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6 *Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Putative*
Classes

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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
9 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

10 MARIA MENDEZ WHITAKER, on
11 behalf of herself and all others similarly
12 situated,

13 Plaintiff,

14 v.

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16 PHARMAVITE LLC,

17 Defendants.
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CASE NO.: 2:22-cv-04732

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 Plaintiff Maria Mendez Whitaker (“Plaintiff”), on behalf of herself and all
2 others similarly situated, brings this class action against Pharmavite LLC
3 (“Defendant”) based upon personal knowledge as to herself, and upon information,
4 investigation and belief of her counsel.

5 **SUMMARY OF THE ACTION**

6 1. This class action seeks to challenge Defendant’s false and deceptive
7 practices in the marketing and sale of its Nature Made® Extra Strength Chewable
8 Vitamin C products (the “Products”).

9 2. Specifically, Defendant has falsely and deceptively labeled the Products
10 as being “Extra Strength.” Based on this representation, reasonable consumers are led
11 to believe that each tablet contained in the Products has a higher dose of Vitamin C
12 than each tablet contained in Defendant’s Nature Made® ***regular strength*** chewable
13 Vitamin C products (the “Regular Strength Products”).

14 3. Unbeknownst to consumers, the Products do not have a higher dose of
15 Vitamin C per tablet than the Regular Strength Products. As such, the Products are not
16 “Extra Strength” and are therefore falsely and deceptively labeled.

17 4. Plaintiff and Class members have reasonably relied on Defendant’s
18 deceptive labeling of the Products, reasonably believing that each tablet in the
19 Products contains a higher dose of Vitamin C than each tablet of the Regular Strength
20 Products.

21 5. Plaintiff purchased the Products and paid a premium price based upon
22 her reliance on Defendant’s “Extra Strength” representation. Had Plaintiff and Class
23 members been aware that the Products were not in fact “Extra Strength,” Plaintiff
24 and Class members would not have purchased the Products or would have paid
25 significantly less for them. Accordingly, Plaintiff and Class members have been
26 injured by Defendant’s deceptive business practices.

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PARTIES

I. Plaintiff

6. Plaintiff Whitaker is a citizen of California and currently resides in North Hollywood, California. Throughout 2020 to early 2022, Plaintiff purchased the Products from a Sprouts and CVS in Burbank, California. Specifically, Plaintiff last purchased the Products in or around April 2022. In purchasing the Products, Plaintiff saw the “Extra Strength” representation on the front label of the Products and reasonably believed that each tablet in the Products had a higher dose of Vitamin C than each tablet of the Regular Strength Products. Had she known that the Products were not in fact extra strength, she would not have purchased the Products or would have paid substantially less for them.

7. Despite Defendant’s misrepresentations, Plaintiff would purchase the Product, as advertised, if they were in fact extra strength. Although Plaintiff regularly shop at stores which carry the Products, absent an injunction on Defendant’s deceptive advertising, she will be unable to rely with confidence on Defendant’s labeling of the Products in the future. Furthermore, while Plaintiff currently believe that the Products are falsely and deceptively labeled, she lacks personal knowledge as to Defendant’s specific business practices, as she will not be able determine whether the Products truly will be extra strength in the future. This leaves doubt in her mind as to the possibility that at some point in the future the Products could be made in accordance with the representation on the front labels. This uncertainty, coupled with her desire to purchase the Products, is an ongoing injury that can and would be rectified by an injunction enjoining Defendant from making the alleged misleading representations. In addition, other Class members will continue to purchase the Products, reasonably but incorrectly, believing that they are extra strength.

1 **II. Defendant**

2 8. Defendant Pharmavite LLC is a California corporation and maintains
3 its headquarters in West Hills, California. Defendant, on its own and through its
4 agents, is responsible for the formulation, ingredients, manufacturing, labeling,
5 marketing, and sale of the Products in the United States, including in California,
6 specifically in this District. On information and belief, the marketing of the
7 Products, including the decision of what to include on their labels, emanates from
8 Defendant's headquarters in California.

9 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

10 9. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under the Class Action
11 Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. §1332(d) in that: (1) this is a class action involving more
12 than 100 Class members; (2) the parties are minimally diverse, as members of the
13 proposed class are citizens of states different than Defendant's home state; and (3)
14 the amount in controversy is in excess of \$5,000,000, exclusive of interests and
15 costs.

16 10. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant
17 maintains its headquarters in California, conducts and transacts substantial business
18 in California, and intentionally and purposefully placed the Products into the stream
19 of commerce within California

20 11. Venue is proper in this judicial District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391
21 because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiff's claims
22 occurred in this judicial District. Namely, Plaintiff purchased the Products in this
23 judicial District.

24 **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

25 12. Defendant is in the business of manufacturing and selling dietary
26 supplements, including its popular Nature Made® brand.

27 13. The "Products" at issue in this action are the following Nature Made
28 products:

- a. Nature Made® Extra Strength Chewable Vitamin C, 60 Tablets;
- and
- b. Nature Made® Extra Strength Chewable Vitamin C, 90 Tablets.

14. Defendant has engaged in false and deceptive labeling of the Products. Specifically, Pharmavite, directly and/or through its agents, has falsely and deceptively labeled the Products as being “Extra Strength.” *See below example.*



15. Based on the “Extra Strength” representation on the front label of the Products, reasonable consumers are led to believe that each chewable tablet contained in the Products has a higher dosage of Vitamin C than each chewable tablet in

1 Defendant's Nature Made® regular strength chewable Vitamin C products (the
2 "Regular Strength Products"). An example of the Regular Strength Product is displayed
3 below.



16. Unbeknownst to consumers, an “apples to apples” comparison of the two products demonstrates that the Products do not in any way have a higher dosage of Vitamin C per chewable tablet than the Regular Strength Products. In fact, they are exactly the same.

1 17. To get 1000 mg of Vitamin C in the Products, a consumer is required to
2 take two (2) chewable tablets, meaning that each tablet only has 500 mg of Vitamin C.
3 However, each tablet of the Regular Strength Products *also contains only 500 mg of*
4 *Vitamin C.*

5 18. Thus, consumers of the Products do not receive a higher dose of Vitamin
6 C in the Products versus the Regular Strength Product.

7 19. As such, the Products are not “Extra Strength” and are therefore falsely
8 and deceptively labeled.

9 20. As the entity ultimately responsible for the manufacturing, labeling,
10 and sale of the Products, Defendant is responsible for the accuracy of the
11 information conveyed about the Products, including on their labels.

12 21. Defendant knew or should have known that the “Extra Strength”
13 representation on the Products is deceptive, and that reasonable consumers would
14 believe that each chewable tablet in the Products has a higher dosage of Vitamin C
15 than each chewable tablet in Defendant’s Regular Strength Products.

16 22. Consumers are injured by the foregoing deceptive labeling because they
17 pay a premium for the Products over the Regular Strength Products based on the
18 “Extra Strength” representation. Indeed, based on a preliminary comparative analysis
19 of market prices for the Products and the Regular Strength Products in June 2022 (*see*
20 Table 1 below), the Products consistently command a price premium per serving and
21 per bottle *even though they do not provide any additional benefit compared to the*
22 *Regular Strength Products.*

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1 **Table 1.**

2 Retailer	3 Price for 150 tablet Regular Strength Product	4 Price per 1000mg dose of Regular Strength Product (75 doses)	5 Price for 90 tablet Extra Strength Product	6 Price per 1000mg dose of Extra Strength Product (45 doses)	7 Premium Per 1000mg Serving of Extra Strength Product	8 Premium Per Bottle of Extra Strength Product
9 Vitacost.com	\$15.49 ¹	\$.21	\$11.31 ²	\$.25	\$.04	\$1.80 (\$.04 x 45 doses)
10 CVS.com	\$23.49 ³	\$.31	\$15.99 ⁴	\$.36	\$.05	\$2.25 (\$.05 x 45 doses)
11 Amazon.com	\$16.99 ⁵	\$.23	\$12.59 ⁶	\$.28	\$.05	\$2.25 (\$.05 x 45 doses)

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17 ¹ <https://www.vitacost.com/nature-made-chewable-c-orange> (last visited June 28, 2022).

18 ² <https://www.vitacost.com/nature-made-chewable-vitamin-c-extra-strength> (last visited June 28, 2022).

19 ³ <https://www.cvs.com/shop/nature-made-vitamin-c-chewable-tablets-500mg-prodid-1070779> (last visited June 28, 2022).

20 ⁴ <https://www.cvs.com/shop/nature-made-extra-strength-chewable-vitamin-c-1000mg-tablets-90-ct-prodid-650456> (last visited June 28, 2022).

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22 ⁵ https://www.amazon.com/Nature-Made-Chewable-Vitamin-500/dp/B018EAP21O/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?keywords=nature+made+vitamin+c+chewable&qid=1655444721&s=hpc&sprefix=nature+made+vitamin+c+che%2Chpc%2C140&sr=1-1-spons&psc=1&spLa=ZW5jcnlwdGVkUXVhbGlmaWVyPUEwNDY3Mjc1NzdVUzIyNUUs5QzdYJmVuY3J5cHRlZEFkSWQ9QTA4NTIxNDdJT1FXRkhBUUZHVzUmd2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9hdGYmYWw0aW9uPWNsaWNrUmVkaXJlY3QmZG9Ob3RMb2dDbGljaz10cnVl (last visited June 28, 2022).

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26 ⁶ https://www.amazon.com/Nature-Made-Strength-Chewable-Antioxidant/dp/B08FNG91XM/ref=sr_1_4?keywords=nature+made+vitamin+c+chewable&qid=1655444721&s=hpc&sprefix=nature+made+vitamin+c+che%2Chpc%2C140&sr=1-4 (last visited June 28, 2022).

Naturemade.com	\$20.49 ⁷	\$.27	\$14.69 ⁸	\$.33	\$.06	\$2.70 (\$.06 x 45 doses)
Target.com	\$21.99 ⁹	\$.29	\$15.89 ¹⁰	\$.35	\$.06	\$2.70 (\$.06 x 45 doses)

23. Had Plaintiff been aware that the Products were not extra strength, she would have purchased a different product, or paid significantly less for the Products. As such, Plaintiff and members of the putative Classes have been injured.

24. Plaintiff and members of the putative Classes were exposed to and justifiably relied upon the same material misrepresentation and suffered injury during the class period because: (1) each of the Products was labeled as “Extra Strength;” and (2) each of the Products was not extra strength when compared to the Regular Strength Products.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

25. Plaintiff brings this matter on behalf of herself and those similarly situated. Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (the “Rules” or “Rule”), Plaintiff seeks to represent the following class:

All residents of the United States who purchased either of the Products for personal, family, or household consumption and not for resale within the applicable statute of limitation period (“Nationwide Class”).

⁷ <https://www.naturemade.com/products/chewable-vitamin-c-500-mg?variant=17895377567815> (last visited June 28, 2022).

⁸ <https://www.naturemade.com/products/nature-made-extra-strength-vitamin-c-1000-mg-chewables?variant=34272481443979> (last visited June 28, 2022).

⁹ <https://www.target.com/p/nature-made-chewable-vitamin-c-500-mg-tablets-150ct/-/A-10994372#lnk=sametab> (last visited June 28, 2022).

¹⁰ <https://www.target.com/p/nature-made-chewable-c-1000mg-tablets-90ct/-/A-80377808#lnk=sametab> (last visited June 28, 2022).

1 26. Additionally, as further described herein, Plaintiff brings claims based
2 upon state consumer protection laws on behalf of the following state class:

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4 All residents of California who purchased either of the Products for
5 personal, family, or household consumption and not for resale within
6 the applicable statute of limitation period (“California Class”).

7 27. The Nationwide Class and the California Class are referred to
8 collectively as the “Classes.”

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

15 29. Plaintiff reserves the right to modify or amend the definition of the
16 proposed Classes and/or add subclasses before the Court determines whether class
17 certification is appropriate.

18 30. **Numerosity:** Members of each Class are so numerous and
19 geographically dispersed that individual joinder of all Class members is
20 impracticable. The precise number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiff but is
21 likely to be ascertained by the Defendant’s records. At a minimum, there likely are
22 tens of thousands of Class members.

23 31. **Commonality:** There are questions of law and fact common to the
24 proposed class(es). Common questions of law and fact include, without limitations:

- 25 a. whether Defendant’s course of conduct alleged herein violates the
26 statutes and other laws that are pled in this Complaint;
27 b. whether reasonable consumers would likely be deceived by the
28 Products’ labeling;

- 1 c. whether Defendant knew or should have known its representations
- 2 were false or misleading;
- 3 d. whether Defendant was unjustly enriched by retaining monies from the
- 4 sale of the Products;
- 5 e. whether certification of each Class is appropriate under Rule 23;
- 6 f. whether Plaintiff and the members of each Class are entitled to
- 7 declaratory, equitable, or injunctive relief, and/or other relief, and the
- 8 scope of such relief; and
- 9 g. the amount and nature of the relief to be awarded to the Plaintiff and
- 10 the Class, including whether Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to
- 11 punitive damages.

12 32. **Typicality:** Plaintiff's claims are typical of the other Class members
13 because Plaintiff, as well as Class members, purchased the Product. Plaintiff and the
14 members of the Classes relied on the representation made by the Defendant about
15 the Products prior to purchasing the Product. Plaintiff and the members of each
16 Class paid for Defendant's Products and would not have purchased them (or would
17 have paid substantially less for them) had they known that the Defendant's
18 representations were untrue.

19 33. **Adequacy:** Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of
20 the proposed Classes as her interests do not conflict with the interests of the
21 members of the proposed Classes she seeks to represent, and she has retained
22 counsel competent and experienced in class action litigation. Thus, the interests of
23 the members of the Classes will be fairly and adequately protected by Plaintiff and
24 her counsel.

25 34. **Predominance:** Pursuant to Rule 23(b)(3), the common issues of law
26 and fact identified in this Complaint predominate over any other questions affecting
27 only individual members of the Classes. Class issues fully predominate over any
28 individual issue because no inquiry into individual conduct is necessary; all that is

1 required is a narrow focus on Defendant’s misconduct detailed at length in this
2 Complaint.

3 35. **Superiority**: A class action is superior to all other available methods
4 for the fair and efficient adjudication of this litigation because individual litigation
5 of each claim is impractical. It would be unduly burdensome to have individual
6 litigation of hundreds of thousands of individual claims in separate lawsuits, every
7 one of which would present the issues presented in the Complaint/lawsuit. Further,
8 because of the damages suffered by any individual Class member may be relatively
9 modest in relation to the cost of litigation, the expense and burden of individual
10 litigation make it difficult, if not impossible. Furthermore, many of the Class
11 members may be unaware that claims exist against the Defendant.

12 36. **Declaratory and Injunctive Relief**: Pursuant to Rule 23(b)(2),
13 declaratory and injunctive relief is appropriate in this matter. Defendant has acted or
14 refused to act on grounds generally applicable to Plaintiff and the other Class
15 members, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief and declaratory relief,
16 as described below, with respect to the Class members as a whole. Unless a class-
17 wide injunction is issued, Defendant will continue to advertise, market, promote,
18 and sell the Products in an unlawful and misleading manner, as described
19 throughout this Complaint, and members of the Classes will continue to be misled,
20 harmed, and denied their rights under the law.

21 37. Defendant has also acted, or failed to act, on grounds generally
22 applicable to Plaintiff and the proposed Classes, supporting the imposition of
23 uniform relief to ensure compatible standards of conduct toward the members of the
24 Classes.

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1 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**
2 **Violation of California’s Consumers Legal Remedies Act**
3 **California Civil Code § 1750, et seq.**
4 **(on behalf of the Nationwide Class; or, in the alternative, on behalf of the**
5 **California Class)**

6 38. Plaintiff repeats and realleges Paragraphs 1-37 as if fully set forth
7 herein.

8 39. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the Nationwide
9 Class. In the alternative, Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the
10 California Class.

11 40. Defendant’s conduct constitutes violations under the California’s
12 Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750, et seq. (“CLRA”).

13 41. Defendant’s conduct falls within the meaning of this statute because it
14 caused transactions to occur resulting in the sale or lease of goods to consumers –
15 namely, the sale of the Products. The Products are considered to be “goods” within
16 the meaning of the statute under Cal. Civil Code 1761(a).

17 42. Plaintiff and members of the Classes are “consumers” pursuant to the
18 statute.

19 43. Defendant violated the CLRA by way of the following provisions:

- 20 a. Representing that the Products have “characteristics” (i.e., are “Extra
21 Strength”) which they do not have, in violation of Cal. Civ. Code §
22 1770(a)(5);
- 23 b. Representing that the Products are of a particular “standard” (i.e., are
24 “Extra Strength”) when they are not that standard, in violation of Cal.
25 Civ. Code § 1770(a)(7); and
- 26 c. Advertising the Products with the “intent not to sell [it] as advertised”
27 in violation of Cal. Civ. Code § 1770(a)(9).

28 44. As the entity responsible for the manufacturing, labeling, and
advertising of the Products, Defendant is aware the claim “Extra Strength” is
misleading and will mislead a reasonable consumer.

1 45. Due to Defendant’s conduct, Plaintiff and members of the Classes
2 suffered economic injury in that they paid more of the Products than they otherwise
3 would have had they known the truth.

4 46. Pursuant to the provisions of Cal. Civ. Code § 1782(a), on February 7,
5 2022, Defendant received a letter via certified mail, return receipt requested,
6 providing notice to Defendant of its alleged violations of the CLRA, and demanding
7 that Defendant correct such violations. The letter was sent on behalf of all
8 purchasers of the Products during the class period. Because more than 30 days has
9 passed since Defendant received the notice, and Defendant has yet to cure its
10 violations, Plaintiff brings this claim for damages under the CLRA.

11 47. Plaintiff and members of the Classes therefore seek damages,
12 reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs, and all other available relief as pleaded in this
13 Complaint and available under the CLRA.

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SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF
Violation of California’s False Advertising Law (“FAL”)
California Business & Professions Code § 17500, *et seq*
(on behalf of the Nationwide Class; or, in the alternative, on behalf of the
California Class)

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18 48. Plaintiff repeats and realleges Paragraphs 1-37 as if fully set forth
19 herein.

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20 49. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the Nationwide
21 Class. In the alternative, Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the
22 California Class.

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23 50. The FAL makes it “unlawful for any person to make or disseminate or
24 cause to be made or disseminated before the public . . . in any advertising device . . .
25 or in any other manner or means whatever, including over the Internet, any
26 statement, concerning . . . personal property or services professional or otherwise, or
27 performance or disposition thereof, which is untrue or misleading and which is
28 known, or which by the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to be untrue

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1 or misleading.” Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17500.

2 51. Defendant violated the FAL by publicly disseminating misleading and
3 false advertisements for the Products through the labeling of the Products as “Extra
4 Strength.”

5 52. Defendant’s false and misleading representation was made in order to
6 increase sales of the Products.

7 53. Plaintiff and members of the Classes would not have bought the
8 Products, or would have paid considerably less for them, had they known that the
9 representation was false and misleading.

10 54. Plaintiff and Class members seek an order requiring Defendant to: (a)
11 make full restitution for all monies wrongfully obtained; and (b) disgorge all ill-
12 gotten revenues and/or profits. Plaintiff also seeks all other available relief as
13 pleaded in this Complaint.

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15 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**
16 **Violation of California’s Unfair Competition Law (“UCL”),**
17 **California Business & Professions Code § 17200, *et seq.***
(on behalf of the Nationwide Class; or, in the alternative, on behalf of the
California Class)

18 55. Plaintiff repeats and realleges Paragraphs 1-37 as if fully set forth
19 herein.

20 56. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the Nationwide
21 Class. In the alternative, Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the
22 California Class.

23 57. Plaintiff and Defendant are “persons” within the meaning of the UCL.
24 Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17201.

25 58. The UCL defines unfair competition to include any “unlawful, unfair or
26 fraudulent business act or practice,” as well as any “unfair, deceptive, untrue or
27 misleading advertising.” Cal. Bus. Prof. Code § 17200.

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1 59. In the course of conducting business, Defendant engaged in “unlawful”
2 business practices by violating Cal. Civ. Code § 1770, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §
3 17500, and the other laws referenced herein.

4 60. As a result of Defendant’s unlawful business acts and practices,
5 Defendant has and continues to unlawfully obtain money from Plaintiff and
6 members of the Classes.

7 61. Defendant’s foregoing business practices are also “unfair” under the
8 UCL, which states that unfair acts are acts where the reasons, justifications and
9 motivations of Defendant are outweighed by the harm to Plaintiff and other
10 California consumers.

11 62. A business practice is also considered to be “unfair” if the conduct
12 alleged is immoral, unethical, oppressive, or substantially injurious to consumers; as
13 well as if the conduct alleged causes an injury which is not outweighed by any
14 benefits to other consumers or to competition, and that the injury is of the type that
15 the consumer could not have avoided. Defendant’s conduct is “unfair” pursuant to
16 the UCL under each of the three tests described in these paragraphs.

17 63. Defendant’s behavior constitutes unfair business practices under
18 California law.

19 64. Defendant’s retention of Plaintiff’s and Class member’s payments for
20 the Products outweighs the economic harm that said retention imposes on
21 consumers. The only party that benefits is Defendant. Defendant’s sale of the
22 Products with the “Extra Strength” misrepresentation discussed herein are immoral,
23 unethical, oppressive, and substantially injures consumers.

24 65. Plaintiff and members of the Classes had no way of knowing that the
25 Products were not in fact “Extra Strength.” As Defendant continues to unfairly
26 retain Plaintiff’s and members of the Classes’ payments for the Products, this
27 conduct continues to be unfair under California law. This is exactly the type of
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1 unscrupulous and inexcusable business practice that the UCL was enacted to
2 address.

3 66. Defendant’s representations are also “fraudulent” under the UCL
4 because they have the effect of deceiving consumers into believing that the Products
5 are “Extra Strength” when they are not.

6 67. Defendant knew, or should have known, its material misrepresentation
7 would be likely to deceive and harm the consuming public and result in consumers
8 making payments to Defendant under the false impression about the Products.

9 68. As a result of Defendant’s conduct, Plaintiff and members of the
10 Classes have suffered injury-in-fact by paying more for the Products than they
11 would have. Plaintiff requests that the Court issue sufficient equitable relief to
12 restore her and members of the Classes to the position they would have been had
13 Defendant not engaged in unfair business practices.

14 69. Plaintiff and members of the Classes seek an order requiring Defendant
15 to: (a) make full restitution for all monies wrongfully obtained; and (b) disgorge all
16 ill-gotten revenues and/or profits. Plaintiff also seeks all other available relief as
17 pleaded in this Complaint.

18 **FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

19 **Quasi Contract/Unjust Enrichment/Restitution**

20 *(on behalf of the Nationwide Class; or, in the alternative, on behalf of the
21 California Class)*

22 70. Plaintiff repeats the allegations contained in paragraphs 1-37 above as
23 if fully set forth herein.

24 71. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the Nationwide
25 Class. In the alternative, Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the
26 California Class.

27 72. As alleged herein, Defendant has intentionally and recklessly made a
28 misleading representation to Plaintiff and members of the Classes to induce them to
purchase the Products. Plaintiff and members of the Classes have reasonably relied

1 on the misleading representation and have not received all of the benefits (i.e., an
2 extra strength product) promised by Defendant. Plaintiff and members of the
3 proposed Classes have therefore been induced by Defendant's misleading and
4 deceptive representations about the Products, and paid more money to Defendant for
5 the Products than they otherwise would and/or should have paid.

6 73. Plaintiff and members of the proposed Classes have conferred a benefit
7 upon Defendant as Defendant has retained monies paid to them by Plaintiff and
8 members of the proposed Classes.

9 74. The monies received were obtained under circumstances that were at
10 the expense of Plaintiff and members of the proposed Classes—i.e., Plaintiff and
11 members of the proposed Classes did not receive the full value of the benefit
12 conferred upon Defendant. Therefore, it is inequitable and unjust for Defendant to
13 retain the profit, benefit, or compensation conferred upon them.

14 75. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's unjust enrichment,
15 Plaintiff and members of the proposed Classes are entitled to restitution,
16 disgorgement, and/or the imposition of a constructive trust upon all profits, benefits,
17 and other compensation obtained by Defendant from its deceptive, misleading, and
18 unlawful conduct as alleged herein.

19 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

20 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of the proposed
21 Classes, respectfully pray for following relief:

22 A. Certification of this case as a class action on behalf of the proposed
23 Classes defined above, appointment of Plaintiff as Class representative, and
24 appointment of their counsel as Class counsel;

25 B. A declaration that Defendant's actions, as described herein, violate the
26 claims described herein;

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

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

9 E. An award of all economic, monetary, actual, consequential, and
10 compensatory damages caused by Defendant's conduct;

11 F. An award of nominal, punitive, and statutory damages;

12 H. An award to Plaintiff and her counsel of reasonable expenses and
13 attorneys' fees;

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

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

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18 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

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

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23 DATED: July 11, 2022

CUSTODIO & DUBEY, LLP

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By: /s/ Robert Abiri
Robert Abiri

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Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Putative Classes

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EXHIBIT "A"

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**DECLARATION OF MARIA MENDEZ
WHITAKER**

I, Maria Mendez Whitaker, hereby declare:


1. I am a Plaintiff in the action entitled *Maria Mendez Whitaker v. Pharmavite LLC*.
I am a competent adult over eighteen years of age and I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein. If called as a witness, I could and would testify competently thereto.

2. I currently reside in the City of North Hollywood located in the County of Los Angeles.

3. I last purchased the Nature Made Extra Strength Chewable Vitamin C product in or around April 2022 in Burbank, CA.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America and the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on 07/11/2022 at North Hollywood, California.



Maria Mendez Whitaker