class-wide injunction is issued, Defendant will likely continue to
9 advertise, market, promote, and sell the Products in an unlawful and misleading manner, as
10 described throughout this Complaint, and members of the Class will continue to be misled,
11 harmed, and denied their rights under the law.

12 73. **Ascertainability.** To the extent ascertainability is required, the Class members are
13 readily ascertainable from Defendant’s records and/or its agents’ records of retail and online
14 sales, as well as through public notice.

15
16 74. Defendant has acted on grounds applicable to the Class as a whole, thereby
17 making appropriate final injunctive and declaratory relief concerning the Class as a whole.

18 **COUNT 1**
19 **VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS CODE**
20 **SECTION 17200 *et seq.* — “UNFAIR” CONDUCT**

21 75. Plaintiff realleges the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

22 76. Plaintiff has standing to pursue this claim as Plaintiff has suffered injury in fact as
23 a result of Defendant’s actions as set forth herein.

24 77. Defendant’s actions as alleged in this Complaint constitute “unfair” conduct
25 within the meaning of California Business and Professions Code Section 17200, *et seq.*

26 78. Defendant’s business practices, as alleged herein, are “unfair” because it fails to
27 disclose accurately the synthetic flavoring used in the Products.
28

1 79. As a result of this “unfair” conduct, Plaintiff expended money and engaged in
2 activities it would not otherwise have spent or conducted.

3 80. Defendant’s wrongful business practices alleged herein constituted, and continue
4 to constitute, a continuing course of unfair competition since it continues to market and sell its
5 products in a manner that offends public policy and/or in a fashion that is immoral, unethical,
6 oppressive, unscrupulous and/or substantially injurious to its customers.

7 81. Defendant publicly disseminated untrue or misleading representations regarding
8 the flavoring of its Products, which it knew, or in the exercise of reasonable care should have
9 known, were untrue or misleading.

10 82. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 17203, Plaintiff seeks an order
11 of this court enjoining Defendant from continuing to engage in “unfair” business practices and
12 any other act prohibited by law, including those acts set forth in this Complaint, and further seek
13 all other relief allowable under Business and Professions Code Section 17200, *et seq.*
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16 **COUNT 2**
17 **VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS CODE**
18 **SECTION 17200 *et seq.* — “FRAUDULENT” CONDUCT**

19 83. Plaintiff realleges the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

20 84. Plaintiff has standing to pursue this claim as Plaintiff has suffered injury in fact as
21 a result of Defendant’s actions as set forth above.

22 85. Defendant’s actions as alleged in this Complaint constitute “fraudulent” conduct
23 within the meaning of California Business and Professions Code Section 17200 *et seq.*

24 86. Defendant’s business practices, as alleged herein, are “fraudulent” because it fails
25 to disclose accurately that the Products contained artificial flavorings.

26 87. As a result of this “fraudulent” conduct, Plaintiff expended money and engaged in
27 activities it would not otherwise have spent or conducted.
28

1 88. Defendant’s wrongful business practices alleged herein constituted, and continue
2 to constitute, a continuing course of unfair competition since it continues to market and sell its
3 products in a manner that offends public policy and/or in a fashion that is immoral, unethical,
4 oppressive, unscrupulous and/or substantially injurious to its customers.
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6 89. Defendant publicly disseminated untrue or misleading representations regarding
7 the flavoring of its Products, which it knew, or in the exercise of reasonable care should have
8 known, were untrue or misleading.

9 90. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code § 17203, Plaintiff seeks an order of
10 this Court enjoining Defendant from continuing to engage in “fraudulent” business practices
11 and any other act prohibited by law, including those acts set forth in this Complaint, and further
12 seeks all other relief allowable under Business and Professions Code Section 17200, *et seq.*
13

14 **COUNT 3**
15 **VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS CODE**
16 **SECTION 17200 *et seq.* — “UNLAWFUL” CONDUCT**

17 91. Plaintiff realleges the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

18 92. Plaintiff has standing to pursue this claim as Plaintiff has suffered injury in fact as
19 a result of Defendant’s actions as set forth above.

20 93. Defendant’s actions as alleged in this Complaint constitute “unlawful” conduct
21 within the meaning of California Business and Professions Code Section 17200, *et seq.*

22 94. Defendant’s business practices, as alleged herein, are “unlawful” because it fails
23 to disclose accurately that the Products contained artificial flavorings.

24 95. As a result of this “unlawful” conduct, Plaintiff expended money and engaged in
25 activities it would not otherwise have spent or conducted.

26 96. Defendant’s business practices alleged herein constituted, and continue to
27 constitute, a continuing course of unfair competition since it continues to market and sell its
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1 products in a manner that offends public policy and/or in a fashion that is immoral, unethical,
2 oppressive, unscrupulous and/or substantially injurious to its customers.

3 97. Defendant publicly disseminated untrue or misleading representations regarding
4 the flavoring of its Products, which it knew, or in the exercise of reasonable care should have
5 known, were untrue or misleading.
6

7 98. Pursuant to Business and Professions Code Section 17203, Plaintiff seeks an order
8 of this court enjoining Defendant from continuing to engage in “unlawful” business practices
9 and any other act prohibited by law, including those acts set forth in this Complaint, and further
10 seeks all other relief allowable under Business and Professions Code Section 17200, *et seq.*
11

12 **COUNT 4**
13 **VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA BUSINESS &**
14 **PROFESSIONS CODE SECTION 17500 *et seq.***

15 99. Plaintiff realleges the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

16 100. Plaintiff has standing to pursue this claim as Plaintiff has suffered injury in fact as
17 a result of Defendant’s actions as set forth above.

18 101. Defendant engaged in advertising and marketing to the public and offered for sale
19 advertising services on a nationwide basis, including in California.

20 102. Defendant engaged in the advertising and marketing alleged herein with the intent
21 to directly or indirectly induce the sale of the Products to consumers.

22 103. Defendant’s advertisements and marketing representations regarding the
23 characteristics of the Products were false, misleading, and deceptive as set forth above.

24 104. At the time it made and disseminated the statements alleged herein, Defendant
25 knew or should have known that the statements were untrue or misleading, and acted in violation
26 of Business and Professions Code Section 17500, *et seq.*
27
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1 105. Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief and all other relief allowable under Business and
2 Professions Code Section 17500, *et seq.*

3 **COUNT 5**
4 **VIOLATION OF THE CONSUMER LEGAL REMEDIES ACT,**
5 **CAL. CIV. CODE § 1750 *ET SEQ.***

6 106. Plaintiff realleges the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

7 107. Plaintiff is a “consumer” within the meaning of the Consumer Legal Remedies
8 Act (“CLRA”), Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(d).

9 108. The sale of Defendant’s Products to Plaintiff and Class members was a
10 “transaction” within the meaning of the CLRA, Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(e).

11 109. The Products purchased by Plaintiff and Class members are “goods” within the
12 meaning of the CLRA, Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(a).

13 110. As alleged herein, Defendant’s business practices are a violation of the CLRA
14 because Defendant deceptively failed to reveal facts that are material in light of the
15 representations that were made by Defendant on the labels and associated websites of its
16 Products.

17 111. Defendant’s ongoing failure to provide material facts about its Products on their
18 labels and associated advertising material violates the following subsections of Cal. Civ. Code
19 § 1770(a) in these respects:
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- 21 a. Defendant’s acts and practices constitute misrepresentations that its Products have
22 characteristics, benefits, or uses which they do not have;
 - 23 b. Defendant misrepresented that its Products are of a particular standard, quality,
24 and/or grade, when they are of another;
 - 25 c. Defendant’s acts and practices constitute the advertisement of goods, without the
26 intent to sell them as advertised;
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1 d. Defendant’s acts and practices fail to represent that transactions involving its
2 Products involve actions that are prohibited by law, particularly the use of
3 misleading nutritional labelling; and

4 e. Defendant’s acts and practices constitute representations that its Products have
5 been supplied in accordance with previous representations when they were not.

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7 112. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff and the Class have been irreparably harmed,
8 entitling them to injunctive relief, disgorgement, and restitution.

9 113. Pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1782, Plaintiff notified Defendant in writing of the
10 particular violations of the CLRA described herein and demanded Defendant rectify the actions
11 described above by providing complete monetary relief, agreeing to be bound by their legal
12 obligations and to give notice to all affected customers of their intent to do so. Plaintiff sent this
13 notice by certified mail to Defendant’s principal place of business, at least 30 days before the
14 filing of this Complaint.
15

16 114. Pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1770 and 1780, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled
17 to recover actual damages sustained as a result of Defendant’s violations of the CLRA. Such
18 damages include, without limitation, monetary losses and actual, punitive, and consequential
19 damages, in an amount to be proven at trial.
20

21 115. Pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1770 and 1780, Plaintiff is entitled to enjoin
22 publication of misleading and deceptive nutritional labels on Defendant’s Products and to
23 recover reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs.

24 **COUNT 6**
25 **UNJUST ENRICHMENT**

26 116. Plaintiff realleges the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein and, to the
27 extent necessary, pleads this cause of action in the alternative.
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117. Defendant, through its marketing and labeling of the Products, misrepresented and deceived consumers regarding the character of the flavoring in the Products. Defendant did so for the purpose of enriching itself and it in fact enriched itself by doing so.

118. Consumers conferred a benefit on Defendant by purchasing the Products, including an effective premium, above their true value. Defendant appreciated, accepted, and retained the benefit to the detriment of consumers.

119. Defendant continues to possess monies paid by consumers to which Defendant is not entitled.

120. Under the circumstances it would be inequitable for Defendant to retain the benefit conferred upon it and Defendant’s retention of the benefit violates fundamental principles of justice, equity, and good conscience.

121. Plaintiff seeks disgorgement of Defendant’s ill-gotten gains and restitution of Defendant’s wrongful profits, revenue, and benefits, to the extent, and in the amount, deemed appropriate by the Court, and such other relief as the Court deems just and proper to remedy Defendant’s unjust enrichment.

122. Plaintiff has standing to pursue this claim as Plaintiff have suffered injury in fact as a result of Defendant’s actions as set forth above.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

123. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully request the Court grant the following relief against Defendant:

- a. Certifying the Class;
- b. Declaring that Defendant violated the CLRA, UCL, and FAL;

- 1 c. Awarding actual and other damages as permitted by law, and/or ordering an
2 accounting by Defendant for any and all profits derived by Defendant from the
3 unlawful, unfair, and/or fraudulent conduct and/or business practices alleged herein;
4
5 d. Ordering an awarding of injunctive relief as permitted by law or equity, including
6 enjoining Defendant from continuing the unlawful practices as set forth herein, and
7 ordering Defendant to engage in a corrective advertising campaign;
8
9 e. Ordering Defendant to pay attorneys' fees and litigation costs to Plaintiff pursuant to
10 California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1021.5 and the common-law private-
11 attorney-general doctrine;
12
13 f. Ordering Defendant to pay both pre- and post-judgment interest on any amounts
14 awarded; and
15
16 g. Such other relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

15 TRIAL BY JURY IS DEMANDED.

16 /s/ Charles C. Weller
17 Charles C. Weller (Cal. SBN: 207034)
18 Attorney for Plaintiff

19 August 25, 2022
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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
Silver Weinholtz
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff San Diego
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)
Charles C. Weller, CHARLES C. WELLER APC, 11412 Corley Court, San Diego, CA 92126 858.414.7465

DEFENDANTS
RARI Nutrition LLC
County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Broward County, FL
NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.
Attorneys (If Known) '22CV1255 MMAJLB

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
Citizen of Another State [] 2 [] 2
Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country [] 3 [] 3
Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State [] 4 [] 4
Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State [] 5 [X] 5
Foreign Nation [] 6 [] 6

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)
CONTRACT: 110 Insurance, 120 Marine, 130 Miller Act, 140 Negotiable Instrument, 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment, 151 Medicare Act, 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans), 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits, 160 Stockholders' Suits, 190 Other Contract, [X] 195 Contract Product Liability, 196 Franchise
PERSONAL INJURY: 310 Airplane, 315 Airplane Product Liability, 320 Assault, Libel & Slander, 330 Federal Employers' Liability, 340 Marine, 345 Marine Product Liability, 350 Motor Vehicle, 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability, 360 Other Personal Injury, 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice
PERSONAL INJURY: 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability, 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability, 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability
PERSONAL PROPERTY: 370 Other Fraud, 371 Truth in Lending, 380 Other Personal Property Damage, 385 Property Damage Product Liability
FORFEITURE/PENALTY: 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881, 690 Other
LABOR: 710 Fair Labor Standards Act, 720 Labor/Management Relations, 740 Railway Labor Act, 751 Family and Medical Leave Act, 790 Other Labor Litigation, 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act
IMMIGRATION: 462 Naturalization Application, 465 Other Immigration Actions
BANKRUPTCY: 422 Appeal 28 USC 158, 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS: 820 Copyrights, 830 Patent, 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application, 840 Trademark, 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016
SOCIAL SECURITY: 861 HIA (1395ff), 862 Black Lung (923), 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)), 864 SSID Title XVI, 865 RSI (405(g))
FEDERAL TAX SUITS: 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant), 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609
OTHER STATUTES: 375 False Claims Act, 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)), 400 State Reapportionment, 410 Antitrust, 430 Banks and Banking, 450 Commerce, 460 Deportation, 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations, 480 Consumer Credit (15 USC 1681 or 1692), 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 490 Cable/Sat TV, 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange, 890 Other Statutory Actions, 891 Agricultural Acts, 893 Environmental Matters, 895 Freedom of Information Act, 896 Arbitration, 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision, 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)
[X] 1 Original Proceeding
2 Removed from State Court
3 Remanded from Appellate Court
4 Reinstated or Reopened
5 Transferred from Another District (specify)
6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer
8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION
Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
28 USC section 1332
Brief description of cause:
Misbranding and deceptive product labelling under state consumer protection law

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:
[X] CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$ 5,000,000
CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:
JURY DEMAND: [X] Yes [] No

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

DATE 8/25/2022 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD /s/ Charles C. Weller

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.