

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

GWENDOLYN SMITH, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

WM. BOLTHOUSE FARMS, INC.,

Defendant.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiff Gwendolyn Smith (“Plaintiff”) brings this Class Action Complaint against Defendant Wm. Bolthouse Farms, Inc. (“Defendant” or “Bolthouse”), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, and complains and alleges upon personal knowledge as to herself and her own acts and experiences and, as to all other matters, upon information and belief, including investigation conducted by her attorneys:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. Plaintiff brings this important consumer class action lawsuit on behalf of similarly situated consumers (“Class Members”) who purchased for personal, family, or household use, Defendant’s Bolthouse Farms-branded Green Goodness Fruit Juice Smoothie (the “Product”¹), which is prominently labeled and marketed as a nutritious, healthy “100% Fruit Juice Smoothie,” when, in fact, Plaintiff’s testing has revealed that the Product contains per- and polyfluoralkyl substances (“PFAS”), a category of synthetic chemicals that are, by definition, artificial.

¹ As alleged herein, Defendant conceals the presence of PFAS in the Product. Accordingly, discovery will reveal the exhaustive list of substantially similar products that are included in this action.

2. PFAS are a group of synthetic, man-made, chemicals known to be harmful to both humans and the environment. Because PFAS persist and accumulate over time, they are harmful even at very low levels. Indeed, “PFAS have been shown to have a number of toxicological effects in laboratory studies and have been associated with thyroid disorders, immunotoxicity effects, and various cancers in epidemiology studies.”²

3. In fact, scientists are studying—and are extremely concerned about—how PFAS affect human health. Consequently, the CDC outlined “a host of health effects associated with PFAS exposure, including cancer, liver damage, decreased fertility, and increased risk of asthma and thyroid disease.”³

4. Defendant formulates, manufactures, markets, and sells the Product, which they uniformly represent as a nutritious “100% Fruit Juice Smoothie,” with no added sugar and “2 ¾ servings of fruits”

5. Defendant has engaged in pervasive marketing efforts to convince consumers that the Product is a healthy, natural fruit juice beverage.

6. As one of the leading players in the premium chilled beverages market, Defendant knows the importance of marketing and labeling, including the value of the label representations they carefully choose for placement on the Product. Accordingly, Defendant’s representations are designed to set its Product apart from the litany of competitors in this space.

² Nicholas J. Heckert, et al. “Characterization of Per- and Polyfluorinated Alkyl Substances Present in Commercial Anti-fog Products and Their In Vitro Adipogenic Activity,” *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 2022, 56, 1162-1173, 1162.

³ Harvard T.H. Chan Sch. Of Pub. Health, Health Risks of widely used chemicals may be underestimated (June 27, 2018), <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/news/hsph-in-the-news/pfas-healthrisks-underestimated/> (last visited Aug. 15, 2022).

7. Defendant’s uniform marketing, which even extends to the incorporation of the word “Goodness” into the Product’s name, is intentionally designed to drive sales and increase profits, including by targeting health-conscious consumers who reasonably believe that the Product is free from artificial ingredients, including chemical ingredients which are known to be harmful to human health on its website.

8. However, despite Defendant’s consistent and pervasive marketing representations to consumers that their Product is a healthy “100% Fruit Juice Smoothie” that is free from any artificial ingredients, Plaintiff’s independent testing has determined that the Product actually contains PFAS—a category of man-made chemicals with a toxic, persistent, and bioaccumulative nature which are associated with numerous health concerns.

9. The presence of PFAS is entirely inconsistent with Defendant’s uniform representations.

10. As a result of Defendant’s misconduct, Plaintiff and putative Class Members have suffered injury in fact, including economic damages.

11. Accordingly, Plaintiff brings his claims against Defendant individually and on behalf of a Class of all other similarly situated for (1) violation of New York Gen. Bus. Law § 349, *et seq.*; (2) violation of New York Gen. Bus. Law § 350, *et seq.*; (3) breach of express warranty; (4) fraud; (5) constructive fraud; and (6) unjust enrichment.

PARTIES

12. Plaintiff Gwendolyn Smith is a resident of Nassau County, New York, and was, at all times relevant hereto, a citizen of New York.

13. Defendant Wm. Bolthouse Farms, Inc. is a corporation organized under the laws of Michigan with its corporate headquarters located at 7200 East Brundage Lane, Bakersfield, California.

14. At all times relevant to this action, Defendant was the owner and operator of subsidiary Bolthouse Farms and maintained authority and control over the marketing representations of Bolthouse Farms-branded products, including the Product at issue here.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

15. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332 of the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 because: (1) there are 100 or more proposed Class Members, (ii) the aggregate amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs, and (iii) there is minimal diversity because a Plaintiff and Defendant are citizens of different states.

16. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendant because they transact business in this state and district, have substantial aggregate contacts with this state and district, engaged in conduct that has and had a direct, substantial, reasonably foreseeable, and intended effect of causing injury to persons in this state and district, and because they purposefully availed themselves of the laws of the state of New York, and further because Plaintiff purchased the Product in this state and district.

17. In accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1391, venue is proper in this district because a substantial part of the conduct giving rise to Plaintiff's claims occurred in this district, including Plaintiff's purchase of the Product, because Defendant transacts substantial business in this district, and because Defendant has intentionally availed themselves of the laws and markets within this district.

Defendant's Business

18. Bolthouse Farms was first founded in 1915 and gained its reputation as the leading producer and supplier of carrots before eventually expanding its business to include, among other things, Bolthouse Farms-branded refrigerated juice beverages.

19. In an already crowded market, there is enormous incentive for companies such as Defendant to cultivate a wellness-minded corporate image and market their products as safe and natural.

20. In order to capitalize on this consumer demand, Bolthouse Farms products are aggressively marketed to health-focused consumers and rely on the company's health-conscious legacy to convince consumers that the products are natural and wholesome.

21. Defendant sells Bolthouse Farms products at mass market retailers and grocery stores throughout the United States, including Walmart, Target, Whole Foods, Harris Teeter, and CVS.

Defendant's False and Deceptive Nutrition Claims

22. Bolthouse Farms Green Goodness is a ready-to-drink, refrigerated juice that is uniformly represented as a healthy "100% Fruit Juice Smoothie"⁴ with various nutritional benefits, including claims that the Product has "no sugar added," is a good source of antioxidants and vitamins, and includes various healthy ingredients, including nearly 3 servings of fruit per bottle (the "Nutrition Claims").

⁴ <https://www.walmart.com/ip/Bolthouse-Farms-Green-Goodness-11-oz/46095281> (last visited January 12, 2023).



23. The Product's front label informs consumers that the bottle contains "2 3/4 servings

of fruit,” which meets—or even exceeds--the U.S.D.A. recommended daily intake of fruit for most Americans.⁵ Fruit is well-known to provide a variety of nutrients that are important for overall health.

24. The Product’s front label further claims that the Product is a “good source of Antioxidant C & Vitamin B12.”



25. Antioxidant C, also known as Vitamin C, helps protect cells against the effects of free radicals, which may play a role in heart disease, cancer, and other diseases.⁶ Likewise, Vitamin B12 also has health benefits as it plays an essential role in red blood cell formation, cell metabolism, nerve function, and the production of DNA.⁷

26. On the Product’s left side label, it represents that consumers can “Feel Good” about

⁵ <https://www.myplate.gov/eat-healthy/fruits> (Last Visited January 12, 2023)

⁶ <https://www.mayoclinic.org/drugs-supplements-vitamin-c/art-20363932> (Last Visited January 12, 2023).

⁷ <https://www.mayoclinic.org/drugs-supplements-vitamin-b12/art-20363663> (Last Visited January 12, 2023).

what's in the bottle and includes pictures of the various fruits included in the Product. Nothing about these images would lead consumers to believe that the Product contains any harmful chemicals.



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27. The label also includes a list of other ingredients included in the Product, including various vegetables, minerals, and vitamins. These “other ingredients” are largely associated with optimizing health⁹, and are intentionally added and prominently advertised on the label in order to convince consumers that the Product has nutritional and wellness benefits.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ See, e.g., “7 Evidence-Based Benefits of Wheatgrass,” <https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/wheatgrass-benefits> (Last Visited January 12, 2023); “10 Health Benefits of Spirulina,” <https://www.healthline.com/nutrition/10-proven-benefits-of-spirulina> (Last Visited January 12, 2023).



28. The Product's label further claims the Product has "No Sugar Added."



Defendant's Other False and Deceptive Advertising

29. Even beyond the Nutrition Claims described herein, Defendant makes various other representations about the Product designed to convince reasonable consumers that the Product is a safe and healthy choice for consumers and to further bolster its Nutrition Claims.

30. The Bolthouse Farms brand name and logo are designed to evoke images of nature, farmland, and fresh produce.



31. Even the name of the Product itself, which intentionally joins the words “Green” and “Goodness,” is designed to convince consumers that the Product is healthy, natural, and good for consumers.

32. The Bolthouse Farms website further touts the “goodness” of the Product, including the fact that is free of numerous questionable ingredients, such artificial preservatives, colors, flavors. These claims are designed to instill trust in consumers that the Product is, in fact, a natural and healthy juice beverage.

33. Defendant has recently introduced new packaging which doubles down on its previous marketing claims by including the phrase “Feel Good Nutrition.”¹⁰

¹⁰ <https://www.instagram.com/reel/CkrXl3ep-qq/?igshid=ITY2NzY3YTc=> (Last Visited November 21, 2022).



34. Defendant’s changes to its packaging was meant to embody “all the bountiful goodness on the inside,” which includes “loads of thoughtful ingredients.”¹¹

¹¹ www.bolthouse.com/freshlook (Last Visited January 12, 2023).

35. This new packaging was introduced to consumers in December, and based on information and belief, both the new packaging and its prior iteration are currently being distributed to consumers.

36. Nowhere on the Product’s packaging, or in any of its marketing representations, does Defendant disclose the presence of PFAS—or any other synthetic chemical—in the Product.

37. It is undeniable that the Product is uniformly represented across all marketing channels-- including the Product’s packaging, where it cannot be missed by consumers -- as a healthy, nutritious juice drink that is free from any concerning ingredients.

PFAS Chemicals and Associated Risks

38. PFAS are a category of highly persistent and potentially harmful man-made chemicals.¹²

39. PFAS are not naturally occurring.¹³ They were first developed by scientists in the 1940s.¹⁴ Thus, they are indisputably “artificial”.

40. The man-made PFAS chemicals, which are in the Product, are sometimes called “forever chemicals” because they bioaccumulate, or build up in the body over time.

41. PFOS in particular is well-known to negatively impact the human body and the environment.

42. Given the deleterious effects of PFOS on the body and environment, it is one of the most commonly studied¹⁵ and commonly regulated.

¹² *PFAS Explained*, EPA, <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained> (Last Visited January 12, 2023).

¹³ <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/resources/pfas-faqs.html> (Last Visited January 12, 2023).

¹⁴ https://www.3m.com/3M/en_US/pfas-stewardship-us/pfas-history/ (Last Visited January 12, 2023).

¹⁵ <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/pfas/health-effects/overview.html> (Last Visited January 12, 2023).

43. A November 2012 research report on “Durable Water and Soil repellent chemistry in the textile industry,” explained:

PFOA and PFOS, the most widely known and studied long-chain PFAAs, have been shown to be persistent in the environment, have long elimination half-life in wildlife and humans, and have toxicological properties of concern. Due to these properties, regulatory actions have been put in place or are being considered in several countries to manage these substances.

44. “The ubiquitous presence of certain long-chain perfluoroalkyl acids (PFAAs), including PFOS, is of concern, given their potential to be persistent, bioaccumulative, and toxic.”¹⁶

45. Consequently, “[t]he recognition of these hazardous properties and global distribution has led the scientific, regulatory and industrial communities to engage in international efforts to curb the production and uses of long-chain PFASs.”¹⁷

46. Importantly, “PFOS has been phased out of production and/or commerce in Canada and the United States since 2000–2002, *prohibited from manufacture and most uses in European Union countries since 2008* (Directive 2006/122/EC).”

47. Diet is considered a major route of PFAS exposure for humans, and reasonable consumers purchasing Product represented as not containing “artificial flavors” would not expect them to contain harmful man-made chemicals, such as PFAS.¹⁸

48. PFAS chemicals have been associated with a variety of negative health effects for humans and the environment.

¹⁶ CEC. 2017. *Furthering the Understanding of the Migration of Chemicals from Consumer Products – A Study of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFASs) in Clothing, Apparel, and Children’s Items*. Montreal, Canada: Commission for Environmental Cooperation. 201 pp.

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ *Dietary Habits Related to Food Packaging and Population Exposure to PFASs*, Environmental Health Perspectives, <https://ehp.niehs.nih.gov/doi/full/10.1289/EHP4092> (Last Visited January 12, 2023).

49. The EPA has identified that “[c]urrent peer-reviewed scientific studies have shown that exposure to certain levels of PFAS may lead to:”¹⁹

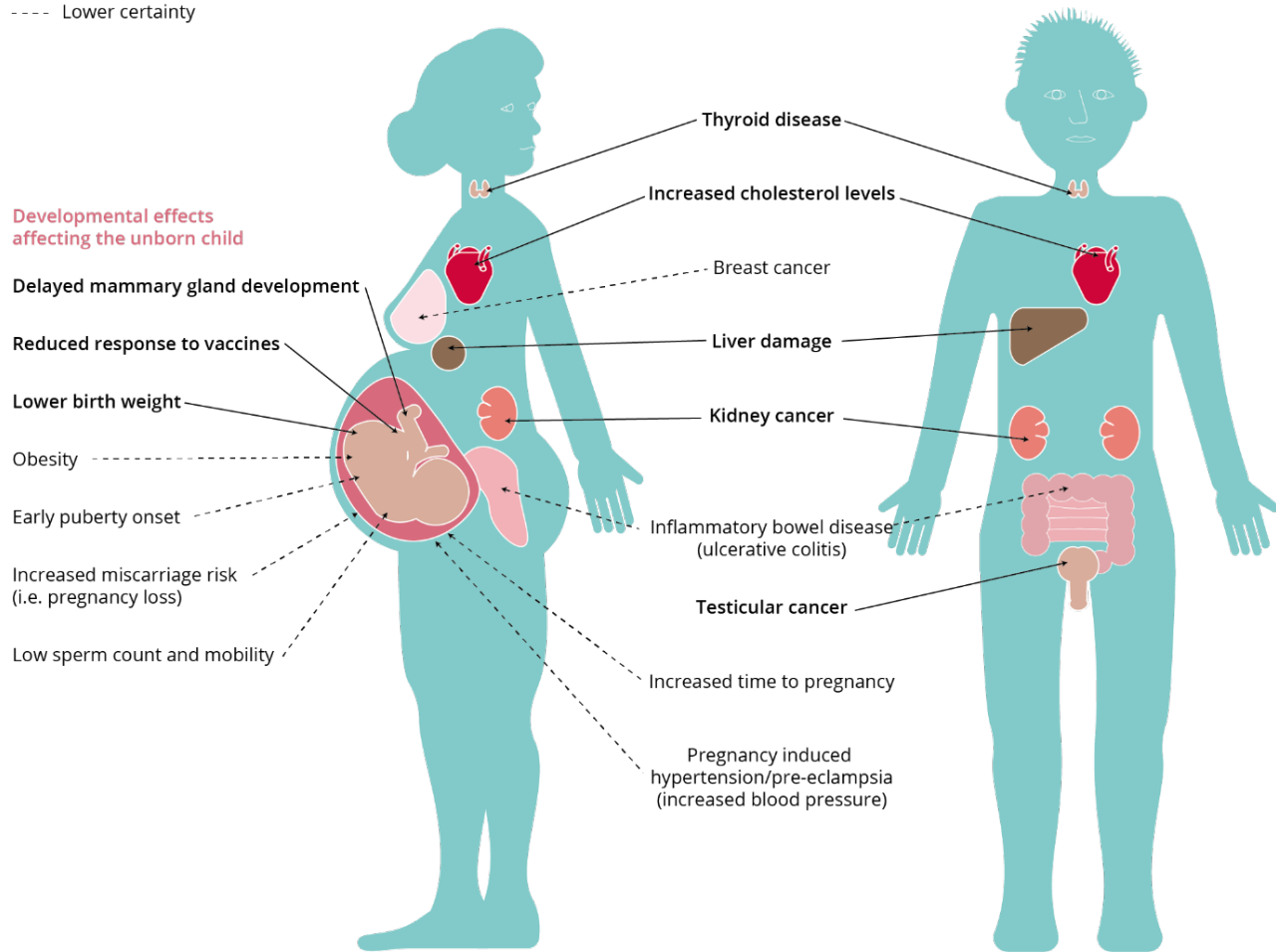
- a. Reproductive effects such as decreased fertility or increased high blood pressure in pregnant women.
- b. Developmental effects or delays in children, including low birth weight, accelerated puberty, bone variations, or behavioral changes.
- c. Increased risk of some cancers, including prostate, kidney, and testicular cancers.
- d. Reduced ability of the body’s immune system to fight infections, including
- e. reduced vaccine response.
- f. Interference with the body’s natural hormones.
- g. Increased cholesterol levels and/or risk of obesity.

50. A figure from the European Environmental Agency (“EEA”) shows the “[e]ffects of PFAS on human health.”²⁰

¹⁹ <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/our-current-understanding-human-health-and-environmental-risks-pfas> (Last Visited January 12, 2023).

²⁰ *Emerging chemical risks in Europe — ‘PFAS’*, EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (Dec. 12, 2019, last modified Mar. 9, 2021) <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/emerging-chemical-risks-in-europe>.

— High certainty
 - - - Lower certainty



51. The EEA article further explained that “[p]eople most at risk of adverse health impacts are those exposed to high levels of PFAS, and vulnerable population groups such as children and the elderly.”²¹

52. The danger of PFAS chemicals is well known. On September 20, 2020, a *New York Times* article titled, “These Everyday Toxins May Be Hurting Pregnant Women and Their Babies”, reported on the dangers of PFAS—particularly during gestation and in early childhood development:²²

²¹ *Id.*

²² Liza Gross, *These Everyday Toxins may be Hurting Pregnant Women and Their Babies*, *NEW*

53. Scientists think these widely used industrial chemicals may harm pregnant women and their developing babies by meddling with gene regulators and hormones that control two of the body's most critical functions: metabolism and immunity.²³

54. According to the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), limiting exposure to PFAS can help protect individual health. "Because certain PFAS are known to cause risks to human health, the most important steps you and your family can take to protect your health is to understand how to limit your exposure to PFAS by taking [steps to] reduce possible exposure during daily activities."²⁴

55. There is no treatment to remove PFAS from the body. Because PFAS accumulates in body tissues over time, the most obvious way to avoid exposure is for consumers to avoid products which they know contain PFAS.²⁵

56. Defendant is well aware of consumers' desire to avoid potentially harmful chemicals, which is exactly why it has engaged in an aggressive, uniform marketing campaign intended to convince consumers that the Product is free from artificial ingredients like PFAS.

57. Defendant has engaged in this uniform marketing campaign in an effort to convince reasonable consumers to believe that the Product is superior to other products that are not free from "artificial flavors" or do not have the same purported health benefits.

YORK TIMES (Sept. 23, 2020, updated Oct. 18, 2021)
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/23/parenting/pregnancy/pfas-toxins-chemicals.html>.

²³ <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/09/23/parenting/pregnancy/pfas-toxins-chemicals.html>

²⁴ <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/meaningful-and-achievable-steps-you-can-take-reduce-your-risk>
(Last Visited January 12, 2023).

²⁵ <https://www.healthline.com/health-news/how-to-reduce-your-exposure-to-pfas-the-hidden-toxic-forever-chemicals#How-to-limit-PFAS-exposure> (Last Visited January 12, 2023).

58. Reasonable consumers purchasing the Product would believe, based on Defendant's representations, that the Product does not contain artificial, synthetic or man-made chemicals that could adversely impact their health.

Plaintiff's Independent Testing Confirms the Presence of PFAS Chemicals in the Product

59. Plaintiff sought independent third-party testing to determine whether the Product contained PFAS chemicals.

60. Plaintiff's independent testing was conducted in accordance with accepted industry standards for detecting the presence of PFAS.

61. Plaintiff's testing detected material levels of PFAS in the Product, including significant levels of 1H, 1H, 2H, 2H-perfluorooctane sulfonic acid ("6:2FTS"), Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid ("PFHxS"), and Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid ("PFOS").

62. Thus, Defendant's Product exposes hundreds of thousands of unsuspecting consumers to toxic synthetic chemicals in direct contradiction to their uniform label claims.

63. While the EPA has not yet established guidance for the presence of 6:2FTS and PFHxS in drinking water, it recently confirmed that the levels at which negative health effects could occur are from exposure to certain PFAS chemicals is much lower than previously understood— including near zero in some cases.²⁶

64. The EPA recently tightened its lifetime health advisory levels for PFOA and PFOS exposure in drinking water. For PFOS, the recommendation is 0.02 ppt.²⁷

65. The amount of PFOS found within the Product from Plaintiff's testing is approximately **95 times** the recommended lifetime health advisory for drinking water.

²⁶ *Id.*

²⁷ *Id.*

Defendant's Unlawful Conduct

66. At all times relevant to this action, Defendant knew, or at minimum should have known, that its Product contains PFAS.

67. To capitalize on increasing consumer demand for products designed to promote health and wellness, including those free from harmful artificial ingredients like PFAS, Defendant has knowingly and willfully deployed a concerted strategy to distinguish its Product from competing options in the highly competitive juice and smoothie industry by representing its Product using the Nutrition Claims and other misrepresentations and omissions as described herein.

68. Throughout the class period, Defendant has targeted health-conscious consumers by falsely and misleadingly representing its Product as healthy, natural, “good” juice smoothie that is full of fruits and other nutritious ingredients and free from artificial ingredients and added sugar. Consequently, reasonable consumers believe the Product is free from artificial, man-made chemicals known to harm human health.

69. Defendant is well-aware that consumers are increasingly demanding beverage options that support their wellness goals, and has furthermore, Defendant has found success by cultivating a health-focused image over its more than 100 years in the food industry.

70. Defendant’s wellness-focused business strategy is supported by current market research. According to a recent survey, chemicals in food (including carcinogens or cancer-causing chemicals) represents the most important food safety issue to consumers.²⁸ Consumers ranked this concern more highly than any other concern, including foodborne illness from bacteria

²⁸ Tom Neltner, “Chemicals in food continue to be a top food safety concern among consumers,” (Sept. 16, 2021), <https://blogs.edf.org/health/2021/09/16/chemicals-in-food-continue-to-be-a-topfood-safety-concern-among-consumers/> (Last Visited January 12, 2023).

and use of pesticides.²⁹

71. At the same time, awareness of, and an inclination toward, safer products is guiding consumer choices. One survey, for instance, found that “when asked to choose the top three factors they prioritize when deciding between products, the majority of consumers surveyed said they prioritize the health/safety of products (71%) and products free of certain toxic chemicals (70%).”³⁰

72. These findings extend to the packaging of products, with 82% of consumers agreeing that “it is important for brands to balance safety and concern for the environment when designing product packaging.”³¹

73. Additionally, “[t]he majority of shoppers . . . are willing to spend more for a product they know is safer, with 42% willing to spend 5-15% more, 36% willing to spend 16-25% more, and 17% willing to spend 1-5% more.”³²

74. Therefore, current research demonstrates, and Defendant’s marketing strategy supports, that the presence of harmful chemicals in food, beverages, and their packaging is material to reasonable consumers.

75. Defendant’s strategy to stay aligned with consumer preferences in order to retain a competitive advantage in the marketplace, which includes representing to sell beverages which do not contain artificial ingredients, would inevitably be negatively impacted if it disclosed the presence of PFAS in its Product.

²⁹ *Id.*

³⁰ Made Safe, “What Shoppers Want: Safe & Healthy Products,” <https://www.madesafe.org/wpcontent/uploads/2017/07/What-Shoppers-Want.pdf> (Last Visited January 12, 2023).

³¹ Gray, “New Consumer Packaging Trends Are Changing the Game for Food & Beverage Processors,” <https://www.gray.com/insights/new-consumer-packaging-trends-are-changing-the-game-for-food-beverage-processors/> (Last Visited January 12, 2023).

³² Made Safe, “What Shoppers Want,” at 3.

76. Consumers lack the expertise to ascertain the true ingredients in the Product prior to purchase. Accordingly, reasonable consumers must, and do rely on Defendant to accurately and honestly advertise its Product's ingredients and health benefits. Further, consumers rely on Defendant to not contradict those representations by using artificial man-made chemicals in its Product that are known to pose a risk to human health. Such misrepresentations are material to reasonable consumers' purchasing decisions.

77. Defendant's misleading Nutrition Claims, along with the other representations described herein, are false because products containing toxic, man-made ingredients like PFAS renders the Product not healthy or nutritious by definition.

78. Defendant's representations are likely to mislead reasonable consumers, and indeed did mislead Plaintiff and Class members, regarding the presence of PFAS chemicals in its Product. Accordingly, these acts and practices by Defendant are deceptive.

79. Consumers reasonably relied on Defendant's false statements and misleading representations, and reasonably expected that Defendant's Product would conform with its representations and, as such, would not contain artificial, man-made PFAS chemicals.

80. Defendant's false statements, misleading representations and material omissions are intentional, or otherwise entirely careless, and render its Product worthless or less valuable.

81. If Defendant had disclosed to Plaintiff and putative Class Members that its Product contained PFAS chemicals, Plaintiff and putative Class Members would not have purchased Defendant's Product or they would have paid less for them.

82. Plaintiff and Class Members were among the intended recipients of Defendant's deceptive representations and omissions described herein.

83. Defendant's representations and omissions, as described herein, are material in that a reasonable person would attach importance to such information and would be induced to act upon such information in making purchase decisions.

84. The materiality of the representations described herein also establishes causation between Defendant's conduct and the injuries Plaintiff and the Class Members sustained.

85. Defendant is aware that the consumers are concerned about the use of PFAS in its products, yet it has continued to market and advertise its Product using the health-focused Nutrition Claims and other representations described herein in order to profit off of unsuspecting consumers, including Plaintiff and Class Members.

86. The presence of PFAS chemicals in Defendant's Product is entirely inconsistent with its uniform representations.

87. Defendant's knowingly false and misleading representations have the intended result of convincing reasonable consumers that its Product is without chemical or artificial ingredients and therefore do not contain synthetic, man-made, toxic chemicals. No reasonable consumer would consider Defendant's Product as being a healthy, natural, nutritious juice smoothie if they knew that the Product contained harmful, artificial PFAS chemicals.

88. Defendant's false, misleading, and deceptive representations, as described herein, are likely to continue to deceive and mislead reasonable consumers and the general public. Indeed, they have already deceived and misled Plaintiff and Class Members.

89. In making the false, misleading, and deceptive representations, Defendant knew and intended consumers would pay a premium for the Product over comparable products that are made from or contain synthetic or artificial ingredients.

90. Plaintiff and Class Members all paid money for the Product, however, they did not obtain the full value of the advertised Product due to Defendant's misrepresentations as detailed herein. Plaintiff and Class Members purchased, purchased more of, or paid more for, the Product than they would have had they known the truth about the Product's artificial, man-made, and harmful ingredients. Thus, Plaintiff and Class Members have suffered injury in fact and lost money or property as a result of Defendant's wrongful conduct.

91. Defendant's widespread marketing campaign portraying the Product as containing only healthy and natural ingredients as detailed herein, is misleading and deceptive to consumers because the Product is made with artificial, man-made, and toxic ingredients. Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of the proposed Classes to stop Defendant's misleading practices.

PLAINTIFF'S FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

92. Plaintiff Gwendolyn Smith is a citizen and resident of the state of New York. During the applicable statute of limitations period, Plaintiff purchased and consumed Defendant's Product that contained PFAS. More specifically, during the class period Plaintiff purchased the Product numerous times, including at Key Food in Nassau, County New York.

93. Prior to her purchase, Plaintiff reviewed the labeling, packaging, and marketing materials of her Product, including those set out herein. Thus, Plaintiff understood that based on Defendant's claims, the Product was safe for use and was free of harmful, man-made chemicals like PFAS. Plaintiff reasonably relied on these representations and warranties in deciding to purchase the Product, and these representations were part of the basis of the bargain in that she would not have purchased the Product, or would not have purchased it on the same terms, if the true facts had been known.

94. As a direct result of Defendant's material misrepresentations and omissions, Plaintiff suffered and continues to suffer, economic injuries.

95. Plaintiff continues to desire to purchase the Product from Defendant if she can rely on that Product to be safe and free from any artificial ingredients, including those known to pose a risk to human health. However, concerned about the health consequences of PFAS and Defendant's misrepresentations detailed herein, Plaintiff is unable to determine if Defendant's Product is actually free of harmful chemicals like PFAS in the future. Plaintiff understands that the composition of the Product may change over time, but as long as Defendant may freely advertise the Product as safe or healthy when it actually contains material levels of PFAS, then when presented with false or misleading information when shopping, she will be unable to make informed decisions about whether to purchase Defendant's Product and will be unable to evaluate the different prices between Defendant's Product and competitor's products, which do in fact contain only natural and nutritious ingredients and are free of PFAS.

INJURY TO THE PUBLIC AT-LARGE AND POTENTIAL FOR FUTURE HARM

96. Defendant's wrongful conduct harms the public-at-large.

97. PFAS chemicals, also known as "forever chemicals," are a category of highly persistent and toxic man-made chemicals that have been associated with numerous negative health effects for humans.

98. PFAS chemicals are known to negatively impact the human body, including, but not limited to, decreased fertility, developmental effects or delays in children, increased risk of cancers, liver damage, increased risk of asthma and thyroid disease, adverse impacts on the immune system, interference with hormones and increased cholesterol levels.

99. Because Defendant's deceptive advertising is ongoing and directed to the public, and because Defendant continues to sell its Product containing PFAS chemicals, the deception poses an ongoing risk to the public.

100. As such, a public injunction must be provided in order to enjoin Defendant's continued harm of consumers and the public-at-large.

TOLLING AND ESTOPPEL OF STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

101. Defendant had actual knowledge, or should have had actual knowledge, that its Product contained artificial, man-made PFAS chemicals which pose a risk of harm to human health.

102. Although Defendant was aware of the deception in their advertising, marketing, packaging, and sale of the Product given the inclusion of PFAS chemicals, it took no steps to disclose to Plaintiff or Class Members that its Product contained PFAS chemicals.

103. Despite its knowledge, Defendant has fraudulently misrepresented the Product as having qualities and characteristics it does not, while concealing the fact that its Product contains PFAS chemicals.

104. Defendant has made, and continues to make, affirmative false statements and misrepresentations to consumers, and continues to omit the fact that the Product contains PFAS, to promote sales of its Product.

105. Defendant has misrepresented, concealed, and otherwise omitted material facts that would have been important to Plaintiff and Class Members in deciding whether to purchase the Product. Defendant's misrepresentations and omissions were knowing, and it intended to, and did, deceive reasonable consumers, including Plaintiff and Class Members. Accordingly, Plaintiff and Class Members reasonably relied upon Defendant's misrepresentations and concealment of these material facts and suffered injury as a proximate result of that justifiable reliance.

106. The PFAS chemicals in the design and/or manufacture of Defendant's Product was not reasonably detectible to Plaintiff and Class Members.

107. At all times, Defendant actively and intentionally misrepresented the qualities and characteristics of the Product, while concealing the existence of the PFAS chemicals and failing to inform Plaintiff or Class Members of the existence of the PFAS chemicals in its Product. Accordingly, Plaintiff's and Class Members' lack of awareness was not attributable to a lack of diligence on their part.

108. Defendant's statements, words, and acts were made for the purpose of deceiving the public, and suppressing the truth that the Product contained artificial, man-made PFAS chemicals.

109. Defendant misrepresented the Product and concealed the PFAS chemicals for the purpose of delaying Plaintiff and Class Members from filing a complaint on their causes of action.

110. As a result of Defendant's intentional misrepresentations and active concealment of the PFAS chemicals and/or failure to inform Plaintiff and Class Members of the PFAS chemicals, any and all applicable statutes of limitations otherwise applicable to the allegations herein have been tolled. Furthermore, Defendant is estopped from relying on any statutes of limitations in light of its intentional misrepresentations and active concealment of the inclusion of artificial, man-made PFAS chemicals in the Product.

111. Further, the causes of action alleged herein did not occur until Plaintiff and Class Members discovered that the Product contained PFAS chemicals. Plaintiff and Class Members had no realistic ability to discern that the Product contained PFAS chemicals until they learned of the existence of the PFAS chemicals. In either event, Plaintiff and Class Members were hampered in

their ability to discover their causes of action because of Defendant's active concealment of the existence and true nature of the Product.

FEDERAL RULE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 9(b) ALLEGATIONS

112. Although Defendant is in the best position to know what content it placed on its packaging, website(s), and other marketing and advertising during the relevant timeframe, and the knowledge that it had regarding the PFAS chemicals and its failure to disclose the existence of PFAS chemicals in the Product to Plaintiff and consumers, to the extent necessary, Plaintiff satisfies the requirements of Rule 9(b) by alleging the following facts with particularity:

113. **WHO:** Defendant made its Nutrition Claims and other representations on the Product's packaging, online, and its marketing and advertising of the Product.

114. **WHAT:** Defendant's conduct here was, and continues to be, deceptive and fraudulent because of its health-focused Nutrition Claims and other false representations. Thus, Defendant's conduct deceived Plaintiff and Class Members into believing that the Product was manufactured and sold with the represented qualities. Defendant knew or should have known this information is material to reasonable consumers, including Plaintiff and Class Members in making their purchasing decisions, yet it continued to pervasively market the Product as possessing qualities they do not have.

115. **WHEN:** Defendant made material misrepresentations, false statements and/or material omissions during the putative Class periods and at the time Plaintiff and Class Members purchased the Product, prior to and at the time Plaintiff and Class Members made claims after realizing the Product contained artificial, man-made chemicals, and continuously throughout the applicable Class periods.

116. **WHERE:** Defendant's marketing message was uniform and pervasive, carried through false statements, misrepresentations, and/or omissions on the Product's packaging, as well as on website(s) and other media channels used to market and advertise the Product.

117. **HOW:** Defendant made false statements, misrepresentations and/or material omissions regarding the presence of PFAS chemicals in the Product.

118. **WHY:** Defendant made the false statements, misrepresentations and/or material omissions detailed herein for the express purpose of inducing Plaintiff, Class Members, and all reasonable consumers to purchase and/or pay for the Product over other brands that did not make similar health-focused representations, the effect of which was that Defendant profited by selling the Product to many thousands of consumers.

119. **INJURY:** Plaintiff and Class Members purchased, paid a premium, or otherwise paid more for the Product when they otherwise would not have, absent Defendant's misrepresentations, false and misleading statements.

CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS

120. Plaintiff brings this action individually and as the representative of all those similarly situated pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on behalf of the below-defined Classes:

National Class: During the fullest period allowed by law, all persons who purchased the Product within the United States for personal use and not for resale.

New York Subclass: During the fullest period allowed by law, all persons who purchased the Product within the State of New York for personal use and not for resale.

121. Members of the classes described are referred to herein as “Class Members” or members of the “Class.”

122. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend the Class definitions or add a Class or Classes if discovery and/or further investigation reveal that the Class definition(s) should be narrowed, expanded or otherwise modified.

123. The following are excluded from the Class: (1) any Judge presiding over this action and members of his or her family; (2) Defendant, Defendant’s subsidiaries, parents, successors, predecessors, and any entity in which Defendant or its parents have a controlling interest (as well as current or former employees, officers, and directors); (3) persons who properly execute and file a timely request for exclusion from the Class; (4) persons whose claims in this matter have been finally adjudicated on the merits or otherwise released; (5) Plaintiff’s counsel and Defendant’s counsel; and (6) the legal representatives, successors, and assigns of any such excluded persons.

124. **Numerosity – Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a)(a):** While Plaintiff does not know at this time the exact number of proposed Class Members, given the nature of the claims and the volume of sales of the Product nationally, the members of the Class are so numerous that their individual joinder herein is impracticable. Plaintiff is informed and believes that there are tens of thousands of members in the proposed Class, if not more, and a precise number can be ascertained through discovery. The number of individuals who comprise the Class are so numerous that the disposition of all such person’s claims in a class action, rather than in individual actions, will benefit both the parties and the courts.

125. **Commonality and Predominance – Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a)(2) and 23(b)(3):** Common questions of law and fact exist as to all members of each of the Class and

predominate over questions affecting only individual members of the Class. Such common questions of law or fact include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Whether Defendant misrepresented, omitted, and/or failed to disclose material facts concerning the Product;
- b. Whether Defendant's conduct was unlawful; unfair; fraudulent and/or deceptive;
- c. Whether Defendant breached express warranties to Plaintiff and Class Members;
- d. Whether Defendant was unjustly enriched as a result of the unlawful conduct alleged herein such that it would be inequitable for Defendant to retain the benefits conferred upon it by Plaintiff and the proposed Class;
- e. Whether Plaintiff and the Class have sustained damages with respect to the claims asserted, and if so, the proper measure of their damages.

Defendant engaged in a common course of conduct giving rise to the legal rights Plaintiff seeks to enforce on behalf of herself and the other Members of the proposed Class. Similar or identical statutory and common law violations, business practices, and injuries are involved. Individual questions, if any, pale in comparison, in both quality and quantity, to the numerous common questions that dominate this action.

126. **Typicality – Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a)(3).** Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the other Members of the Class because, among other things, all Members of the Class were comparably injured through Defendant's uniform misconduct described herein. Further, there are no defenses available to Defendant that are unique to Plaintiff or to any particular Members of the Class.

127. **Adequacy of Representation – Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a)(4).** Plaintiff is an adequate Class representative because his interests do not conflict with the interests of the other Members of the Class he seeks to represent; he has retained counsel competent and experienced in complex class action litigation; and he will prosecute this action vigorously. The

interests of the Class will be fairly and adequately protected by Plaintiff and the undersigned counsel.

128. **Insufficiency of Separate Actions – Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(1).** Absent a representative class action, Members of the Class would continue to suffer the harm described herein, for which they would have no remedy. Even if separate actions could be brought by individual consumers, the resulting multiplicity of lawsuits would cause undue burden and expense for both the Court and the litigants, as well as create a risk of inconsistent rulings and adjudications that might be dispositive of the interests of similarly situated purchasers, substantially impeding their ability to protect their interests, while establishing incompatible standards of conduct for Defendant. The proposed Classes thus satisfy the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(1).

129. **Superiority – Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(b)(3).** A class action is superior to any other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy, and no unusual difficulties are likely to be encountered in the management of this class action. The damages or other financial detriment suffered by Plaintiff and the other Members of the Class are relatively small compared to the burden and expense that would be required to individually litigate their claims against Defendant, so it would be impracticable for Members of the Class to individually seek redress for Defendant's wrongful conduct. Even if Members of the Class could afford individual litigation, the court system could not. Individualized litigation would create a potential for inconsistent or contradictory judgments and increase the delay and expense to all parties and the court system. By contrast, the class action device presents far fewer management difficulties, and provides the benefits of single adjudication, economy of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court.

CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT I

Violation Of Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act

15 U.S.C. § 2301, *et seq.*

(On Behalf of Plaintiff and the National Class and Alternatively the New York Subclass)

130. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges all previous paragraphs, as if fully included herein.

131. As previously alleged, this Court has original jurisdiction over this matter based upon the requirements of CAFA; therefore, the Court has alternate jurisdiction over Plaintiff's Magnuson-Moss claim.

132. The Product is a consumer product as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 2301(1).

133. Plaintiff and the National Class members are consumers as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 2301(3) and utilized the Product for personal and household use and not for resale or commercial purposes.

134. Plaintiff purchased the Product costing more than \$5 and their individual claim is greater than \$25 as required by 15 U.S.C. §§ 2302€ and 2310(d)(3)(A).

135. Defendant is a supplier and warrantor as defined in 15 U.S.C. §§ 2301(4) and (5).

136. The federal Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act ("MMWA" or "Act"), 15 U.S.C. §§ 2301-2312, is a consumer protection regime designed to supplement state warranty law.

137. The MMWA provides a cause of action for breach of warranty, including the violation of express and implied warranty of merchantability, or other violations of the Act. 15 U.S.C. § 2310(d)(1).

138. The Defendant has breached the implied warranties of merchantability by failing to provide merchantable goods. The Product at issue is not merchantable or fit for its ordinary purposes because the Product contains ingredients that contradict Defendant's uniform claims that the Product is a healthy, nutritious, safe juice drink that is free from artificial ingredients.

139. Therefore, Defendant's Product is not merchantable or fit for its ordinary purposes given it contains man-made and synthetic PFAS and renders the product not nutritious or good for human health.

140. The Defendant has violated the express warranty because despite claiming it the Product is "100% Fruit Juice Smoothie" containing numerous health and nutrition benefits, it contains detectable levels of PFAS chemicals. Hence, it breached the express warranty by making said representations.

141. In its capacity as warrantor, and by the conduct described herein, any attempt by Defendant to limit the warranties in a manner that it does is not permitted by law.

142. By Defendant's conduct as described herein, Defendant has failed to comply with their obligations under their implied promises, warranties, and representations.

143. Plaintiff and the National Class fulfilled their obligations under the implied warranties and express warranties for the Product.

144. As a result of Defendant's breach of warranties, Plaintiff and the National Class are entitled to revoke their acceptance of the Product, obtain damages, punitive damages, equitable relief, and attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 2301.

COUNT II

Violation of the New York Deceptive Trade Practices Act, New York Gen. Bus. Law § 349, *et seq.* (Plaintiff on behalf of the New York Subclass)

145. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations above as if set forth herein.

146. The New York General Business Law Section 349 ("GBL § 349") declares unlawful "[d]eceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any business, trade, or commerce or in the furnishing of any service in this state . . ."

147. Defendant misleadingly, inaccurately, and deceptively advertises and markets their Product to consumers.

148. Defendant's improper consumer-oriented conduct—including labeling and advertising the Product using the Nutrition Claims and other claims as described herein-- is misleading in a material way in that it, *inter alia*, induced Plaintiff and the New York Subclass Members to purchase and pay a premium for Defendant's Product and to use the Product when they otherwise would not have. The Defendant has made the untrue and/or misleading statements, omissions, and representations willfully, wantonly, and with reckless disregard for the truth.

149. Plaintiff and the New York Subclass Members have been injured inasmuch as they paid a premium for a Product that was—contrary to Defendant's representations— not nutritious and free of artificial ingredients as it did contain dangerous levels of the man-made chemical PFAS. Accordingly, Plaintiff and the New York Subclass Members received less than what they bargained and/or paid for.

150. Defendant's advertising and Product's packaging and labeling induced Plaintiff and the New York Subclass Members to buy Defendant's Product and to pay a premium price.

151. Defendant's deceptive and misleading practices constitute a deceptive act and practice in the conduct of business in violation of New York General Business Law §349(a) and Plaintiff and the New York Subclass Members have been damaged thereby.

152. As a result of Defendant's recurring, "unlawful" deceptive acts and practices, Plaintiff and the New York Subclass Members are entitled to monetary, statutory, compensatory, treble and punitive damages, restitution, and disgorgement of all moneys obtained by means of Defendant's unlawful conduct, interest, and attorneys' fees and costs.

153. In addition, Plaintiff and Class Members seek equitable and injunctive relief against Defendant on terms that the Court considers reasonable, and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

154. Finally, Defendant's conduct showed malice, motive, and the reckless disregard of the truth such that an award of punitive damages is appropriate.

COUNT III
Violation of the New York Deceptive Trade Practice Act,
New York Gen. Bus. Law § 350, *et seq.*
(Plaintiff on behalf of the New York Subclass)

155. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations above as if set forth herein.

156. The N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 350 provides, in part, as follows:

False advertising in the conduct of any business, trade, or commerce or in the furnishing of any service in this state is hereby declared unlawful.

157. N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 350a(1) provides, in part, as follows:

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

158. Defendant's labeling and advertisements contain untrue and materially misleading statements and omissions concerning Defendant's Product inasmuch as they misrepresent that the Product is a nutritious or otherwise healthy juice drink which contains only natural ingredients.

159. Plaintiff and the New York Subclass Members have been injured inasmuch as they relied upon the labeling, packaging, and advertising and paid a premium for the Product which—contrary to Defendant's representations—was not healthy or nutritious as it contains significant

levels of PFAS. Accordingly, Plaintiff and the New York Subclass Members received less than what they bargained and/or paid for.

160. Defendant's advertising, packaging, and Product's labeling induced Plaintiff and the New York Subclass Members to buy Defendant's Product.

161. Defendant made the untrue and/or misleading statements, omissions, and representations willfully, wantonly, and with reckless disregard for the truth.

162. Defendant's conduct constitutes multiple, separate violations of N.Y. Gen. Bus. Law § 350.

163. Defendant made the material misrepresentations described in this Complaint in Defendant's advertising and on the Product's packaging and labeling.

164. Defendant's material misrepresentations were substantially uniform in content, presentation, and impact upon consumers at large. Moreover, all consumers purchasing the Product were and continue to be exposed to Defendant's material misrepresentations.

165. As a result of Defendant's recurring, "unlawful" deceptive acts and practices, Plaintiff and New York Subclass Members are entitled to monetary, statutory, compensatory, treble and punitive damages, restitution, and disgorgement of all moneys obtained by means of Defendant's unlawful conduct, interest, and attorneys' fees and costs.

166. In addition, Plaintiff and Class Members seek equitable and injunctive relief against Defendant on terms that the Court considers reasonable, and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

167. Finally, Defendant's conduct showed malice, motive, and the reckless disregard of the truth such that an award of punitive damages is appropriate.

COUNT IV
Breach of Express Warranty
(Plaintiff on Behalf of the Class)

168. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations above as if set forth herein.

169. At Plaintiff and Class Members formed a contract with Defendant at the time Plaintiff and Class Members purchased the Product.

170. The terms of the contract include the promises and affirmations of fact made by Defendant on the Product packaging and through marketing and advertising, as described above.

171. This labeling, marketing, and advertising constitute express warranties and became part of the basis of the bargain and are part of the standardized contract between Plaintiff and Class Members.

172. As set forth above, Defendant purports through its advertising, labeling, marketing, and packaging, to create an express warranty that the Product is safe for consumption, and is a healthy, nutritious, and natural “100% Fruit Juice Smoothie”.

173. The above affirmations of fact were not couched as “belief” or “opinion,” and were not “generalized statements of quality not capable of proof or disproof.”

174. These affirmations of fact became part of the basis for the bargain and were material to Plaintiff’s and Class Members’ decision to purchase the Product.

175. Plaintiff and Class Members reasonably relied upon Defendant’s affirmations of fact and justifiably acted in ignorance of the material facts omitted or concealed when they decided to buy Defendant’s Product.

176. Plaintiff and Class Members performed all conditions precedent to Defendant’s liability under this contract when they purchased the Product.

177. Defendant thereby breached the following state warranty laws:

- a. Code of Ala. § 7-2-313;
- b. Alaska Stat. § 45.02.313;
- c. A.R.S. § 47-2313;
- d. A.C.A. § 4-2-313;
- e. Cal. Comm. Code § 2313;
- f. Colo. Rev. Stat. § 4-2-313;
- g. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 42a-2-313;
- h. 6 Del. C. § 2-313;
- i. D.C. Code § 28:2-313;
- j. Fla. Stat. § 672.313;
- k. O.C.G.A. § 11-2-313;
- l. H.R.S. § 490:2-313;
- m. Idaho Code § 28-2-313;
- n. 810 I.L.C.S. 5/2-313;
- o. Ind. Code § 26-1-2-313;
- p. Iowa Code § 554.2313;
- q. K.S.A. § 84-2-313;
- r. K.R.S. § 355.2-313;
- s. 11 M.R.S. § 2-313;
- t. Md. Commercial Law Code Ann. § 2-313;
- u. 106 Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. § 2-313;
- v. M.C.L.S. § 440.2313;
- w. Minn. Stat. § 336.2-313;

- x. Miss. Code Ann. § 75-2-313;
- y. R.S. Mo. § 400.2-313;
- z. Mont. Code Anno. § 30-2-313;
- aa. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 2-313;
- bb. Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 104.2313;
- cc. R.S.A. 382-A:2-313;
- dd. N.J. Stat. Ann. § 12A:2-313;
- ee. N.M. Stat. Ann. § 55-2-313;
- ff. N.Y. U.C.C. Law § 2-313;
- gg. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 25-2-313;
- hh. N.D. Cent. Code § 41-02-30;
- ii. II. O.R.C. Ann. § 1302.26;
- jj. 12A Okl. St. § 2-313;
- kk. Or. Rev. Stat. § 72-3130;
- ll. 13 Pa. Rev. Stat. § 72-3130;
- mm. R.I. Gen. Laws § 6A-2-313;
- nn. S.C. Code Ann. § 36-2-313;
- oo. S.D. Codified Laws, § 57A-2-313;
- pp. Tenn. Code Ann. § 47-2-313;
- qq. Tex. Bus. & Com. Code § 2.313;
- rr. Utah Code Ann. § 70A-2-313;
- ss. 9A V.S.A. § 2-313;
- tt. Va. Code Ann. § 59.1-504.2;

- uu. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 6A.2-313;
- vv. W. Va. Code § 46-2-313;
- ww. Wis. Stat. § 402.313; and
- xx. Wyo. Stat. § 34.1-2-313.

178. Within a reasonable time after knowing of Defendant’s breach, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and Class Members, placed Defendant on notice of their breach, giving Defendant an opportunity to cure the breach, which they refused to do. The letter, dated December 19, 2022, indicated, among other things, that Defendant was engaging in deceptive acts and practices by falsely warranting that its Product is a healthy, nutritious, natural “100% Fruit Juice Smoothie” when in fact it was not, and by falsely omitting that its Product contained dangerous levels of PFAS.

COUNT V
Fraud
(Plaintiff On Behalf of the Class)

179. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations above as if set forth herein.

180. At the time Plaintiff and Class Members purchased the Product, Defendant did not disclose, but instead concealed and misrepresented, the Product as safe.

181. Defendant affirmatively misrepresented the nature and quality of the Product, giving the Product the appearance of being safe for human consumption.

182. Defendant also knew that its omissions and misrepresentations regarding the Product were material, and that a reasonable consumer would rely upon Defendant’s representations (and corresponding omissions) in making purchasing decisions.

183. Defendant possessed superior knowledge as Plaintiff and Class Members did not know—nor could they have known through reasonable diligence—about the true nature of the Product.

184. Plaintiff and Class Members were reasonable in relying on Defendant’s misrepresentations (and corresponding omissions) in making their purchasing decisions.

185. Plaintiff and Class Members had a right to reply upon Defendant’s representations (and corresponding omissions) as Defendant maintained exclusive control over knowledge of the true quality of the Product.

186. Plaintiff and Class Members sustained damages as a result of their reliance on Defendant’s omissions and misrepresentations, thus causing Plaintiff and Class Members to sustain actual losses and damages in a sum to be determined at trial.

187. Additionally, as a result of Defendant’s willful and malicious conduct, punitive damages are warranted.

COUNT VI
Constructive Fraud
(Plaintiff On Behalf of the Class)

188. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations above as if set forth herein.

189. At the time Plaintiff and Class Members purchased the Product, Defendant falsely claimed the Product is a healthy, nutritious and natural “100% Fruit Juice Smoothie”, and did not disclose that the Product contains dangerous levels of PFAS.

190. Defendant affirmatively misrepresented the nature of the Product, giving the Product the appearance of being healthy and otherwise safe for human consumption as detailed herein.

191. Defendant also knew that its omissions and misrepresentations regarding the Product were material, and that a reasonable consumer would rely upon its representations (and corresponding omissions) in making purchasing decisions.

192. Defendant had an obligation not to omit or misrepresent the Product because in addition to the fact that the Product pertained to matters of safety: (a) it was in the sole possession of such information; (b) it made partial representations regarding the quality of the Product; (c) Plaintiff and the Class Members relied upon Defendant to make full disclosures based upon the relationship between Plaintiff and Class Members, who relied on Defendant's representations and omissions, and were reasonable in doing so, with the full knowledge of Defendant that it did and would have been reasonable in doing so.

193. Plaintiff and Class Members did not know—nor could they have known through reasonable diligence—about the true nature and quality of the Product.

194. Plaintiff and Class Members were reasonable in relying on Defendant's misrepresentations (and corresponding omissions) in making their purchasing decisions.

195. 152. Plaintiff and Class Members had a right to rely upon Defendant's representations (and corresponding omissions) as, in addition to the fact that the issue pertained to safety, Defendant maintained exclusive control over knowledge of the true quality of the Product, and what information was available regarding the Product.

196. Defendant breached their duty to Plaintiff and Class Members to make full disclosures of the safety of their Product.

197. Plaintiff and Class Members sustained actual losses and damages as a result of their reliance on Defendant's omissions and misrepresentations, and Defendant's breach of its duty, in a sum to be determined at trial.

COUNT VII
Unjust Enrichment
(In the Alternative and on Behalf of the Class)

198. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations above as if set forth herein.

199. At all relevant times, Defendant was responsible for designing, constructing, testing, manufacturing, inspecting, distributing, labeling, marketing, advertising, and/or selling the Product and its packaging. At all relevant times, it was reasonably foreseeable by Defendant that the use of the Product in its intended manner involved substantial risk of injury and was unreasonably dangerous to Plaintiff and the Class as the ultimate users of the Product.

200. At all relevant times, Defendant knew or had reason to know of the risk of injury and the resultant harm that the Product posed to Plaintiff and Class Members, as the Defect existed at the time of its design, construction, manufacture, inspection, distribution, labeling, marketing, advertising, and/or sale, as described herein.

201. Defendant as the designer, manufacturer, tester, distributor, marketer, advertiser, and/or seller of the Product, had a duty to warn Plaintiff and the Class of all dangers associated with consumption of the Product.

202. At minimum, the duty arose for Defendant to warn consumers that use of the Product could result in injury and was unreasonably dangerous.

203. Defendant has been unjustly enriched in retaining the revenues derived from the purchases of the Product by Plaintiff and the other members of the Class. Retention of those monies under these circumstances is unjust and inequitable because Defendant's representations regarding the quality or value of the Product were misleading to consumers, which caused injuries to Plaintiff and the other members of the Class, because they would have not purchased the Product had they known the truth or would only have purchased the Product for a lower price.

204. Because Defendant's retention of the non-gratuitous benefits conferred on it by Plaintiff and the other members of the Class is unjust and inequitable, Defendant must pay restitution to Plaintiff and the other members of the Class for its unjust enrichment, as ordered by the Court.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, individually and on behalf of all other similarly situated members of the Class, prays for relief and judgment, including entry of an order, as follows:

- (a) Declaring that this action is properly maintained as a class action, certifying the proposed Class, appointing Plaintiff as Class Representative and appointing Plaintiff's counsel as Class Counsel;
- (b) Directing that Defendant bear the costs of any notice sent to the Class;
- (c) Ordering Defendant to pay restitution to Plaintiff and the Class;
- (d) A jury trial and damages according to proof;
- (e) Awarding actual damages to Plaintiff and the Class;
- (f) Awarding Plaintiff and members of the Class statutory damages, as provided by the applicable state consumer protection statutes invoked above;
- (g) Awarding attorneys' fees and litigation costs to Plaintiff and members of the Class;
- (h) Civil penalties, prejudgment interest and punitive damages as permitted by law; and
- (i) Ordering such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

JURY TRIAL DEMAND

Plaintiff hereby demands a jury trial of the claims asserted in this Class Action Complaint.

Dated: January 19, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jason P. Sultzer

Jason P. Sultzer, Esq.

Daniel Markowitz, Esq.

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** Pro Hac Vice* application forthcoming

*Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Proposed
Class*

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of New York

GWENDOLYN SMITH, individually and on behalf of
all others similarly situated

Plaintiff(s)

v.

WM. BOLTHOUSE FARMS, INC.

Defendant(s)

Civil Action No.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) Wm. Bolthouse Farms, Inc.
7200 East Brundage Lane
Bakersfield, California

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:

The Sultzer Law Group P.C. Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips
Jason P. Sultzer, Esq. Grossman, PLLC
85 Civic Center Plaza Nick Suciu III, Esq.
Suite 200 6905 Telegraph Rd., Suite 115
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301

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.

BRENNA B. MAHONEY
CLERK OF COURT

Date:

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

AO 440 (Rev. 06/12) Summons in a Civil Action (Page 2)

Civil Action No. _____

PROOF OF SERVICE

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

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

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

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

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

I returned the summons unexecuted because _____ ; or

Other *(specify)*: _____

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

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

Date: _____

Server's signature

Printed name and title

Server's address

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

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

GWENDOLYN SMITH, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated

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

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) The Sultzter Law Group P.C. Jason P. Sultzter, Esq. 85 Civic Center Plaza, Ste. 200 (845) 483-7100 Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

DEFENDANTS

WM. BOLTHOUSE FARMS, INC.

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

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

Attorneys (If Known)

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

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

Does this action include a motion for temporary restraining order or order to show cause? Yes [] No [X]

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 options: 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, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES. Includes sub-sections like PERSONAL INJURY, PERSONAL PROPERTY, HABEAS CORPUS, etc.

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(d)(2) Brief description of cause: Neg. & Int., Unjust Enrichment

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P. DEMAND \$ 5,000,000.00 CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: [X] Yes [] No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

DATE 1/19/2023 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

CERTIFICATION OF ARBITRATION ELIGIBILITY

Local Arbitration Rule 83.7 provides that with certain exceptions, actions seeking money damages only in an amount not in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs, are eligible for compulsory arbitration. The amount of damages is presumed to be below the threshold amount unless a certification to the contrary is filed.

Case is Eligible for Arbitration

I, Jason P Sultzer, counsel for Plaintiff and The Class, do hereby certify that the above captioned civil action is ineligible for compulsory arbitration for the following reason(s):

- monetary damages sought are in excess of \$150,000, exclusive of interest and costs,
- the complaint seeks injunctive relief,
- the matter is otherwise ineligible for the following reason

DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - FEDERAL RULES CIVIL PROCEDURE 7.1

Identify any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation that owns 10% or more of its stocks:

RELATED CASE STATEMENT (Section VIII on the Front of this Form)

Please list all cases that are arguably related pursuant to Division of Business Rule 50.3.1 in Section VIII on the front of this form. Rule 50.3.1 (a) provides that "A civil case is "related" to another civil case for purposes of this guideline when, because of the similarity of facts and legal issues or because the cases arise from the same transactions or events, a substantial saving of judicial resources is likely to result from assigning both cases to the same judge and magistrate judge." Rule 50.3.1 (b) provides that " A civil case shall not be deemed "related" to another civil case merely because the civil case: (A) involves identical legal issues, or (B) involves the same parties." Rule 50.3.1 (c) further provides that "Presumptively, and subject to the power of a judge to determine otherwise pursuant to paragraph (d), civil cases shall not be deemed to be "related" unless both cases are still pending before the court."

NY-E DIVISION OF BUSINESS RULE 50.1(d)(2)

- 1.) Is the civil action being filed in the Eastern District removed from a New York State Court located in Nassau or Suffolk County? Yes No
- 2.) If you answered "no" above:
 - a) Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in Nassau or Suffolk County? Yes No
 - b) Did the events or omissions giving rise to the claim or claims, or a substantial part thereof, occur in the Eastern District? Yes No
 - c) If this is a Fair Debt Collection Practice Act case, specify the County in which the offending communication was received:

If your answer to question 2 (b) is "No," does the defendant (or a majority of the defendants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County, or, in an interpleader action, does the claimant (or a majority of the claimants, if there is more than one) reside in Nassau or Suffolk County? Yes No

(Note: A corporation shall be considered a resident of the County in which it has the most significant contacts).

BAR ADMISSION

I am currently admitted in the Eastern District of New York and currently a member in good standing of the bar of this court.

Yes No

Are you currently the subject of any disciplinary action (s) in this or any other state or federal court?

Yes (If yes, please explain) No

I certify the accuracy of all information provided above.

Signature: _____