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16 *(additional counsel on signature page)*

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
**SAN JOSE DIVISION**

Laurie Braaten, individually and on behalf of all  
others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

- against -

Apple Inc.,

Defendant

Case No. 22-cv-4861

Class Action Complaint

Jury Trial Demanded

1 Plaintiff Laurie Braaten (“Plaintiff”), by her attorneys, alleges upon information and belief,  
2 except for allegations pertaining to Plaintiff, which are based on personal knowledge:

3 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

4 1. Apple Inc. (“Defendant”) manufactures, distributes, markets, labels, and sells the  
5 Apple Watch SE smart watch (“Product”) that Defendant represents to be “Swimproof”:



**Apple Watch SE**

Starting at \$279

44mm or 40mm

Swimproof<sup>1</sup>

**Apple Watch SE**

Starting at \$279

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Swimproof<sup>1</sup>

12  
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14  
15 2. Unfortunately for consumers, as detailed below, the Product is not Swimproof as  
16 advertised.

17 **I. THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER RESISTANCE FEATURES**

18  
19 3. Consumers have been increasingly concerned about protecting their smart watches  
20 from water damage.

21 4. For example, according to reports, the number of smart watches offering resistance  
22 against damage from water and other liquids has grown significantly since these devices were first  
23 introduced several years ago, while non-water-resistant smart watches have declined.

24 5. Consumers demand water resistant features because there are significant repair and  
25 replacement costs when a non-water-resistant smart watch is damaged or destroyed.

26 6. The costs are significant to users, who must repair or replace expensive smart  
27 watches, and to the environment, when a device is discarded.

28 7.

1           8.       This “hidden tax” due to the inability to withstand even minimal contact and  
2 immersion in water costs American consumers over \$10 billion each year.

3           9.       Accidental damage is estimated as responsible for 95% of smart watch failures.

4           10.      Reports indicate that approximately one-third of all smart watch failures are due to  
5 liquid damage, such as accidental and temporary contact and/or immersion in water.

6           11.      In 2016, the International Data Corporation (“IDC”) found that contact with water  
7 was the second largest cause of damage to smart electronic devices in the world.

8           12.      Aside from longer battery life and shatterproof screens, water resistance has become  
9 a key smart watch feature in demand by consumers.

10          13.      Thus, water-resistant features allow electronic companies to increase revenues by  
11 obtaining a price premium and/or increased units sold.

12          14.      Defendant provides that its watches have a water resistance of WR50.

13          15.      The WR50 water resistance rating, under International Organization for  
14 Standardization (“ISO”) standard 22810:2010, means that the Product has a water resistance to  
15 withstand 50 meters/5 atmospheres/5 bars of pressure/165 feet.

16          16.      More specifically, WR50 means that it can be used for water activities, like  
17 swimming, showering, etc.

18          17.      Defendant describes the Product as “swimproof” and its marketing suggests and  
19 implies that this means “waterproof.”

20          18.      Moreover, most consumers do not distinguish between “waterproof”, “swimproof”  
21 or “water-resistant.”

22          19.      A product is water-resistant if it can resist the penetration of water to some degree.

23          20.      The term “waterproof” indicates that the enclosure of the device is completely  
24 impervious to water.

25          21.      Since only hermetically sealed products may be truly waterproof, and to avoid  
26 disputes and ambiguities for watches, the term “waterproof” was replaced by the term “water-  
27 resistant” in the ISO 2281:1990 standard.

28

1 22. Since then, only the term “water-resistant” has been used to describe electrical  
2 devices and the water resistance test standards set forth by the ISO.

3 23. The replacement of the term “waterproof” with the term “water-resistant” by the ISO,  
4 however, has not changed the reasonable consumers’ belief that the terms are synonymous.

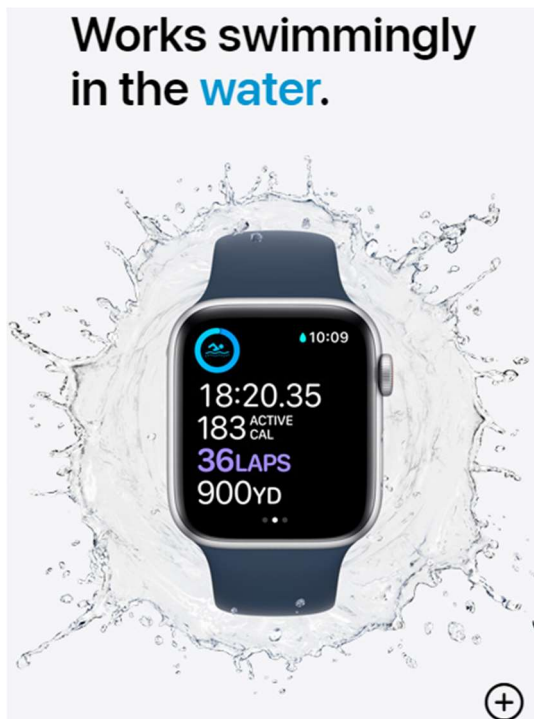
5 24. Defendant takes advantage of reasonable consumers’ inability to distinguish between  
6 the two terms through marketing practices that superimpose the term “water-resistant” against a  
7 backdrop of visuals and statements that imply the Product is waterproof.

8 25. Defendant attempts to substantiate its “water-resistance” claims, and disclaim any  
9 perceived “waterproof” claim, by referencing an ISO Standard that does not provide information  
10 relevant to the real-world use of the Product by consumers.

11 **II. DEFENDANT PROMOTES THE WATER-RESISTANT FEATURES OF THE**  
12 **PRODUCT**

13 26. Defendant’s advertising and marketing of the Product emphasizes its water  
14 resistance.

15 27. Defendant displays the Product surrounded by a splash of water, stating “Works  
16 swimmingly in the water,” with “water” written in blue text.



1 28. When the “+” in the lower right corner is clicked, Defendant further provides that  
2 the Product is “water resistant 50 meters.”

3 **Works swimmingly in the water.**  
4 Apple Watch SE is water resistant 50  
5 meters.<sup>2</sup> Dive right in and start tracking  
6 your splits and sets in the pool, or even  
7 map your route in open water.

8 **Works swimmingly in the water.**

9 Apple Watch SE is water resistant 50 meters.<sup>2</sup>  
10 Dive right in and start tracking your splits and sets  
11 in the pool, or even map your route in open water.

12 29. Viewing footnote 2 provides further information regarding the water resistance,  
13 which is WR50 under ISO standard 22810:2010.

14 2. Apple Watch Series 7, Apple Watch SE, and Apple Watch Series 3 have a water resistance rating of 50 meters under ISO standard 22810:2010. This means that they may be used for shallow-water activities like swimming in a pool or ocean. However, they should not be used for scuba diving, waterskiing, or other activities involving high-velocity water or submersion below shallow depth. Series 7 is also rated IP6x dust resistant.

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18 should not be used for scuba diving, waterskiing, or other activities involving high-velocity  
19 water or submersion below shallow depth. Series 7 is also rated IP6x dust resistant.

20 30. A water resistance rating of 50 meters (WR50) means that the Product will be water-  
21 resistant enough to withstand shallow-water activities, such as swimming in an ocean or pool, but  
22 not enough to withstand high-velocity water activities like scuba diving or waterskiing.

23 31. The Product is also advertised as able to track swimming activity and map swimming  
24 routes.

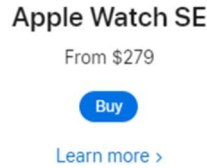
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28 your splits and sets in the pool, or even  
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**Works swimmingly in the water.**

Apple Watch SE is water resistant 50 meters.<sup>2</sup>

Dive right in and start tracking your splits and sets in the pool, or even map your route in open water.

32. Defendant further emphasizes that the Product is “swimproof,” placing this representation towards the top of the abbreviated Product summary.



**III. THE PRODUCT FAILS TO MEET THE PROMISED WATER-RESISTANT, SWIMPROOF ABILITIES**

33. Despite using an image of the device in water and using marketing language like “works swimmingly in the water” and “swimproof,” the Product is not water-resistant as understood by Plaintiff and consumers, and routinely fails in brief encounters with water.

**A. ISO STANDARD AND TESTING**

34. ISO standard 22810:2010 provides information on testing conditions.

35. Before any testing is done, the operative watch components are actuated and then reset to their normal position.

36. Throughout the testing, which includes a condensation test, water resistance tests by immersion, and a water-resistant test by air pressure, the ambient and water temperatures are held equal to each other, maintained between 18 °C and 25 °C (64.4 °F and 77 °F).

37. The ISO Standard is not intended for smart watches, does not apply to real world use conditions of smart watches, and is not understood by most consumers, including Plaintiff.

38. First, the ISO tests watches when they are brand new, a condition that will almost never be met in the real world.

39. In real-world conditions, the user will not have their smart watch subjected to potential water damage immediately after they open it.

40. In real-world conditions, the Product will not be immersed in purified, fresh water.

1 41. Over time, a smart watch will come into contact with bodily oils, cosmetics, suntan  
2 lotions, and water, which all contain corrosive agents.

3 42. This causes gradual corrosion and wearing out of parts, seals, conformal coatings,  
4 foams, and adhesives, causing the permeability of the device to degrade over time.

5 43. Second, the Product's water protection barriers, such as coatings, glues, gaskets,  
6 meshes, and membranes are porous, and only "deter" water from entering.

7 44. These barriers degrade and fail, especially when the Product is subjected to various  
8 temperatures, pressures, and mechanical force conditions.

9 45. Water entering the smart watch may still contact the junction of some wires, causing  
10 new circuit paths, resulting in leakage currents or short circuits.

11 46. Third, the general testing conditions for the ISO's tests are within temperatures from  
12 18 °C and 25 °C (64.4 °F and 77 °F).

13 47. However, the temperature in pools, sinks, and bathtubs typically exceeds the  
14 suggested temperature range under the ISO Standard, which impacts the efficacy of the Product's  
15 physical sealing.

16 48. In real-world usage, consumers expect water-resistance translates to the device being  
17 moisture proof, i.e., carried inside a backpack or purse, used to play music in a hot shower, and  
18 moved rapidly between a cold indoor office to a hot and humid environment without sustaining  
19 damage.

20 49. Fourth, the ISO Standard does not specify whether a sample is energized when tested,  
21 yet whether a smart watch is on when submerged will affect its ability to resist water.

22 50. If the smart watch is on and running various programs, the internal temperature and  
23 pressure will be elevated, and the electrical bias can accelerate electromigration.

24 51. These factors may affect the depth and duration of water contact the smart watch can  
25 withstand.

26 52. Fifth, the acceptance criteria for the water resistance tests are vague, requiring only  
27 that water entering a device not affect its normal operation or impair its safety.

28 53. For example, one lab may rate a smart watch as "water-resistant" as long as a short

1 circuit does not occur, and yet accept the fact that there was a reduction of acoustic performance.

2 54. When consumers buy a smart watch billed as water-resistant, they expect it will be  
3 reliable in most situations that involve water, including but not limited to washing dishes, exercising,  
4 and various forms of accidental “dunks” in a sink, toilet, or pool.

5 55. Despite consumers expectations to the contrary based upon Defendant’s marketing,  
6 an Apple Support article on Defendant’s website notes that the Products may not, in fact, be water-  
7 resistant:

8  
9 Showering with Apple Watch Series 2 and newer is ok,  
10 but we recommend not exposing Apple Watch to soaps,  
11 shampoos, conditioners, lotions, and perfumes as they  
12 can negatively affect water seals and acoustic  
13 membranes. Apple Watch should be cleaned with fresh  
14 water and dried with a lint free-cloth if it comes in  
15 contact with anything other than fresh water.

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and dried with a lint free-cloth if it comes in  
contact with anything other than fresh water.

14 \* \* \*

15 Water resistance isn't a permanent condition and may  
16 diminish over time. Apple Watch can't be rechecked or  
17 resealed for water resistance. The following may affect  
18 the water resistance of your Apple Watch and should  
19 be avoided:

- 20 • Dropping Apple Watch or subjecting it to other  
21 impacts.
- 22 • Exposing Apple Watch to soap or soapy water (for  
23 example, while showering or bathing).
- 24 • Exposing Apple Watch to perfume, solvents,  
25 detergent, acids or acidic foods, insect repellent,  
26 lotions, sunscreen, oil, or hair dye.
- 27 • Exposing Apple Watch to high-velocity water (for  
28 example, while water skiing).
- Wearing Apple Watch in the sauna or steam room.

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sunscreen, oil, or hair dye.
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velocity water (for example, while  
water skiing).
- Wearing Apple Watch in the sauna  
or steam room.

56. Plus, not all Product bands are water resistant, such as those made of stainless steel



1 and leather.

2  
3 Not all bands are appropriate for water use. For  
4 example, the stainless steel and leather bands aren't  
water resistant and shouldn't be exposed to liquids.

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exposed to liquids.

5 57. However, such statements are inconsistent with the Product's water  
6 resistance/swimproof marketing campaigns, which state it is water resistant 50 meters and depict  
7 the Product being splashed in water.

8 58. Moreover, Plaintiff and the Class Members are not presented with these statements,  
9 and are not otherwise told this information, prior to purchasing the Product, but rather only learn  
10 this information after it begins malfunctioning, or ceases to function entirely, as a result of liquid  
11 damage.

12 59. A study supported by the National Key Research and Development Program of China  
13 and the Center for Advanced Life Cycle Engineering, University of Maryland at College Park,  
14 concluded that manufacturers, such as Defendant, regularly make false and deceptive  
15 representations with respect to the water-resistant properties of their devices.

16 **B. THE PRODUCT IS NOT WATER-RESISTANT AS ADVERTISED**

17 60. A water resistance of 50 meters signifies that the Product's enclosure is water  
18 resistant at 50 meters/5 atmospheres/5 bars of pressure/165 feet.

19 61. However, the Product suffers frequent damage after being dropped into, or contacted  
20 with, water or other liquids, for a few minutes or even seconds.

21 62. However, Defendant refuses to repair or replace liquid-damaged Products under its  
22 warranty.

23 63. Defendant's representations regarding the water resistance capabilities of the Product  
24 are false because it does not perform as advertised under normal, real-world conditions and use.

25 64. The commercials, presentations, and website statements are only a few examples of  
26 the advertisements Defendant created and distributed representing that the Product will not sustain  
27 damage if submerged in, or contacted with, water, or other common liquids.

28 65. Upon information and belief, Defendant has created internal indicators to detect

1 whether the Product has been exposed to liquids, in order to deny customers their warranty repair  
2 and replacement requests.

3 66. Defendant's policy is to deny warranty repair and/or replacement when this indicator  
4 is activated.

5 67. This means buyers are told one thing when they buy the Product, based on the  
6 representations, but something else when they need after-sales service or replacement.

7 68. Purchasers are typically told that the price of repair exceeds the price at which they  
8 purchased the Product new.

9 69. Plaintiff and other reasonable consumers purchased the Product believing its water-  
10 resistant capabilities were accurately represented.

11 70. Plaintiff and other reasonable consumers either (1) would not have purchased the  
12 Product if they had known about the misrepresentations and omissions, (2) would have purchased  
13 it on different terms, i.e., at a lower price, (3) purchased a different smart watch, (4) not purchased  
14 it at all, or (5) purchased it with diminished expectations about its water-resistant abilities.

15 71. Plaintiff and Class Members reasonably relied to their detriment on Defendant's  
16 misleading representations and omissions.

17 72. Defendant's false, misleading, and deceptive misrepresentations and omissions are  
18 likely to continue to deceive and mislead reasonable consumers and the general public, as they have  
19 already deceived and misled the Plaintiff and Class Members.

20 73. In making the false, misleading, and deceptive representations and omissions,  
21 Defendant knew and intended that Plaintiff and Class Members would pay a premium for products  
22 represented as water resistant over comparable products not so marketed.

23 74. Plaintiff and Class Members were deprived of the benefit of the bargain because they  
24 paid for a Product that was water resistant but received a Product that was not water resistant.

25 75. As an immediate, direct, and proximate result of Defendant's false, misleading, and  
26 deceptive representations and omissions, Defendant injured Plaintiff and Class Members.

27 76. The product Plaintiff and the Class Members received was worth less than the  
28 Product for which they paid.

1 77. Based on Defendant's misleading and deceptive representations, Defendant was able  
2 to, and did, charge a premium price for the Product over the cost of competitive products that are  
3 not represented as water resistant.

4 78. Consequently, Plaintiff and the Class Members suffered injury-in-fact and lost  
5 money as a result of Defendant's wrongful conduct.

6 **INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT**

7  
8 79. Pursuant to Civil L.R. 3-2(c) and (e) ("Assignment to a Division" and "San Jose"),  
9 this Action should be assigned to the San Jose Division.

10 80. This assignment is because this action arises in this District and within the San Jose  
11 Division, in Santa Clara County.

12 **PARTIES**

13 81. Plaintiff is a citizen of Texas, residing in Houston, Harris County.

14 82. During the Class Period, Plaintiff purchased the Apple Watch SE from Apple.com  
15 for no less than \$279.00.

16 83. Plaintiff viewed and relied upon Defendant's representations that the Product was  
17 swimproof and water resistant as described herein prior to her purchase and believed it could be  
18 used while swimming or going into a pool.

19 84. In or around January 2022, one of Plaintiff's six rescue dogs jumped into the shallow  
20 section of a pool, not deeper than three feet.

21 85. Though Plaintiff was wearing her Apple Watch, she immediately jumped in that  
22 shallow section to help her dog.

23 86. Plaintiff's use of the device was consistent with its operating instructions and the  
24 representations regarding its expected water-resistant capabilities.

25 87. Shortly after this incident, the Product became unstable and began to glitch and  
26 malfunction.

27 88. Since that time, the Product's effectiveness as a reliable device has been diminished.

28 89. Based on Plaintiff's experience and knowledge, and Counsel's investigation, it is a

1 known issue that a significant percentage of Apple Watches exposed to small amounts of water, in  
2 the manner experienced by Plaintiff, results in the watch becoming damaged and its functionality  
3 becoming diminished due to faulty sealing.

4 90. Defendant is a California corporation with its principal place of business in  
5 Cupertino, Santa Clara County, California.

6 91. Defendant is a global leader in the manufacture and sale of consumer electronics.

7 92. Defendant's products include smart phones, computers, tablets, and smart watches.

8 93. Consumers trust Defendant to truthfully represent the capabilities of their products.

9 94. Apple is considered the "gold standard" for personal consumer electronics, which is  
10 why its devices, including its Apple Watches, cost more than smart watches sold by competitors.

11 95. Defendant manufactures, markets, sells Apple Watches directly to consumers across  
12 the country from its brick-and-mortar Apple stores, from Apple.com, and through third-party  
13 physical stores and online.

14 96. Plaintiff would be willing to purchase the Product again if assured it possessed the  
15 water-resistant capabilities it was advertised as having.

16 97. Plaintiff is unable to rely not only on the representations of Apple Watches, but other  
17 similar smart watches touted as being resistant to water, even though she would like to.

18 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

19 98. Jurisdiction is proper pursuant to Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 ("CAFA"). 28  
20 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A).

21 99. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d) ("Class  
22 Action Fairness Act" or "CAFA").

23 100. The proposed class has at least 100 members, because the Product has been widely  
24 sold within this State for several years.

25 101. Plaintiff is a citizen of a State different from Defendant.

26 102. Plaintiff alleges the amount-in-controversy of the claims of the proposed Class  
27 exceed \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest and costs.

28 103. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(d) because Defendant's

1 principal place of business is in Santa Clara County and it is considered to reside within this District  
2 and has its most significant contacts within this District.

3 104. Substantial acts in furtherance of the alleged improper conduct, including the  
4 dissemination of false and misleading information regarding the nature, quality, features and/or  
5 attributes of the Product originated within this District at Defendant’s headquarters.

6 105. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because it conducts and transacts  
7 business, contracts to supply and supplies goods within California.

8  
9 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

10 106. Plaintiff brings this proposed class action pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. Rule 23, and  
11 seeks to represent the class (“Class”) defined below:

12 All residents of the United States who purchased the Product at any time  
13 from August 25, 2018 to time of judgment in the United States for personal  
or household use.

14 107. Excluded from the Class are: (a) Defendant, Defendant’s board members, executive  
15 -level officers, and attorneys, and immediately family members of any of the foregoing persons; (b)  
16 governmental entities; (c) the Court, the Court’s immediate family, and the Court staff; and (d) any  
17 person that timely and properly excludes himself or herself from the Class in accordance with Court-  
18 approved procedures.

19 108. Excluded from the Class are Defendant, its parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, officers,  
20 and directors, those who purchased the Products for resale, all persons who make a timely election  
21 to be excluded from the Class, the judge to whom the case is assigned and any immediate family  
22 members thereof, and those who assert claims for personal injury.

23 109. The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all Class Members is  
24 impracticable.

25 110. Defendant sold the Product to no less than tens of thousands persons.

26 111. The Class consists of thousands of persons, and joinder is impracticable.  
27  
28

1 112. Common questions of law or fact predominate and include whether Defendant's  
2 representations and omissions were and are misleading and if Plaintiff and Class Members are  
3 entitled to injunctive relief and damages.

4 113. Plaintiff's claims and her basis for relief are typical to other members because all  
5 were subjected to the same unfair and deceptive representations and omissions with respect to the  
6 Product's water-resistance capabilities.

7 114. Plaintiff sustained damages from Defendant's wrongful conduct, of the precise type  
8 Defendant promised she would not.

9 115. Class Members experienced similar types of damage to what Defendant promised  
10 the Product would withstand.

11 116. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class and has retained  
12 counsel that is experienced in litigating complex class actions.

13 117. Plaintiff has no interests which conflict with those of the Class.

14 118. No individual inquiry is necessary since the focus is only on Defendant's practices  
15 and the class is definable and ascertainable.

16 119. Plaintiff anticipates this Court can direct notice to Class Members, by publication in  
17 major media outlets and the Internet.

18 120. A class action is superior to other available methods for adjudication of this  
19 controversy, since individual actions would risk inconsistent results, be repetitive and are  
20 impractical to justify, as the claims are modest relative to the scope of the harm.

21 121. The prerequisites to maintaining a class action for equitable relief are met as  
22 Defendant has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making  
23 appropriate equitable relief with respect to the Class as a whole.

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**FIRST CLAIM**

**Breach of Express Warranty**  
(On Behalf of the Class)

122. Plaintiff incorporates all preceding paragraphs.

123. Defendant promised and expressly warranted that the Product had water resistant and swimproof capabilities.

124. Plaintiff and Class Members relied on these representations when purchasing the Product.

125. All conditions precedent to Defendant's liability under the contract, including notice, have been performed by Plaintiff and Class Members.

126. Defendant has breached the terms of its express warranties by failing to provide the Product as warranted.

127. Plaintiff and Class Members used the Product in a manner consistent with its operating instructions and Defendant's representations.

128. Plaintiff and Class Members performed their duties under the express warranties or have been excused from such performance as a result of Defendant's conduct.

129. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's breaches of express warranty, Plaintiff and Class Members have suffered economic damages, including costly repairs, loss of use, replacement costs, substantial loss in value and resale value of the Product.

**SECOND CLAIM**

**Violation of the Magnusson-Moss Warranty Act,  
15 U.S.C. §§ 2301 *et seq.* ("MMWA")**  
(On Behalf of the California Class)

130. The Products share common defects in that they are unable to provide water resistant and swimproof capabilities consistent with Defendant's representations.

131. Defendant marketed the Product as being water-resistant and swimproof and offered certifications attesting to this fact.

132. Defendant was aware of the defects described in this Complaint, from Plaintiff and/or other sources.

1 133. However, the cost of this defect was borne by Plaintiff and Class Members.

2 **THIRD CLAIM**  
3 **Breach of Implied Warranty of Merchantability**  
4 **and Fitness for a Particular Purpose**  
5 (On Behalf of Class)

6 134. Defendant engaged in a focused marketing campaign to consumers concerned about  
7 water damaging their smart watches and has reason to know that Plaintiff and Class Members  
8 purchased the Product for a particular purpose, e.g., to be used in and around water and during water  
9 activities.

10 135. Plaintiff and Class Members relied on Defendant’s skill or judgment to furnish  
11 devices that accomplished that purpose.

12 136. Defendant breached the implied warranty of fitness because the Product was  
13 incapable of satisfying that purpose, due to its defects alleged above.

14 137. As a direct and proximate result of the breach of said warranties, Plaintiff and Class  
15 Members were injured in the amount they overpaid for the Product, and would not have purchased  
16 it or would have paid less had they known the truth.

17 **FOURTH CLAIM**  
18 **Violation of Unfair Competition Law**  
19 **Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 *et seq.***  
20 (On Behalf of the Class)

21 138. Plaintiff incorporates all preceding paragraphs.

22 139. Defendant’s conduct constitutes an unfair business act and practice pursuant to  
23 California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200, *et seq.* (the “UCL”). The UCL provides, in  
24 pertinent part: “Unfair competition shall mean and include unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business  
25 practices and unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising . . . .”

26 140. Defendant’s knowing conduct, as alleged herein, constitutes an “unfair” and/or  
27 “fraudulent” business practice, as set forth in California Business & Professions Code §§ 17200-  
28 17208.

141. Defendant’s conduct was and continues to be unfair and fraudulent because, directly  
or through its agents and employees, Defendant made materially false representations and



1 omissions.

2 142. Defendant made representations that the Product was water resistant when it was not.

3 143. Defendant is aware that its representations and omissions about the Product were and  
4 continue to be false and misleading.

5 144. Defendant had an improper motive, to derive financial gain at the expense of  
6 accuracy or truthfulness, in its practices related to the marketing and advertising of the Product.

7 145. Defendant's misrepresentations of material facts also constitute an "unlawful"  
8 practice because they violate the laws and regulations cited herein, as well as the common law.

9 146. Defendant's conduct was, and continues to be, unfair in that its injury to countless  
10 purchasers of the Product is substantial and not outweighed by any countervailing benefits to  
11 consumers or to competitors.

12 147. Plaintiff and Class Members have been directly and proximately injured by  
13 Defendant's conduct in ways including, but not limited to, the monies paid to Defendant for the  
14 Product, interest lost on those monies, and consumers' unwitting support of a business enterprise  
15 that promotes deception to the detriment of consumers.

16 **FIFTH CLAIM**

17 **Violations of the False Advertising Law,  
18 Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500 *et seq.*  
(On Behalf of the Class)**

19 148. Plaintiff incorporates all preceding paragraphs.

20 149. California's False Advertising Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500, *et seq.*, makes  
21 it "unlawful for any person to make or disseminate or cause to be made or disseminated before the  
22 public in this state, ... in any advertising device ... or in any other manner or means whatever,  
23 including over the Internet, any statement, concerning ... personal property or services, professional  
24 or otherwise, or performance or disposition thereof, which is untrue or misleading and which is  
25 known, or which by the exercise of reasonable care should be known, to be untrue or misleading."

26 150. Defendant committed acts of false advertising, as defined by §§ 17500, *et seq.*, by  
27 misrepresenting that the Product had water resistant capabilities.

28 151. Defendant knew or should have known through the exercise of reasonable care that

1 these representations and other misrepresentations for the Product were false, misleading and/or  
2 deceptive.

3 152. Defendant's actions in violation of § 17500 were false and misleading such that the  
4 general public is and was likely to be deceived.

5 153. Consumers, including Plaintiff and members of the Class, necessarily and reasonably  
6 relied on Defendant's statements regarding the capabilities of its Product.

7 154. Consumers, including Plaintiffs and members of the Class, were among the intended  
8 targets of such representations.

9 155. As a result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiffs and members of the Class were harmed  
10 and suffered actual damages as a result of Defendant's FAL violations because

- 11 a. they would not have purchased the Product on the same terms if they  
12 knew that the Product did not offer water resistant capabilities as  
13 represented;  
14  
15 b. they paid a price premium for the Product based on Defendant's  
16 misrepresentations; and  
17  
18 c. the Product does not have the characteristics, attributes, features, uses,  
19 benefits, or abilities as promised, namely the represented water-resistant  
20 capabilities.

21  
22 156. Plaintiffs and members of the Class have been damaged in the full amount of the  
23 purchase price of the Product or in the difference in value between the Product as warranted and the  
24 Product as actually sold.

**SIXTH CLAIM**

**Violations of the Consumer Legal Remedies Act,  
Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750 *et seq.*  
(On Behalf of the Class)  
(Injunctive Relief Only)**

157. Plaintiff incorporates all preceding paragraphs.

158. Defendant's representations and omissions concerning the quality, attributes, features, benefits, and effectiveness of the Product were false and/or misleading as alleged herein.

159. Defendant's false or misleading representations and omissions were such that a reasonable consumer would attach importance to them in deciding to purchase the Product.

160. Defendant's false and misleading representations and omissions were made to Plaintiff and Class Members, as they were prominently displayed and featured throughout the advertising and marketing of the Product, in digital, print, and television media.

161. Defendant knew or should have known its representations and omissions were material and were likely to mislead consumers, including Plaintiff and the Class.

162. Defendant's practices, acts, and course of conduct in marketing and selling the Product were and are likely to mislead a reasonable consumer acting reasonably under the circumstances to their detriment.

163. Defendant's misrepresentations and omissions were designed to, and did, induce the purchase and use of the Product for personal, family, or household purposes by Plaintiff and Class Members, and violated and continue to violate the following sections of the CLRA:

- a. In violation of Civil Code § 1770(a)(5), Defendant represented that the Product had characteristics, attributes, features, capabilities, uses, benefits, and qualities it does not have;
- b. In violation of Civil Code § 1770(a)(7), Defendant represented that the Product was of a particular standard, quality, or grade, which it is not;
- c. In violation of Civil Code § 1770(a)(9), Defendant advertised the Product with an intent not to sell the Product as advertised; and
- d. In violation of Civil Code § 1770(a)(16), Defendant represented the Product had been supplied in accordance with its previous representations, when it was not.



- 1 E. For interest at the legal rate on the foregoing sums;
- 2 F. For attorneys' fees;
- 3 G. For costs of suit incurred; and
- 4 H. For such further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

5 Dated: August 25, 2022

6 Respectfully submitted,

7 */s/ Michael R. Reese*

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26 Great Neck, New York 11021

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28 Facsimile: (516) 234-7800

*Counsel for the Plaintiff and the Proposed Class*

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-CAND 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved in its original form by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the Clerk of Court to initiate the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

Laurie Braaten

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

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

Michael R. Reese REESE LLP (212) 643-0500 100 West 93rd Street, 16th Floor, New York, New York 10025

DEFENDANTS

Apple, Inc.

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Santa Clara County (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party) 2 U.S. Government Defendant 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

Table with columns for Plaintiff (PTF) and Defendant (DEF) citizenship: Citizen of This State, Citizen of Another State, Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country, Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State, Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State, Foreign Nation.

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

Large table with categories: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, HABEAS CORPUS, OTHER, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES.

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 Original Proceeding 2 Removed from State Court 3 Remanded from Appellate Court 4 Reinstated or Reopened 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) 6 Multidistrict Litigation-Transfer 8 Multidistrict Litigation-Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 28 U.S.C. 1332

Brief description of cause: violation of consumer protection law

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, Fed. R. Civ. 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

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

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

DATE 08/25/2022

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

/s/ Michael R. Reese

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Northern District of California

Laurie Braaten, individually and on behalf of all others
similarly situated
Plaintiff(s)
v.
Apple, Inc.
Defendant(s)

Civil Action No. 22-cv-4861

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) Apple, Inc.
One Apple Park Way
Cupertino, California 95014

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

Michael R. Reese
REESE LLP
100 West 93rd Street, 16th Floor
New York, New York 10025
mreese@reesellp.com
(212) 643-0500

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

CLERK OF COURT

Date:

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk