

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TAMPA DIVISION**

Jerkerris Griffin, individually and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

- against -

Publix Super Markets, Inc.,

Defendant

Class Action Complaint

Jury Trial Demanded

Plaintiff alleges upon information and belief, except for allegations pertaining to Plaintiff, which are based on personal knowledge:

1. Publix Super Markets, Inc. (“Defendant”) sells “Apple Cinnamon Flavored Fruit & Grain Cereal Bars” (“Product”).



2. The representations are misleading because the labeling omits the use of artificial flavoring ingredients to simulate, resemble and reinforce the Product’s

apple taste.

I. CONSUMER AVOIDANCE OF ARTIFICIAL FLAVORS

3. According to the Wall Street Journal, “As consumer concern rises over artificial ingredients, more food companies are reconstructing recipes” to remove artificial flavors.¹

4. Artificial flavor is “any substance, the function of which is to impart flavor” from sources other than fruits or vegetables. 21 C.F.R § 101.22(a)(1).

5. Natural flavor refers to the “essence or extractive” from fruits or vegetables, “whose significant function [] is flavoring rather than nutritional.” 21 C.F.R § 101.22(a)(3).

6. According to Paul Manning, CEO and president of Sensient Technologies, “Consumer desire for naturally flavored products is an emerging trend.”²

7. Recent surveys report that over eighty percent of Americans believe that foods with artificial flavor are less healthy than those with only natural flavors.

8. According to Nielsen, the absence of artificial flavors is very important for over 40% of respondents to their Global Health & Wellness Survey.

¹ Lauren Manning, How Big Food is Using Natural Flavors to Win Consumer Favor, Wall Street Journal.

² Keith Nunes, [Using natural ingredients to create authentic, fresh flavors](#), Food Business News, Sept. 20, 2018.

9. The trade journal, *Perfumer & Flavorist*, described “The Future of Artificial Flavors & Ingredients” as bleak, given consumer opposition to these synthetic ingredients.³

10. Mintel announced that consumer avoidance of artificial flavors is just as strong as their desire for natural flavors, in its Report, “Artificial: Public Enemy No. 1.”⁴

11. Surveys by Nielsen, New Hope Network, and Label Insight concluded that between sixty and eighty percent of the public tries to avoid artificial flavors.

II. MALIC ACID

12. Flavors are substances that impart taste. 21 C.F.R. § 101.22(a)(1) and (3).

13. Taste is a combination of sensations arising from specialized receptor cells in the mouth.⁵

14. Taste is defined as sensations of sweet, sour, salty, bitter, and umami.

15. Taste is complex, with the taste of sour including the sourness of vinegar (acetic acid), sour milk (lactic acid), lemons (citric acid), apples (malic acid), and

³ Jim Kavanaugh, [The Future of Artificial Flavors & Ingredients](#), *Perfumer & Flavorist*, June 12, 2017.

⁴ Alex Smolokoff, [Natural color and flavor trends in food and beverage](#), *Natural Products Insider*, Oct. 11, 2019; Thea Bourianne, [Exploring today’s top ingredient trends and how they fit into our health-conscious world](#), March 26-28, 2018; Nancy Gagliardi, [Consumers Want Healthy Foods – And Will Pay More For Them](#), *Forbes*, Feb 18, 2015.

⁵ Gary Reineccius, *Flavor Chemistry and Technology* § 1.2 (2d ed. 2005).

wines (tartaric acid).

16. Each of those acids is responsible for unique sensory characteristics of sourness.

17. Fruit flavors, including apple flavor, are the sum of the interaction between sugars, organic acids, and volatile compounds.⁶

18. Consumer acceptability of the flavor of apples is based on their perceived sweetness, sourness and tartness.

19. The prototypical apple taste is based on its accumulation of free sugars, mainly glucose and fructose, and its first predominant acid of malic acid to create its unique sour, tart and sweet flavor.

Fruit	First Predominant Acids	Second Predominant Acids
Apple	Malic Acid (95%)	Tartaric Acid, Fumaric Acid
Apricot	Malic Acid (70%)	Citric Acid, Tartaric Acid
Blackberry	Citric Acid	Malic Acid
Blueberry	Citric Acid	Malic Acid, Quinic Acid
Cherry	Malic Acid (94%)	Tartaric Acid
Cherry (Tropical)	Malic Acid (32%)	Citric Acid
Chili Peppers (habanero)	Citric Acid	Malic Acid, Succinic Acid
Coconut	Malic Acid	Citric Acid
Dragon fruit	Malic Acid	Citric Acid
Grape	Malic Acid (60%)	Tartaric Acid
Grapefruit	Citric Acid	Malic Acid
Guava	Citric Acid	Malic Acid

⁶ Y.H. Hui, et al., Handbook of Fruit and Vegetable Flavors, p. 693 (2010).

Kiwi	Quinic Acid, Citric Acid	Malic Acid
Lemon	Citric Acid	Malic Acid
Lime	Citric Acid	Malic Acid
Mango	Citric Acid	Malic Acid, Tartaric Acid
Orange	Citric Acid	Malic Acid
Peach	Malic Acid (73%)	Citric Acid
Pear	Malic Acid (77%)	Citric Acid
Pineapple	Citric Acid	Malic Acid
Pomegranate	Malic Acid (>50%)	Citric Acid (>22%)
Raspberry	Citric Acid	Malic Acid, Tartaric Acid
Strawberry	Citric Acid	Malic Acid, Tartaric Acid
Tamarind	Tartaric Acid	Citric Acid, Malic Acid
Watermelon	Malic Acid (99%)	Fumaric Acid

20. L-Malic acid gives apples their characteristic smooth, tart and sweet flavor.

21. Malic acid is often referred to as “apple acid,” with the word malic derived from the Latin *mālum*, for which *Malus*, the genus that contains all apple species, is named.

III. CHEMICAL STRUCTURE OF MALIC ACID

22. Malic acid is the common name for 1-hydroxy-1, 2- ethanedicarboxylic acid.

23. Malic acid has two isomers, or arrangements of atoms, L-Malic Acid and D-Malic Acid. 21 C.F.R. § 184.1069.

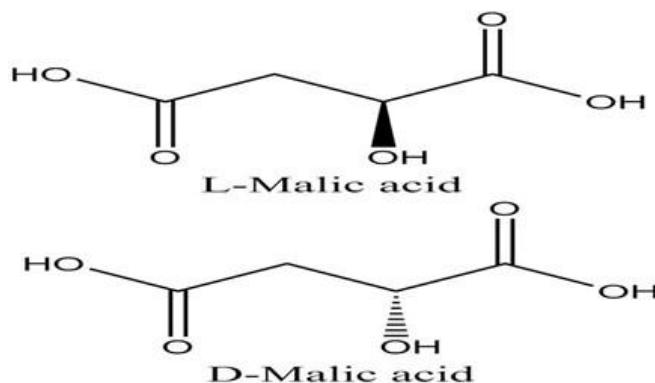
24. An isomer is a molecule sharing the same atomic make-up as another but

differing in structural arrangements.⁷

25. Stereoisomers differ by spatial arrangement, meaning different atomic particles and molecules are situated differently in any three-dimensional direction.

26. An enantiomer is a type of stereoisomer and like right and left-hand versions of the same molecular formula.

27. D-Malic Acid and L-Malic Acid are enantiomers with almost identical skeletal formulas.



28. L-Malic Acid occurs naturally in apples, while D-Malic Acid does not occur naturally anywhere.

29. D-Malic Acid is most commonly found as a racemic mixture of the D and L isomers, or DL-Malic Acid, commercially made from petroleum.

30. DL-Malic Acid is synthetically produced from petroleum in a high-pressure, high-temperature, catalytic process with chemical reactions.

⁷ Dan Chong and Jonathan Mooney, *Chirality and Stereoisomers* (2019).

IV. LABEL OMITTS ADDED ARTIFICIAL FLAVORING

31. One of the Product's primary or "characterizing" flavors is "apple," because the label makes "direct [] representations" about this fruit through the word "Apple" and the green colors of the fonts and background on the package, associated with green apples, known for their tart, sweet and smooth flavor. 21 C.F.R. § 101.22(i).

32. Federal and identical state regulations require the Product to disclose the source of its apple flavor on the front label, i.e., from apples, natural sources other than apples and/or artificial, synthetic sources. 21 C.F.R. § 101.22(i).

33. Federal and state regulations require that because the Product contains DL-Malic Acid that imparts the flavor of apples, "Apple" is required to "be accompanied by the word(s) 'artificial' or 'artificially flavored,'" such as "Artificial Apple [and Cinnamon] Flavored" or "Artificially Flavored Apple [and Cinnamon]." 21 C.F.R. § 101.22(i)(2).

34. By representing the Product as having an "Apple" flavor, consumers will expect its entire apple taste will come from its characterizing ingredients of apples or natural flavoring materials.

35. Though the filling ingredients list "Apple Puree Concentrate," they also include "Malic Acid."

Ingredients: Apple Filling (Invert Sugar, Corn Syrup, **Apple Puree**)

Concentrate, Sugar, Glycerin, Modified Cornstarch, Sodium Alginate, Methylcellulose, Malic Acid, Monocalcium Phosphate, Ground Cinnamon, Dicalcium Phosphate, Citric Acid, Apple Juice For Color]), Whole Grain Rolled Oats, Whole Grain Wheat Flour, Enriched Wheat Flour (Bleached Wheat Flour, Malted Barley Flour, Niacin, Reduced Iron, Thiamine Mononitrate, Riboflavin, Folic Acid), Vegetable Oil Blend (Canola, Palm, Palm Kernel), Invert Sugar, Sugar, Glycerin, Contains Less Than 2% Of: Whey, Corn Syrup Solids, Calcium Carbonate, Honey, Wheat Bran, Salt, Potassium Bicarbonate, Sorbitan Monostearate, Vital Wheat Gluten, Ground Cinnamon, Cornstarch, Xanthan Gum, Vitamin A Palmitate, Reduced Iron, Thiamine Hydrochloride Vitamin B1), Riboflavin (Vitamin B2), Niacin (Niacinamide), Pyridoxine Hydrochloride (Vitamin B6), Folic Acid, Cyanocobalamin (Vitamin B12), Zinc Oxide, Dicalcium Phosphate, Natural Flavors, Molasses.

36. Laboratory analysis using chiral HPLC and/or enzymatic methods with D-malate dehydrogenase (D-MDH) concluded that the malic acid used in the Product was the artificial DL-Malic Acid version, by identifying the synthetic D-isomer.

37. This was because D-Malic acid was preferentially oxidized over L-Malic acid.

38. The combination of DL-Malic Acid with sugars is not equivalent to the

natural flavors from apples.

39. The addition of DL-Malic Acid imparts, creates, simulates, resembles and/or reinforces the sour, tart, sweet taste that apples are known for.

40. Defendant could have added more apple ingredients or L-Malic Acid from apples, but used artificial DL-Malic Acid because it cost less and/or more accurately simulated, resembled, and/or reinforced the taste of apples.

41. DL-Malic Acid is not a “natural flavor” as defined by federal and state regulations, because it is not from a fruit, vegetable or other natural source, but from petroleum and made through chemical reactions.

42. DL-Malic Acid does not supplement, enhance or modify the original taste of apples, because it is a core component of this fruit. 21 C.F.R. § 170.3(o)(11).

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

43. Jurisdiction is based on the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005 (“CAFA”). 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2).

44. The aggregate amount in controversy exceeds \$5 million, including any statutory or punitive damages, exclusive of interest and costs.

45. Plaintiff is a citizen of Georgia.

46. Defendant is a citizen of Florida.

47. The class of persons Plaintiff seeks to represent includes persons who are citizens of a different state from which Defendant is a citizen.

48. The members of the proposed class Plaintiff seeks to represent are more than 100, because the Product is sold at hundreds of Defendant's stores across the States Plaintiff seeks to represent.

49. Venue is in the Tampa Division in this District because Defendant's principal place of business is in Polk County and because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to these claims occurred in Polk County, i.e., Defendant's decisions for labeling the Product.

PARTIES

50. Plaintiff Jerkerris Griffin is a citizen of Richmond County, Georgia.

51. Defendant Publix Super Markets, Inc. is a Florida corporation with a principal place of business in Lakeland, Florida, Polk County.

52. Publix supermarkets were founded in 1930 by George W. Jenkins.

53. Since its founding, the company has stayed true to its founder's philosophy of treating employees and customers like family.

54. Publix is the largest employee-owned company in the United States.

55. Every year, Publix is hailed as the No. 1 supermarket for customer satisfaction, one of Fortune's "100 Best Companies to Work For," and a model for its sustainability efforts and community involvement.

56. Publix ranks No. 1 on Fortune's "World's Most Admired Companies" in the food store category.

57. These rankings are based on evaluations by Publix workers and others in its industry, in areas from investment value to social responsibility.

58. Publix is one of a handful of grocery chains in the United States with over 1,000 locations.

59. Publix operates throughout the Southeastern United States, with locations in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Virginia.

60. Consumers choose Publix because it embodies its well-known slogan, “Where Shopping Is a Pleasure,” based on its convenience, cleanliness, ease of navigation, friendly workers, and its private label products.

61. While Publix stores sell leading national brands, they sell hundreds of products under their private label Publix brand.

62. Private label products are made by third-party manufacturers and sold under the name of the retailer, or its sub-brands.

63. Previously referred to as “generic” or “store brand,” private label products have increased in quality, and often are superior to their national brand counterparts.

64. Products under the Publix brand have an industry-wide reputation for quality and value.

65. In releasing products under the Publix brand, Defendant’s foremost

criteria was to have high-quality products that were equal to or better than the national brands.

66. Defendant is able to get national brands to produce its private label items due its loyal customer base and tough negotiating.

67. That Publix branded products met this high bar was proven by focus groups, which rated them above the name brand equivalent.

68. Private label products generate higher profits for retailers because national brands spend significantly more on marketing, contributing to their higher prices.

69. A survey by The Nielsen Co. “found nearly three out of four American consumers believe store brands are good alternatives to national brands, and more than 60 percent consider them to be just as good.”

70. Private label products under the Publix brand benefit by their association with consumers’ appreciation for the Publix brand as a whole.

71. The development of private label items is a growth area for Publix, as they select only top suppliers to develop and produce Publix products.

72. The Product is available to consumers from Defendant’s retail stores and its website.

73. Plaintiff read “Apple Cinnamon Flavored Fruit & Grain Cereal Bars,” saw the label’s green coloring and fonts and took notice that the front label lacked

any references to artificial flavoring.

74. Plaintiff expected the Product's apple taste was from apples or natural flavoring materials designed to taste like apples.

75. Plaintiff is part of the majority of consumers who avoid artificial flavors for the above-identified reasons related to health, nutrition and the environment.

76. Plaintiff was unaware the Product contained artificial flavoring ingredients to provide its apple taste because this was not disclosed to him on the front label, which is where he would have expected to see this information.

77. Plaintiff relied on the words, terms coloring, descriptions, layout, packaging, and/or images on the Product, on the labeling, statements, omissions, claims, statements, and instructions, made by Defendant or at its directions, in digital, print and/or social media, which accompanied the Product and separately, through in-store, digital, audio, and print marketing.

78. Plaintiff purchased the Product on one or more occasions within the statutes of limitations for each cause of action alleged, at Publix locations near where he lives in Georgia which may include the Publix in Augustus, Georgia, between August 2021 and the present.

79. Plaintiff bought the Product at or exceeding the above-referenced price.

80. Plaintiff chose between Defendant's Product and products represented similarly, but which did not misrepresent their attributes, requirements, instructions,

features, and/or components.

81. Defendant sold more of the Product and at higher prices than it would have in the absence of this misconduct, resulting in additional profits at the expense of consumers.

82. As a result of the false and misleading representations, the Product is sold at a premium price, approximately no less than \$2.99 for 8 bars, excluding tax and sales, higher than similar products, represented in a non-misleading way, and higher than it would be sold for absent the misleading representations and omissions.

83. Plaintiff paid more for the Product than he would have paid had he known the representations were false and misleading, as he would not have bought it or paid less.

84. Plaintiff intends to, seeks to, and will purchase the Product again when he can do so with the assurance its representations are consistent with its composition.

85. Plaintiff is unable to rely on the labeling and representations not only of this Product, but other similar apple flavored products which fail to disclose artificial flavoring on the front label, because he is unsure whether those representations are truthful.

86. If Defendant's labeling were to be truthful, Plaintiff could adequately rely on the labeling of other apple flavored products that did not disclose added

artificial flavoring.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

87. Plaintiff seeks certification under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23 of the following class:

Florida and Georgia Class: All persons in the States of Florida and Georgia who purchased the Product during the statutes of limitations for each cause of action alleged.

88. Common questions of issues, law, and fact predominate and include whether Defendant's representations were and are misleading and if Plaintiff and class members are entitled to damages.

89. Plaintiff's claims and basis for relief are typical to other members because all were subjected to the same unfair, misleading, and deceptive representations, omissions, and actions.

90. Plaintiff is an adequate representative because his interests do not conflict with other members.

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

92. Individual actions would risk inconsistent results, be repetitive and are impractical to justify, as the claims are modest relative to the scope of the harm.

93. Plaintiff's counsel is competent and experienced in complex class action

litigation and intends to protect class members' interests adequately and fairly.

94. Plaintiff seeks class-wide injunctive relief because the practices continue.

CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT I

Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act **("FDUTPA"), Fla. Stat. § 501.201, et seq. and/or** **Georgia Fair Business Practices Act ("FBPA")** **O.C.G. § 10-1-390 et seq.**

95. Plaintiff incorporates by reference preceding paragraphs 1-42.

96. Plaintiff brings this claim on his own behalf and on behalf of each member of the Florida and Georgia Class.

97. Defendant violated and continues to violate Florida's Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act by engaging in unfair methods of competition, unconscionable acts and practices, and unfair and deceptive acts and practices in the conduct of its business.

98. Defendant misrepresented the Product through statements, omissions, ambiguities, half-truths and/or actions, that its apple taste was only from this ingredient and/or natural flavoring materials and not added artificial flavoring when it was also from the artificial flavoring ingredient of DL-Malic Acid.

99. The material misstatements and omissions alleged herein constitute

deceptive and unfair trade practices, in that they were intended to and did deceive Plaintiff and the general public into believing that the Product's apple taste was from apples and/or natural flavoring materials and not added artificial flavoring, when it was also from the artificial flavoring ingredient of DL-Malic Acid.

100. Plaintiff and class members relied upon these representations and omissions of any front label disclosure about artificial flavoring in deciding to purchase the Product.

101. Plaintiff's reliance was reasonable because of Defendant's reputation as a trusted and reliable company, known for its high-quality products, honestly marketed to consumers.

102. Plaintiff and class members would not have purchased the Product or paid as much if the true facts had been known, suffering damages.

103. Defendant's conduct offends established public policy and is immoral, unethical, oppressive, and unscrupulous to consumers.

104. Plaintiff and class members are entitled to damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

105. Defendant should also be ordered to cease its deceptive advertising and should be made to engage in a corrective advertising campaign to inform consumers that the Product contains artificial flavoring ingredients that supply part of its characterizing apple taste.

COUNT II

False and Misleading Advertising,
Fla. Stat. § 817.41

106. Plaintiff incorporates by reference preceding paragraphs 1-42.

107. Plaintiff brings this claim on his own behalf and on behalf of each member of the Florida Class.

108. Defendant made misrepresentations and omissions of material fact, that the Product's apple taste was only from this ingredient and/or natural flavoring materials and not added artificial flavoring, through its advertisements and marketing, through various forms of media, product descriptions, and targeted digital advertising.

109. Defendant's false and deceptive representations and omissions are material in that they are likely to influence consumer purchasing decisions.

110. Defendant knew that these statements were false.

111. Defendant intended for consumers to rely on its false statements for the purpose of selling the Product.

112. Plaintiff and class members did in fact rely upon these statements.

113. Reliance was reasonable and justified because of Defendant's reputation as a trusted and reliable company, known for its high-quality products, honestly marketed to consumers.

114. As a result of Defendant's misrepresentations, Plaintiff and class members suffered damages in the amount paid for the Product.

115. Plaintiff and class members are entitled to damages and injunctive relief as set forth above.

COUNT III

Breaches of Express Warranty, Implied Warranty of Merchantability/Fitness for a Particular Purpose and Magnuson Moss Warranty Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 2301, et seq.

116. Plaintiff incorporates by reference preceding paragraphs 1-42.

117. The Product was manufactured, identified, marketed, and sold by Defendant and expressly and impliedly warranted to Plaintiff and class members that its apple taste was only from this ingredient and/or natural flavoring materials and not added artificial flavoring.

118. Defendant directly marketed the Product to Plaintiff and consumers through its advertisements and marketing, through various forms of media, on the packaging, in print circulars, direct mail, and targeted digital advertising.

119. Defendant knew the product attributes that potential customers like Plaintiff were seeking, such as flavoring provided only by its characterizing ingredient like apples and/or natural flavoring materials and not added artificial flavoring and the absence of artificial flavorings, and developed its marketing and labeling to directly meet those needs and desires.

120. The representations were conveyed in writing and promised the Product would be defect-free, and Plaintiff understood this meant that its apple taste was only from this ingredient and/or natural flavoring materials and not added artificial flavoring.

121. Defendant affirmed and promised that the Product's apple taste was only from this ingredient and/or natural flavoring materials and not added artificial flavoring.

122. Defendant described the Product so Plaintiff and consumers believed its apple taste was only from this ingredient and/or natural flavoring materials and not added artificial flavoring, which became part of the basis of the bargain that it would conform to its affirmations and promises.

123. Defendant had a duty to disclose and/or provide non-deceptive descriptions and marketing of the Product.

124. This duty is based on Defendant's outsized role in the market for this type of product, custodian of the Publix brand, a trusted seller of groceries for close to a century.

125. Plaintiff recently became aware of Defendant's breach of the Product's warranties.

126. Plaintiff provided or provides notice to Defendant, its agents, representatives, retailers, and their employees that it breached the Product's express

and implied warranties associated with the Product.

127. Defendant received notice and should have been aware of these issues due to complaints by third-parties, including regulators, competitors, and consumers, to its main offices, and by consumers through online forums.

128. The Product did not conform to its affirmations of fact and promises due to Defendant's actions.

129. The Product was not merchantable because it was not fit to pass in the trade as advertised, not fit for the ordinary purpose for which it was intended and did not conform to the promises or affirmations of fact made on the packaging, container, or label, because it was marketed as if its apple taste was only from this ingredient and/or natural flavoring materials and not added artificial flavoring.

130. The Product was not merchantable because Defendant had reason to know the particular purpose for which the Product was bought by Plaintiff, because he expected its apple taste was only from this ingredient and/or natural flavoring materials and not added artificial flavoring and he relied on Defendant's skill and judgment to select or furnish such a suitable product.

COUNT IV

Fraud **(Fed. R. Civ. P. 9(b) Allegations)**

131. Plaintiff incorporates by reference preceding paragraphs 1-42.

132. Defendant misrepresented that the Product's apple taste was only from this ingredient and/or natural flavoring materials and not added artificial flavoring, by omitting the required "artificially flavored" disclosure from the front label.

133. The records Defendant is required to maintain, and/or the information inconspicuously disclosed to consumers, provided it with actual and constructive knowledge of this falsity and deception, through statements and omissions.

134. Rule 9(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides that "[i]n alleging fraud or mistake, a party must state with particularity the circumstances constituting fraud or mistake."

135. To the extent necessary, as detailed in the paragraphs above and below, Plaintiff has satisfied the requirements of Rule 9(b) by establishing the following elements with sufficient particularity.

136. WHO: Defendant, Publix, made material misrepresentations and/or omissions of fact in its advertising and marketing of the Product by representing that the Product's apple taste was only from this ingredient and/or natural flavoring materials and not added artificial flavoring.

137. WHAT: Defendant's conduct here was and continues to be fraudulent because it has the effect of deceiving consumers into believing that the Product's apple taste was only from this ingredient and/or natural flavoring materials and not added artificial flavoring.

138. Defendant omitted that the Product contains artificial flavoring to provide and contribute to its apple taste.

139. Defendant knew or should have known this information was material to all reasonable consumers and impacts consumers' purchasing decisions.

140. Yet, Defendant has and continues to represent that the Product's apple taste was only from this ingredient and/or natural flavoring materials and not added artificial flavoring.

141. WHEN: Defendant made material misrepresentations and/or omissions detailed herein, including that the Product's apple taste was only from this ingredient and/or natural flavoring materials and not added artificial flavoring, continuously throughout the applicable Class period(s) and through the filing of this Complaint.

142. WHERE: Defendant's material misrepresentations and omissions, that the Product's apple taste only from this ingredient and/or natural flavoring materials and not added artificial flavoring, were made in the advertising and marketing of the Product, on the front of the packaging which all consumers buying it will inevitably see and take notice of.

143. HOW: Defendant made written and visual misrepresentations and omissions in the advertising and marketing of the Product, that its apple taste only from this ingredient and/or natural flavoring materials and not added artificial flavoring.

144. As such, Defendant's representations are false and misleading.

145. And as discussed in detail throughout this Complaint, Plaintiff and class members read and relied on Defendant's representations and omissions before purchasing the Product.

146. WHY: Defendant misrepresented that the Product's apple taste was only from this ingredient and/or natural flavoring materials and not added artificial flavoring for the express purpose of inducing Plaintiff and class members to purchase the Product at a substantial price premium.

147. As such, Defendant profited by selling the misrepresented Product to thousands of consumers throughout the State of Florida.

COUNT V

Unjust Enrichment

148. Plaintiff incorporates by reference preceding paragraphs 1-42.

149. Defendant obtained benefits and monies because the Product was not as represented and expected, to the detriment and impoverishment of Plaintiff and class members, who seek restitution and disgorgement of inequitably obtained profits.

JURY DEMAND AND PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Plaintiff demands a jury trial on all issues.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment:

1. Declaring this a proper class action, certifying Plaintiff as representative and

the undersigned as counsel for the class;

2. Entering preliminary and permanent injunctive relief by directing Defendant to correct the challenged practices to comply with the law;
3. Awarding monetary, statutory, and/or punitive damages pursuant to applicable laws;
4. Awarding costs and expenses, including reasonable fees for Plaintiff's attorneys and experts; and
5. Other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: July 3, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ William Wright

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**Pro Hac Vice Application Forthcoming*

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

Jerkerris Griffin, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated

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

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

The Wright Law Office, P.A., 515 N Flagler Dr Ste P300 West Palm Beach FL 33401-4326 (561) 514-0904

DEFENDANTS

Publix Super Markets, 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)

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 and incorporation status. Includes options for Citizen of This State, Citizen of Another State, Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country, and Foreign Nation.

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

Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions .

Large table with categories: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, TORTS, PERSONAL INJURY, PERSONAL PROPERTY, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS, 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: false advertising

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

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

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

July 3, 2023

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

/s/Will Wright

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the
Middle District of Florida

Jerkerris Griffin, individually and on behalf of all
others similarly situated,

Plaintiff(s)

v.

Publix Super Markets, Inc.,

Defendant(s)

Civil Action No.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) Publix Super Markets, Inc.
c/o Corporate Creations Network, Inc.
801 US Highway 1
North Palm Beach FL 33408-3811

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 Wright Law Office, P.A., 515 N Flagler Dr Ste P300 West Palm Beach FL
33401-4326 (561) 514-0904

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

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 \$ _____ .

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: