Christin Cho (Cal. Bar No. 238173)
christin@dovel.com
Simon Franzini (Cal. Bar No. 287631)
simon@dovel.com
Grace Bennett (Cal. Bar No. 345948)
grace@dovel.com
DOVEL \& LUNER, LLP
201 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 600
Santa Monica, California 90401
Telephone: (310) 656-7066
Facsimile: (310) 656-7069
Attorneys for Plaintiff

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 

 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIASHANAN GOLDSMITH individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,
v.

BROOKLYN BEDDING LLC,

Defendant.

Case No. 5:24-cv-491
CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

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## I. Introduction.

1. Advertised "sale" prices are important to consumers. Consumers are more likely to purchase an item if they know that they are getting a good deal. Further, if consumers think that a sale will end soon, they are likely to buy now, rather than wait, comparison shop, and buy something else.
2. While there is nothing wrong with a legitimate sale, a fake one-that is, one with made-up regular prices, made-up discounts, and made-up expirations-is deceptive and illegal.
3. Section 17500 of California's False Advertising Law prohibits businesses from making statements they know or should know to be untrue or misleading. Cal. Bus. \& Prof. Code § 17500. This includes statements falsely suggesting that a product is on sale, when it actually is not.
4. Moreover, section 17501 of California's False Advertising Law provides that "[n]o price shall be advertised as a former price ... unless the alleged former price was the prevailing market price $\ldots$ within three months next immediately preceding" the advertising. Cal. Bus. \& Prof. Code $\$ 17501$. So, in addition to generally prohibiting untrue and misleading fake discounts, it also specifically prohibits this particular flavor of fake discount (where the advertised former price is not the prevailing price during the specified timeframe).
5. In addition, California's Consumer Legal Remedies Act prohibits "advertising goods or services with the intent not to sell them as advertised" and specifically prohibits "false or misleading statements of fact concerning reasons for, existence of, or amounts of price reductions." Cal. Civ. Code §1770(a)(9), (13).
6. Moreover, the Federal Trade Commission's regulations prohibit false or misleading "former price comparisons," for example, making up "an artificial, inflated price ... for the purpose of enabling the subsequent offer of a large reduction" off that price. 16 C.F.R. $\S 233.1$. They also prohibit false or misleading "retail price comparisons" and "comparable value comparisons," for example, ones that falsely

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suggest that the seller is "offer[ing] goods at prices lower than those being charged by others for the same merchandise" when this is not the case. 16 C.F.R. § 233.1.
7. So, as numerous courts have found, fake sales violate these laws. They also violate California's general prohibition on unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business practices. See Cal. Bus. \& Prof. Code § 17200.
8. Defendant Brooklyn Bedding LLC ("Defendant" or "Nolah") sells and markets mattresses and bedding products online through the Nolah brand and website, www.nolahmattress.com ("Nolah Products" or "Products").
9. On its website, Defendant lists prices and advertises purported time-limited discounts from those listed prices. These include "LIMITED TIME ONLY" discounts offering "up to $\$ \mathrm{X}$ off" or "X\% off." Defendant uses countdown clocks to represent that its sales are on the verge of ending. Defendant also advertises that its Products have a lower discount price as compared to a higher, regular price shown in grey and/or strikethrough font. See these examples:


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| SPRiNg sale Up to $\$ 700$ Off Mattresses + 2 Free Pillows | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{2 3}$ | $\mathbf{3 4}$ | $\mathbf{5 9}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |



| BEST FOR EDGE SUPPORT | OUR BEST-SELING MATTRESS |
| :---: | :---: |
| Thickness: 11 \| Firmness: 6/10 | Thickness: 15 \| Firmness: 4-5, 6-7, or 8/10 |
| Nollan |  |
| Nolah Original Hybrid | Nolah Evolution |
| Our advanced Airfoam ${ }^{\text {t"u }}$ meets deep, targeted support from HDMax ${ }^{\text {Tu }}$ Tri-Zone ${ }^{\text {tu }}$ coils. The Original Hybrid is our most affordable hybrid model and our best mattress for edge support. | This premium nine-layer mattress features all the latest technology, including graphite-infused AirFoamICE ${ }^{T w}$ and $\mathrm{HDMax}^{\text {tu }}$ Tri-Zone ${ }^{\text {Tw }}$ coils for responsive, targeted support. |
| Starting at Aolowas | Starting at As low as |
| \$899 \$1,299 \$75/mo affim | \$1,049 \$7,499 \$87/mo affim |
| SHOP NOW | SHOP NOW |

10. Far from being time-limited, however, Defendant's discounts are always available. As a result, everything about Defendant's price and purported discount advertising is false. The list prices Defendant advertises are not actually Defendant's regular prices (the prices it usually charges), because Defendant's Products are always available for less than that. The purported discounts Defendant advertises are not the true discount the customer is receiving, and are often not a discount at all, because customers can alvays buy Defendant's Products at the discount price. Nor are the purported discounts "LIMITED TIME ONLY" or ending after the countdown clock runs out-quite the opposite, they are always available.
11. As described in greater detail below, Ms. Goldsmith bought Products from Defendant from its website, nolahmattress.com. When Ms. Goldsmith made her purchase, Defendant advertised that a limited-time sale was going on, and so Defendant represented that the Products Ms. Goldsmith purchased were being offered at a steep discount from its purported regular price that Defendant advertised in strikethrough font. And based on Defendant's representations, Ms. Goldsmith believed that she was purchasing Products whose regular price and market value were the purported list price that Defendant advertised, that she was receiving a substantial discount, and that the opportunity to get that discount was time-limited. These reasonable beliefs are what caused Ms. Goldsmith to buy from Defendant when she did.
12. In truth, however, the representations Ms. Goldsmith relied on were not true. The purported list prices were not the true regular prices, the purported discounts were not the true discounts, and the discounts were not time-limited. Had Defendant been truthful, Ms. Goldsmith and other consumers like her would not have purchased the Products, or would have paid less for them.
13. Ms. Goldsmith brings this case for herself and the other customers who purchased Defendant's Products.

## II. Parties.

14. Plaintiff Shanan Goldsmith is domiciled in Joshua Tree, California.
15. The proposed class includes citizens of every state.
16. Defendant Brooklyn Bedding LLC is an Arizona limited liability company with its principal place of business at 5301 W Bethany Home Road, Glendale, Arizona 85301.

## III. Jurisdiction and Venue.

17. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2). The amount in controversy exceeds $\$ 5,000,000$, exclusive of interest and costs, and the matter is a class action in which one or more members of the proposed class are citizens of a state different from Defendant.
18. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant. Defendant does business in California. It advertises and sells its Products in California, and serves a market for its Products in California. Due to Defendant's actions, its Products have been marketed and sold to consumers in California, and harmed consumers in California. Plaintiff's claims arise out of Defendant's contacts with this forum. Due to Defendant's actions, Plaintiff purchased Defendant's Products in California, and was harmed in California.
19. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § $1391(\mathrm{~b})(1)$ and 28 U.S.C. § $1391(\mathrm{~d})$ because Defendant would be subject to personal jurisdiction in this District if this District were a separate state. Defendant advertises and sells its Products to customers in this District, serves a market for its Products in this District, and Plaintiff's claims arise out of Defendant's contacts in this forum. Venue is also proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial part of the events giving rise to the claim occurred here.

## IV. Facts.

## A. Defendant's fake prices and fake discounts.

20. Defendant Brooklyn Bedding distributes, markets, and sells mattresses and bedding products. Defendant sells its Products directly to consumers through its website, www.nolahmattress.com.
21. On its website, Defendant creates the false impression that its Products' regular prices are higher than they truly are.
22. At any given time, on its website, Defendant advertises steep discounts on its Products. These discounts always offer " $\$ \mathrm{X}$ " or "X\%" off. Reasonable consumers reasonably interpret Defendant's advertisements to mean that they will be getting a discount "off" of the prices that Defendant usually charges for its Products. Even though in truth these discounts run in perpetuity, Defendant prominently represents they will expire after the countdown clock runs out. And it advertises these discounts extensively: on an attention-grabbing banner on every webpage of its website; on the products listing pages, on the individual product pages for each Product; and on the checkout pages. It advertises them by touting "\$X off"; by advertising list prices in strikethrough font next to lower, purported discount prices; with graphics such as " $\$ 350$ OFF" next to the list prices and purported discount prices; and by identifying the supposed savings that customers are supposedly receiving by using list prices in strikethrough font next to lower, purported discount prices, during checkout. See these example screenshots:
23. For example, on June 4, 2020, Defendant represented on its website that a time-limited sale of " $25 \%$ Off Limited Mattresses +2 Free Pillows (\$198 Value) . . . ." was running until the countdown runs out in " 2 Days 7 Hours 49 Mins 39 Secs."

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25\% Off Limited Mattresses + 2 Free Pillows (\$198 Value) | $\mathbf{2 0 \%}$ Adjustable Bases | 40\% All Bedding | $\square$


Captured on June 4, 2020
24. On June 10, 2020, Defendant again represented on its website that a timelimited sale of " $25 \%$ Off Limited Mattresses + 2 Free Pillows ( $\$ 198$ Value) . . . ." was running until the countdown runs out in "0 Days 3 Hours 40 Mins 12 Secs."

25. But the next day, the sale did not expire. Instead, it persisted. On June 11, 2020, Defendant represented on its website that a time-limited sale of " $25 \%$ Off Limited Mattresses +2 Free Pillows ( $\$ 198$ Value) ...." was running until the countdown "1 Days 15 Hours 18 Mins 53 Secs." On that same day, Defendant also represented on its website that the sale was "OUR BEST OFFERS EVER!" with an emphasis on the sale being for a "Limited Time Only!" See screenshot:


Captured on June 11, 2020
26. The sales have persisted for months, and years.

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Captured on January 12, 2021


Captured on July 16, 2021


Captured on March 18, 2022

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Captured on September 17, 2022

# MLK Weekend Sale! I 30\% Off Mattresses + Choose a Free Gift $\begin{array}{ccccc}1 & 16 & \mathbf{4 9} & 50 \\ \text { Days } & \text { Hours Mins } & \text { Secs }\end{array}$ 



Captured on January 15, 2023


Captured on April 4, 2023


Captured on January 22, 2024


Captured on December 1, 2022

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Captured on November 14, 2023
27. Defendant represents that these discounts will only be available for a limited time, but in reality, they continue indefinitely. For example, as depicted below, Defendant represents that its sales expire after the countdown clock at the top of its website runs out, for example: "0 Days 10 Hours 45 Mins 53 Secs." To reasonable consumers, this means that after the countdown expires, Defendant's Products will no longer be on sale and will retail at their purported list price. But immediately after each purportedly time-limited sale ends, Defendant generates another similar or identical discount, with a new expiration date.
28. For example, on January 22, 2024, Defendant advertised a purported "LIMITED TIME ONLY" sale that would end in " 0 Days 10 Hours 45 Mins 53 Secs" on www.nolahmattress.com:


Captured on January 22, 2024
29. However, on January 23, 2024, the day that the time-limited sale was supposed to have ended, Defendant advertised the same sale with a new countdown clock.


Captured on January 23, 2024
30. To confirm that Defendant always offers discounts off purported regular prices, Plaintiffs counsel performed an investigation of Defendant's advertising practices using the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine (available at www.archive.org). ${ }^{1}$ That investigation confirms that Defendant's sales have persisted continuously since at least January 12, 2021 (and likely earlier). For example, 63 randomly selected screenshots of Defendant's website, nolahmattress.com, were collected from the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine, from the 2021-2023 period. One hundred percent of the 63 randomly selected screenshots of Defendant's website, captured on the Wayback Machine and directly on the website, displayed a purportedly time-limited discount. In addition to the 63 randomly selected screenshots, all three additional screenshots of the Defendant's website taken from June 2020, captured on Wayback Machine and directly on the website, displayed a purportedly time-limited discount.
31. Reasonable consumers do not realize the fake nature of the sale. It is not apparent from merely purchasing the Products, because the sale appears to be a bona fide
${ }^{1}$ The Internet Archive, available at archive.org, is a library that archives web pages. https://archive.org/about/
sale. Consumers do not have any reason to go back to the site day after day to discover that there is still a sale. And, even a consumer who occasionally checks the website would reasonably believe that there happened to be another sale. Discovering Defendant's deception required extensive mining of internet archives, which revealed that the sale is not limited in time, that the discounts are fake, and that the advertised regular prices are fake.
32. In addition, Defendant's website lists fake regular prices (that is, prices reflecting the list price or value of an item) and fake discounts.
33. For example, on April 20, 2021, Defendant advertised a purported time limited sale of " $[u]$ p to $\$ 800$ Off Mattresses + 2 Free Pillows ( $\$ 198$ Value)" on nolahmattress.com. As part of this discount, Defendant listed purported regular prices in strikethrough font and represented that consumers would receive "\$X" off by purchasing during the promotion. For example, Defendant represented that the Nolah Original 10" Twin XL Mattress had a regular list price of $\$ 799$, that consumers would get " $\$ 200$ off" of that regular list price by shopping now, and that the discount price was $\$ 599$ :


Captured on April 20, 2021
34. But the truth is, the Nolah Original 10" Twin XL Mattress's listed regular price of $\$ 799$ is not its regular price. Instead, it is always at a discount from the purported regular price of $\$ 799$ (e.g., on May 24,2021 , it was priced at $\$ 599$, and on September 20, 2021, it again was priced at $\$ 599$ ), and the customer is not receiving the advertised discount by buying during the purported sale.
35. Using these tactics, Defendant leads reasonable consumers to believe that they will get a discount on the Products they are purchasing if they purchase during the limited-time promotion. In other words, it leads reasonable consumers to believe that if they buy now, they will get a Product worth X at a discounted, lower price Y ; and they will get a discount. This creates a sense of urgency: buy now, and you will receive something worth more than you pay for it; wait, and you will pay more for the same thing later.
36. Based on Defendant's advertisements, reasonable consumers reasonably believe that the list prices are Defendant's regular prices, and its former prices (that is, the price at which the goods were actually offered for sale before the limited-time offer went into effect). In other words, reasonable consumers believe that the list prices Defendant advertises represent the amount that consumers usually have to pay for Defendant's goods, formerly had to pay for Defendant's goods, before the limited-time sale began, and will again have to pay for Defendant's goods when the sale ends. Said differently, reasonable consumers reasonably believe that, prior to the supposedly time-limited sale, consumers had to pay the list price to get the item and did not have the opportunity to get a discount from that list price.
37. Reasonable consumers also reasonably believe that the list prices Defendant advertises represent Defendant's regular prices, and the true market value of the Products, and that they are the prevailing prices for those Products. Reasonable consumers also believe that they are receiving reductions from Defendant's regular prices in the amounts advertised. In truth, however, Defendant alvays offers discounts off the list prices it advertises. As a result, everything about Defendant's price and purported
discount advertising is false. The list prices Defendant advertises are not actually Defendant's regular or former prices, or the prevailing prices for the Products Defendant sells, and do not represent the true market value for the Products, because Defendant's Products are always available for less than that, and customers did not have to formerly pay that amount to get those items. The purported discounts Defendant advertises are not the true discount the customer is receiving. Nor are the purported discounts time limited or expiring after the countdown runs out-quite the opposite, they are always available.
B. Defendant's advertisements are unfair, deceptive, and unlawful.
38. Section 17500 of California's False Advertising Law prohibits businesses from making statements they know or should know to be untrue or misleading. Cal. Bus. \& Prof. Code $\S 17500$. This includes statements falsely suggesting that a product is on sale, when it actually is not.
39. Moreover, section 17501 of California's False Advertising Law specifically provides that "[n]o price shall be advertised as a former price ... unless the alleged former price was the prevailing market price ... within three months next immediately preceding" the advertising. Cal. Bus. \& Prof. Code § 17501.
40. In addition, California's Consumer Legal Remedies Act prohibits "advertising goods or services with the intent not to sell them as advertised" and specifically prohibits "false or misleading statements of fact concerning reasons for, existence of, or amounts of price reductions." Cal. Civ. Code § 1770(a)(9), (13).
41. In addition, the Federal Trade Commission's regulations prohibit false or misleading "former price comparisons," for example, making up "an artificial, inflated price ... for the purpose of enabling the subsequent offer of a large reduction" off that price. 16 C.F.R. § 233.1. They also prohibit false or misleading "retail price comparisons" and "comparable value comparisons," for example ones that falsely suggest that the seller is "offer[ing] goods at prices lower than those being charged by others for the same merchandise" when this is not the case. 16 C.F.R. $\$ 233.1$.
42. And finally, California's unfair competition law bans unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business practices. See Cal. Bus. \& Prof. Code $\$ 17200$.
43. Here, as described in detail above, Defendant makes untrue and misleading statements about its prices. Defendant advertises regular prices that are not its true regular prices, or its former prices, and were not the prevailing market price in the three months immediately preceding the advertisement. In addition, Defendant advertised goods or services with the intent not to sell them as advertised, for example, by advertising goods having certain former prices and/or market values without the intent to sell goods having those former prices and/or market values. Defendant made false or misleading statements of fact concerning the reasons for, existence of, and amounts of price reductions, including the existence of steep discounts, and the amounts of price reductions resulting from those discounts. And Defendant engaged in unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business practices.

## C. Defendant's advertisements harm consumers.

44. Based on Defendant's advertisements, reasonable consumers would expect that the listed regular prices are the regular prices at which Defendant usually sells its Products; that these are former prices that Defendant sold its Products at before the time-limited discount was introduced.
45. Reasonable consumers would also expect that, if they purchase during the sale, they will receive an item whose regular price and/or market value is the advertised regular price and that they will receive the advertised discount from the regular purchase price.
46. In addition, consumers are more likely to buy the product if they believe that the product is on sale and that they are getting a product with a higher regular price and/or market value at a substantial discount.
47. Consumers that are presented with discounts are substantially more likely to make the purchase. "Nearly two-thirds of consumers surveyed admitted that a promotion or a coupon often closes the deal, if they are wavering or are undecided on
making a purchase."2 And, "two-thirds of consumers have made a purchase they weren't originally planning to make solely based on finding a coupon or discount," while " $80 \%$ [of consumers] said they feel encouraged to make a first-time purchase with a brand that is new to them if they found an offer or discount." ${ }^{3}$
48. Similarly, when consumers believe that an offer is expiring soon, the sense of urgency makes them more likely to buy a product. ${ }^{4}$
49. Thus, Defendant's advertisements harm consumers by inducing them to make purchases based on false information. In addition, by this same mechanism, Defendant's advertisements artificially increase consumer demand for Defendant's Products. This puts upward pressure on the prices that Defendant can charge for its Products. As a result, Defendant can charge a price premium for its Products, that it would not be able to charge absent the misrepresentations described above. So, due to Defendant's misrepresentations, Plaintiff and the class paid more for the Products they bought than they otherwise would have.

## D. Plaintiff was misled by Defendant's misrepresentations.

50. On June 8, 2020, Ms. Goldsmith purchased a Nolah Limited Edition 10" Queen Mattress, and Nolah Foam Pillows from Defendant's website, nolahmattress.com. She made this purchase while living in Joshua Tree, California.
51. At that time, Nolah was running a persistent sale that offered $25 \%$ off mattresses.
52. As shown above, when Ms. Goldsmith made her purchase, Defendant's website represented that purchasers would receive " $25 \%$ Off Limited Mattresses +2
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Free Pillows (\$198 Value) ...." This was confirmed in the online order summary that Defendant sent to Ms. Goldsmith after she made her purchase. In the order summary, Defendant represented that the Nolah Limited Edition 10" Queen Mattress had a regular price of $\$ 1,019.00$ (in strikethrough font), and that Ms. Goldsmith was receiving a discount of $\$ 254.75$ off. Defendant also represented that the pillows had a regular price of $\$ 198$ and that Ms. Goldsmith was receiving a discount of $\$ 198$ :

53. So, Defendant represented that the Products had a certain regular price and that Ms. Goldsmith was receiving a substantial discount for the items that she purchased.
54. Ms. Goldsmith read and relied on Defendant's representations on Defendant's website and online order summary, specifically that the Products were being offered at a discount for a limited time and had higher regular and usual prices, and that she would be receiving a price reduction by buying now. Based on Defendant's representations described and shown above, Ms. Goldsmith reasonably understood that the Products she was purchasing regularly (and before the promotion Defendant was advertising) retailed at the published list prices, that these published list prices were the market value of the Product that she was buying; that she was receiving the advertised discount and a price reduction as compared to the regular price, and that advertised discount was only available for a limited time (during the limited time promotion). She would not have made the purchase if she had known that the Products were not discounted as advertised, and that she was not receiving the advertised discount.
55. At the time that Plaintiff purchased the Products, she did not know that Defendant's sales were not real, that the discounts were fake, and that the sales were not ending soon. Nor did she have any reason to suspect that the sales were fake when she purchased the Products. Plaintiff did not discover Defendant's deception until February 2024, when she learned that Defendant's Products are always discounted, and that, as a result, she did not receive the sale she was promised.
56. Plaintiff faces an imminent threat of future harm. Plaintiff would purchase Nolah Products from Defendant again in the future if she could feel sure that Defendant's list prices accurately reflected Defendant's regular prices and former prices, and the market value of the Products, and that its discounts were truthful. But without an injunction, Plaintiff has no realistic way to know which-if any-of Defendant's list prices, discounts, and sales are not false or deceptive. For example, while she could watch a sale on the day that it is supposed to end to see if the sale is permanent, doing so could result in her missing out on the sale (e.g., if the sale is actually limited in time, and
not permanent). Accordingly, Plaintiff is unable to rely on Defendant's advertising in the future, and so cannot purchase the Products she would like to purchase.

## E. Defendant breached its contract with and warranties to Ms. Goldsmith and the putative class.

57. When Ms. Goldsmith and other members of the putative class purchased and paid for the Products they bought as described and shown above, they accepted offers that Defendant made, and thus, a contract was formed at the time that they made a purchase. The offer was to provide Products having a particular listed regular price and market value, and to provide those Products at the discounted price advertised on the website.
58. Defendant's website and order summary list the market value of the items that Defendant promised to provide. Defendant agreed to provide a discount equal to the difference between the regular price listed by Defendant, and the price paid by Ms. Goldsmith and putative class members. For example, Defendant offered to provide Ms. Goldsmith a Nolah Limited Edition 10" Queen Mattress with a regular price and market value of $\$ 1,019.00$, for a discounted price of $\$ 764.25$ with the application of $25 \%$ discount $(\$ 254.75){ }^{5}$ Defendant also warranted that the regular price and market value of the Nolah Limited Edition 10" Queen Mattress that Ms. Goldsmith purchased was the amount it identified as the list price $(\$ 1,019.00)$ and warranted that Ms. Goldsmith was receiving a discount of $\$ 254.75$ for the $25 \%$ discount.
59. The regular price and market value of the items Ms. Goldsmith and the putative class members would receive, and the amount of the discount they would be provided off the regular price of the item, were specific and material terms of the contracts. They were also affirmations of fact about the Products and a promise relating to the goods.
${ }^{5}$ Plaintiff received a further discount of $\$ 91.71$ for opting out of the 120-day trial period, for a final product price of $\$ 672.54$.
60. Ms. Goldsmith and other members of the putative class performed their obligations under the contracts by paying for the items they purchased.
61. Defendant breached its contract by failing to provide Ms. Goldsmith and other members of the putative class with Products that have a regular price and market value equal to the regular price displayed, and by failing to provide the discount it promised. Defendant also breached warranties for the same reasons.

## F. No adequate remedy at law.

62. Plaintiff seeks damages and, in the alternative, restitution. Plaintiff is permitted to seek equitable remedies in the alternative because she has no adequate remedy at law.
63. A legal remedy is not adequate if it is not as certain as an equitable remedy. The elements of Plaintiff's equitable claims are different and do not require the same showings as Plaintiff's legal claims. For example, Plaintiffs FAL claim under section 17501 (an equitable claim) is predicated on a specific statutory provision, which prohibits advertising merchandise using a former price if that price was not the prevailing market price within the past three months. Cal. Bus. \& Prof. Code § 17501. Plaintiff may be able to prove these more straightforward factual elements, and thus prevail under the FAL, while not being able to prove one or more elements of her legal claims.
64. In addition, to obtain a full refund as damages, Plaintiff must show that the Products she bought has essentially no market value. In contrast, Plaintiff can seek restitution without making this showing. This is because Plaintiff purchased Products that she would not otherwise have purchased, but for Defendant's representations. Obtaining a full refund at law is less certain that obtaining a refund in equity.
65. Furthermore, the remedies at law available to Plaintiff are not equally prompt or otherwise efficient. The need to schedule a jury trial may result in delay. And a jury trial will take longer, and be more expensive, than a bench trial.

## V. Class action allegations.

66. Plaintiff brings the asserted claims on behalf of the proposed class of:

- Nationwide Class: all persons who, within the applicable statute of limitations period, purchased one or more Nolah Products advertised at a discount on Defendant's website.
- California Subclass: all persons who, while in the state of California and within the applicable statute of limitations period, purchased one or more Nolah Products advertised at a discount on Defendant's website.

67. The following people are excluded from the class: (1) any Judge or Magistrate Judge presiding over this action and the members of their family; (2) Defendant, Defendant's subsidiaries, parents, successors, predecessors, and any entity in which the Defendant or its parents have a controlling interest and their current 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) Plaintiffs counsel and Defendant's counsel, and their experts and consultants; and (6) the legal representatives, successors, and assigns of any such excluded persons.

## Numerosity \& Ascertainability

68. The proposed class contains members so numerous that separate joinder of each member of the class is impractical. There are tens or hundreds of thousands of class members.
69. Class members can be identified through Defendant's sales records and public notice.

## Predominance of Common Questions

70. There are questions of law and fact common to the proposed class. Common questions of law and fact include, without limitation:
(1) whether Defendant made false or misleading statements of fact in its advertisements;
(2) whether Defendant violated California's consumer protection statutes;
(3) whether Defendant committed a breach of contract;
(4) whether Defendant committed a breach of an express warranty;
(5) damages needed to reasonably compensate Plaintiff and the proposed class.

## Typicality \& Adequacy

71. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the proposed class. Like the proposed class, Plaintiff purchased the Nolah Products advertised at a discount from Defendant. There are no conflicts of interest between Plaintiff and the class.

## Superiority

72. A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this litigation because individual litigation of each claim is impractical. It would be unduly burdensome to have individual litigation of millions of individual claims in separate lawsuits, every one of which would present the issues presented in this lawsuit.

## VI. Claims.

## First Cause of Action:

## Violation of California’s False Advertising Law Bus. \& Prof. Code $\mathbb{\int} 17500$ \&

 17501 et. seq.(By Plaintiff and the California Subclass)
73. Plaintiff incorporates each and every factual allegation set forth above.
74. Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of herself and members of the California Subclass.
75. Defendant has violated sections 17500 and 17501 of the Business and Professions Code.
76. Defendant has violated, and continues to violate, section 17500 of the Business and Professions Code by disseminating untrue and misleading advertisements to Plaintiff and subclass members.
77. As alleged more fully above, Defendant advertises steep discounts on its Products. Defendant does this, for example, by offering "\$X" or "X\%" off, by running these discounts in perpetuity while prominently representing that the discounts will
expire after the countdown clock runs out, and by identifying the supposed savings that customers are supposedly receiving by using list prices in strikethrough font by lower, purported discount prices, during checkout.
78. Furthermore, Defendant advertises former prices along with discounts. Defendant does this, for example, by crossing out a higher price (e.g., \$1019.00) and displaying it by a lower, discounted price. Reasonable consumers would understand prices denoted as regular prices from which time-limited discounts are calculated to denote "former" prices, i.e., the prices that Defendant charged before the time-limited discount went into effect.
79. The prices advertised by Defendant are not Defendant's regular prices. In fact, those prices are never Defendant's regular prices (i.e., the price you usually have to pay to get the product in question), because there is always a heavily-advertised promotion ongoing entitling consumers to a discount. Moreover, for the same reasons, those prices were not the former prices of the Products. Accordingly, Defendant's statements about the former prices of its Products, and its statements about its discounts from those former prices, were untrue and misleading. In addition, Defendant's statements that its discounts are time-limited for a certain time period are false and misleading too.
80. In addition, Defendant has violated, and continues to violate, section 17501 of the Business and Professions Code by advertising former prices that were not the prevailing market price within three months next immediately preceding the advertising. As explained above, Defendant's advertised regular prices, which reasonable consumers would understand to denote former prices, were not the prevailing market prices for the Products within three months preceding publication of the advertisement. And Defendant's former price advertisements do not state clearly, exactly, and conspicuously when, if ever, the former prices prevailed. Defendant's advertisements do not indicate whether or when the purported former prices were offered at all.
81. Defendant's misrepresentations were intended to induce reliance, and Plaintiff saw, read, and reasonably relied on the statements when purchasing Nolah Products. Defendant's misrepresentations were a substantial factor in Plaintiff's purchase decision.
82. In addition, subclass-wide reliance can be inferred because Defendant's misrepresentations were material, i.e., a reasonable consumer would consider them important in deciding whether to buy the Nolah Products.
83. Defendant's misrepresentations were a substantial factor and proximate cause in causing damages and losses to Plaintiff and the subclass.
84. Plaintiff and the subclass were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct because (a) they would not have purchased Nolah Products if they had known the truth, and/or (b) they overpaid for the Products because the Nolah Products were sold at a price premium due to the misrepresentations.

## Second Cause of Action:

## Violation of California's Consumer Legal Remedies Act <br> (by Plaintiff and the California Subclass)

85. Plaintiff incorporates each and every factual allegation set forth above.
86. Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of herself and members of the California Subclass.
87. Plaintiff and the subclass are "consumers," as the term is defined by California Civil Code $\S 1761(\mathrm{~d})$.
88. Plaintiff and the subclass have engaged in "transactions" with Defendant as that term is defined by California Civil Code $\$ 1761$ (e).
89. The conduct alleged in this Complaint constitutes unfair methods of competition and unfair and deceptive acts and practices for the purpose of the CLRA, and the conduct was undertaken by Defendant in transactions intended to result in, and which did result in, the sale of goods to consumers.
90. As alleged more fully above, Defendant made and disseminated untrue and misleading statements of facts in its advertisements to subclass members. Defendant did this by using fake regular prices, i.e., regular prices that are not the prevailing prices, and by advertising fake discounts.
91. Defendant violated, and continues to violate, section 1770 of the California Civil Code.
92. Defendant violated, and continues to violate, section 1770(a)(5) of the California Civil Code by representing that Products offered for sale have characteristics or benefits that they do not have. Defendant represents that the value of its Products is greater than it actually is by advertising inflated regular prices and fake discounts for Products.
93. Defendant violated, and continues to violate, section 1770(a)(9) of the California Civil Code. Defendant violates this by advertising its Products as being offered at a discount, when in fact Defendant does not intend to sell the Products at a discount.
94. And Defendant violated, and continues to violate section 1770(a)(13) by making false or misleading statements of fact concerning reasons for, existence of, or amounts of, price reductions on its website, including by (1) misrepresenting the regular price of Products on its website, (2) advertising discounts and savings that are exaggerated or nonexistent, (3) misrepresenting that the discounts and savings are unusually large, when in fact they are regularly available, and (4) misrepresenting the reason for the sale (e.g., "Memorial Day Sale," when in fact the sale is ongoing and not limited to Memorial Day).
95. Defendant's representations were likely to deceive, and did deceive, Plaintiff and reasonable consumers. Defendant knew, or should have known through the exercise of reasonable care, that these statements were inaccurate and misleading.
96. Defendant's misrepresentations were intended to induce reliance, and Plaintiff saw, read, and reasonably relied on them when purchasing Nolah Products. Defendant's misrepresentations were a substantial factor in Plaintiffs purchase decision.
97. In addition, subclass-wide reliance can be inferred because Defendant's misrepresentations were material, i.e., a reasonable consumer would consider them important in deciding whether to buy the Nolah Products.
98. Defendant's misrepresentations were a substantial factor and proximate cause in causing damages and losses to Plaintiff and the subclass.
99. Plaintiff and the subclass were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct because (a) they would not have purchased Nolah Products if they had known the discounts and/or regular prices were not real, (b) they overpaid for the Products because the Products were sold at a price premium due to the misrepresentation, and/or (c) they received products with market values lower than the promised market values.
100. Accordingly, pursuant to California Civil Code $§ 1780(a)(2)$, Ms. Goldsmith, on behalf of herself and all other members of the subclass, seeks injunctive relief.
101. CLRA § 1782 NOTICE. On February 29, 2024, a CLRA demand letter was sent to Defendant's Arizona headquarters and registered agent via certified mail (return receipt requested), that provided notice of Defendant's violations of the CLRA and demanded that Defendant correct the unlawful, unfair, false and/or deceptive practices alleged here. Defendant does not have a California headquarters. If Defendant does not fully correct the problem for Plaintiff and for each member of the California Subclass within 30 days of receipt, Plaintiff and the California Subclass will seek all monetary relief allowed under the CLRA.
102. A CLRA venue declaration is attached.

## Third Cause of Action:

## Violation of California's Unfair Competition Law

## (by Plaintiff and the California Subclass)

103. Plaintiff incorporates each and every factual allegation set forth above.
104. Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of herself and members of the California Subclass.
105. Defendant has violated California's Unfair Competition Law (UCL) by engaging in unlawful, fraudulent, and unfair conduct (i.e., violating each of the three prongs of the UCL).

## The Unlawful Prong

106. Defendant engaged in unlawful conduct by violating the CLRA and FAL, as alleged above and incorporated here. In addition, Defendant engaged in unlawful conduct by violating the FTCA. The FTCA prohibits "unfair or deceptive acts or practices in or affecting commerce" and prohibits the dissemination of false advertisements. 15 U.S.C. $\S 45(\mathrm{a})(1)$. As the FTC's regulations make clear, Defendant's false pricing schemes violate the FTCA. 16 C.F.R. $\S 233.1, \S 233.2$.

## The Deceptive Prong

107. As alleged in detail above, Defendant's representations that its Products were on sale, that the sale was limited in time, that the Products had a specific regular price, and that the customers were receiving discounts were false and misleading.
108. Defendant's representations were misleading to Plaintiff and other reasonable consumers.
109. Plaintiff relied upon Defendant's misleading representations and omissions, as detailed above.

## The Unfair Prong

110. As alleged in detail above, Defendant committed "unfair" acts by falsely advertising that its Products were on sale, that the sale was limited in time, that the Products had a specific regular price, and that the customers were receiving discounts.
111. Defendant violated established public policy by violating the CLRA, the FAL, and the FTCA, as alleged above and incorporated here. The unfairness of this practice is tethered to a legislatively declared policy (that of the CLRA, the FAL, and the FTCA).
112. The harm to Plaintiff and the subclass greatly outweighs the public utility of Defendant's conduct. There is no public utility to misrepresenting the price of a consumer product. This injury was not outweighed by any countervailing benefits to consumers or competition. Misleading consumer products only injure healthy competition and harm consumers.
113. Plaintiff and the subclass could not have reasonably avoided this injury. As alleged above, Defendant's representations were deceptive to reasonable consumers like Plaintiff.
114. Defendant's conduct, as alleged above, was immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous, and substantially injurious to consumers.
115. For all prongs, Defendant's representations were intended to induce reliance, and Plaintiff saw, read, and reasonably relied on them when purchasing Nolah Products. Defendant's representations were a substantial factor in Plaintiff's purchase decision.
116. In addition, subclass-wide reliance can be inferred because Defendant's representations were material, i.e., a reasonable consumer would consider them important in deciding whether to buy Nolah Products.
117. Defendant's representations were a substantial factor and proximate cause in causing damages and losses to Plaintiff and the subclass members.
118. Plaintiff and the subclass were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct because (a) they would not have purchased the Nolah Products if they had known that they were not discounted, and/or (b) they overpaid for the Products because the Products were sold at the regular price and not at a discount.

## Fourth Cause of Action:

Breach of Contract
(by Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class)
119. Plaintiff incorporates each and every factual allegation set forth above.
120. Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of herself and the Nationwide Class. In the alternative, Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of herself and the California Subclass.
121. Plaintiff and class members entered into contracts with Defendant when they placed orders to purchase Products on Defendant's website.
122. The contracts provided that Plaintiff and class members would pay Defendant for the Products purchased.
123. The contracts further required that Defendant provides Plaintiff and class members with Products that have a market value equal to the regular prices displayed on the website. They also required that Defendant provide Plaintiff and class members with a discount equal to the difference between the price paid, and the regular prices advertised. These were specific and material terms of the contract.
124. The specific discounts were a specific and material term of each contract.
125. Plaintiff and class members paid Defendant for the Products they purchased, and satisfied all other conditions of their contracts.
126. Defendant breached its contracts with Plaintiff and class members by failing to provide Products that had a regular price, former price, and/or prevailing market value equal to the regular price displayed on its website, and by failing to provide the promised discount. Defendant did not provide the discount that it had promised.
127. Plaintiff provided Defendant with notice of this breach of contract, by mailing a notice letter to Defendant's headquarters and registered agent, on February 29, 2024.
128. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's breaches, Plaintiff and class members were deprived of the benefit of their bargained-for exchange, and have suffered damages in an amount to be established at trial.

## Fifth Cause of Action:

## Breach of Express Warranty

(by Plaintiff and the California Subclass)
129. Plaintiff incorporates each and every factual allegation set forth above.
130. Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of herself and members of the California Subclass.
131. Defendant, as the manufacturer, marketer, distributor, supplier, and/or seller of the Nolah Products, issued material, written warranties by advertising that the Products had a prevailing market value equal to the regular price displayed on Defendant's website. This was an affirmation of fact about the Products (i.e., a representation about the market value) and a promise relating to the goods.
132. This warranty was part of the basis of the bargain and Plaintiff and members of the subclass relied on this warranty.
133. In fact, the Nolah Products' stated market value was not the prevailing market value. Thus, the warranty was breached.
134. Plaintiff provided Defendant with notice of this breach of warranty, by mailing a notice letter to Defendant's headquarters and registered agent, on February 29, 2024.
135. Plaintiff and the subclass were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's breach, and this breach was a substantial factor in causing harm, because (a) they would not have purchased Nolah Products if they had known that the warranty was false, or (b) they overpaid for the Products because the Products were sold at a price premium due to the warranty.

## Sixth Cause of Action: <br> Quasi-Contract/Unjust Enrichment (by Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class)

136. Plaintiff incorporates each and every factual allegation in paragraphs 1-56, 62-72 above.
137. Plaintiff brings this cause of action in the alternative to her Breach of Contract claim (Claim IV) on behalf of herself and the Nationwide Class. In the alternative, Plaintiff brings this claim on behalf of herself and the California Subclass.
138. As alleged in detail above, Defendant's false and misleading advertising caused Plaintiff and the class to purchase Nolah Products and to pay a price premium for these Products.
139. In this way, Defendant received a direct and unjust benefit, at Plaintiff's expense.
140. (In the alternative only), due to Defendant's misrepresentations, its contracts with Plaintiff and other class members are void or voidable.
141. Plaintiff and the class seek restitution, and in the alternative, rescission.

## Seventh Cause of Action:

## Negligent Misrepresentation

## (by Plaintiff and the California Subclass)

142. Plaintiff incorporates each and every factual allegation set forth above.
143. Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of herself and members of the California Subclass.
144. As alleged more fully above, Defendant made false representations and material omissions of fact to Plaintiff and subclass members concerning the existence and/or nature of the discounts and savings advertised.
145. These representations were false.
146. When Defendant made these misrepresentations, it knew or should have known that they were false. Defendant had no reasonable grounds for believing that these representations were true when made.
147. Defendant intended that Plaintiff and subclass members rely on these representations and Plaintiff and subclass members read and reasonably relied on them.
148. In addition, subclass-wide reliance can be inferred because Defendant's misrepresentations were material, i.e., a reasonable consumer would consider them important in deciding whether to buy the Nolah Products.
149. Defendant's misrepresentations were a substantial factor and proximate cause in causing damages and losses to Plaintiff and subclass members.
150. Plaintiff and subclass members were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct because (a) they would not have purchased Nolah Products if they had known that the representations were false, and/or (b) they overpaid for the Products because the Products were sold at a price premium due to the misrepresentation.

## Eighth Cause of Action:

Intentional Misrepresentation

## (by Plaintiff and the California Subclass)

151. Plaintiff incorporates each and every factual allegation set forth above.
152. Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of herself and members of the California Subclass.
153. As alleged more fully above, Defendant made false representations and material omissions of fact to Plaintiff and subclass members concerning the existence and/or nature of the discounts and savings advertised.
154. These representations were false.
155. When Defendant made these misrepresentations, it knew that they were false at the time that it made them and/or acted recklessly in making the misrepresentations.
156. Defendant intended that Plaintiff and subclass members rely on these representations and Plaintiff and subclass members read and reasonably relied on them.
157. In addition, subclass-wide reliance can be inferred because Defendant's misrepresentations were material, i.e., a reasonable consumer would consider them important in deciding whether to buy the Nolah Products.
158. Defendant's misrepresentations were a substantial factor and proximate cause in causing damages and losses to Plaintiff and subclass members.
159. Plaintiff and subclass members were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct because (a) they would not have purchased Nolah Products if they had known that the representations were false, and/or (b) they overpaid for the Products because the Products were sold at a price premium due to the misrepresentation.

## VII. Relief.

160. Plaintiff seeks the following relief for herself and the proposed class:

- An order certifying the asserted claims, or issues raised, as a class action;
- A judgment in favor of Plaintiff and the proposed class;
- Damages, treble damages, and punitive damages where applicable;
- Restitution;
- Rescission;
- Disgorgement, and other just equitable relief;
- Pre- and post-judgment interest;
- An injunction prohibiting Defendant's deceptive conduct, as allowed by law;
- Reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, as allowed by law;
- Any additional relief that the Court deems reasonable and just.


## VIII. Demand for Jury Trial.

161. Plaintiff demands the right to a jury trial on all claims so triable.

Dated: March 5, 2024
Respectfully submitted, By: /s/ Christin Cho Christin Cho (Cal. Bar No. 238173) christin@dovel.com Simon Franzini (Cal. Bar No. 287631) simon@dovel.com Grace Bennett (Cal. Bar No. 345948) grace@dovel.com DOVEL \& LUNER, LLP
201 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 600
Santa Monica, California 90401
Telephone: (310) 656-7066
Facsimile: (310) 656-7069
Attorneys for Plaintiff


[^0]:    ${ }^{2}$ https://www.invespcro.com/blog/how-discounts-affect-online-consumer-buying-behavior/.
    ${ }^{3}$ RetailMeNot Survey: Deals and Promotional Offers Drive Incremental Purchases Online, Especially Among Millennial Buyers (prnewswire.com).
    ${ }^{4}$ https://cxl.com/blog/creating-urgency/ (addition of a countdown timer increased conversion rates from $3.4 \%-10 \%$ ); Dynamic email content leads to $400 \%$ increase in conversions for Black Friday email \| Adestra (uplandsoftware.com) (400\% higher conversation rate for ad with countdown timer).

