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# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 

JUAN PLATA, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,
v.

LANDS' END, INC.,

Defendant.

Case No. 5:24-cv-00723
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 $\ldots$ unless the alleged former price was the prevailing market price $\ldots$ within three months next immediately preceding" the advertising. Cal. Bus. \& Prof. Code $\S 17501$. 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. § 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.
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 Lands' End, Inc. ("Defendant" or "Lands' End") sells and markets clothing, shoes, and accessory products ("Lands' End Products" or "Products").
9. Defendant lists purported regular prices and advertises purported "limited time" discounts from those regular prices. These include discounts offering "up to X $\%$ off" that allegedly are only valid through a certain date. These discounts are made available by using a discount code, such as "CLOUDS" or are automatically applied to the Products sitewide. 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. Examples are shown below:


RECEIVE UP TO 60\% OFF YOUR ORDER!

Savings reflected at checkout when you enter.
Promotion Code: CLOUDS

Receive up to $60 \%$ off your order online, in-store or by phone (excludes buy more and save pricing, monogramming, gift boxing, gift cards, shipping, taxes, duties, Lands' End Business Outfitters purchases, and excluded items as marked). Specific discounts vary between styles, colors and if shipped directly from manufacturer. Promotions and products may vary in-store. Prices as marked in-store. Excludes clearance in-store. Discount will be applied at checkout. This offer has no cash value. Promotional savings may be deducted from returns. 5-7 business day delivery to most addresses. Free standard shipping is valid on orders of $\$ 99$ or more (after promotions and discounts are applied) shipped to US and Canada addresses only. Offer valid through 11:59 p.m. Central, January 18, 2023. Not valid on previous purchases or when combined with any other promotional offers.

Offer valid through 11:59 p.m. Central, January 18, 2023.

10. Far from being time-limited, however, Defendant's discounts are constantly available. As a result, everything about Defendant's price and purported discount advertising is false. The regular prices Defendant advertises are not actually Defendant's regular prices, because Defendant's Products are consistently 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. Nor are the purported discounts limited in time or expiring soon-quite the opposite, they are consistently available.
11. As described in greater detail below, Mr. Plata bought items from Defendant from its website, www.landsend.com. When Mr. Plata made his purchase, Defendant advertised that a sale was going on, and so Defendant represented that the Products Mr. Plata purchased were being offered at a steep discount from their purported regular prices that Defendant advertised. And based on Defendant's representations, Mr. Plata believed that he was purchasing Products whose regular price and market value were the purported regular price that Defendant advertised, that he was receiving a substantial discount, and that the opportunity to get that discount was timelimited. These reasonable beliefs are what caused Mr. Plata to buy from Defendant when he did.
12. In truth, however, the representations Mr. Plata relied on were not true. The purported regular prices were not the true regular prices, the purported "discounts" were not the true discounts, and the discounts were ongoing-not time-limited. Had Defendant been truthful, Mr. Plata and other consumers like him would not have purchased the Products, or would have paid less for them.
13. Plaintiff brings this case for himself and the other customers who purchased Lands' End Products.

## II. Parties

14. Plaintiff Juan Plata is domiciled in Ontario, California.
15. The proposed class includes citizens of every state.
16. Defendant Lands' End, Inc. is a Delaware company with its principal place of business at 1 Lands' End Lane, Dodgeville, WI 53595.

## 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. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant sold Lands' End Products to consumers in California, including to Plaintiff.
19. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391 (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, given that Defendant sold Lands' End Products to consumers in this District, including Plaintiff. Venue is also proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial part of Defendant's conduct giving rise to the claims occurred in this District, including Defendant's sale to Plaintiff.

## IV. Facts.

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

20. Defendant Lands' End manufactures, distributes, markets, and sells clothing, shoes, and accessory products.
21. Defendant creates the false impression that its Products' regular prices are higher than they truly are.
22. Defendant persistently advertises steep discounts on its Products. These discounts offer "X\%" off the regular prices Defendant advertises. Even though in truth these discounts run in perpetuity, Defendant claims they are only valid through a certain time and date. And it advertises these discounts extensively: on an attention-grabbing banners; on products listing pages, next to images of each Product; on the individual product pages for each Product, and during checkout. Example screenshots are provided on the following pages:

Captured on March 4, 2022

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Captured on June 2, 2022


Captured October 26, 2022


Captured December 24, 2022

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Captured on March 16, 2023


Captured on September 14, 2023


Captured on November 20, 2023


Captured on September 12, 2023



Captured on March 27, 2024

```
Receive up to 60% off your order!
    code: PORT DETAIIS
```



Women's Supima Cotton Short Sleeve Polo Shirt
Shop all Lands' End
$\$ 44.95$ \$22.47-\$35.96
PROMO APPLIED! (\%)
Pay in 4 interest-free payments of $\$ 8.99$. Leam more


Writea Revien


AlB Makeit Personal (3)

(9) Check In-Store Availability

Captured on March 28, 2023


Captured on March 27, 2024


Women's Supima Cotton Polo
Shop all Lands' End
$\$ 39.95$ \$16.97-\$36.97
\$8.48-\$18.48 WITH CODE: COLORFUL C
click teacelv,premotion
Pay in 4 interest-tree payments on purchases of $530-51,500$. Leammere

COLOR. WHITE/MUTED BLUE DITSY FLORAL

*太**t 47 (16601 WriteaReview
REGULAR PETITE TALL


Captured on March 28, 2024
23. 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 on a particular date, for example: "Offer valid through 11:59 p.m. Central, June 21, 2022." To reasonable consumers, this means that after the specified date, Defendant's Products will no longer be on sale and will retail at their purported regular price. But immediately after each purportedly time-limited sale ends, Defendant generates another similar discount, with a new expiration date.
24. For example, on June 15, 2022, Defendant advertised a purportedly timelimited sale that was "valid through 11:59 p.m. Central, June 21, 2022."

RECEIVE UP TO 70\% OFF YOUR ORDER!

Savings reflected at checkout when you enter. Promotion Code: FRESH

Receive up to $70 \%$ off your order online, in-store or by phone (excludes buy more and save pricing, monogramming, gift boxing, gift cards, shipping, taxes, duties, Lands' End Business Outfitters purchases, and excluded items as marked). Specific discounts vary between styles, colors and if shipped directly from manufacturer. Promotions and products may vary instore. Prices as marked in-store. Excludes clearance in-store. Discount will be applied at checkout. This offer has no cash value. Promotional savings may be deducted from returns. 5-7 business day delivery to most addresses. Free standard shipping is valid on orders of $\$ 99$ or more (after promotions and discounts are applied) shipped to US and Canada addresses only. Offer valid through 11:59 p.m. Central, June 21, 2022.Not valid on previous purchases or when combined with any other promotional offers.

Captured on June 15, 2022
25. However, on June 23, 2022, just two days after the time-limited sale was supposed to have ended, Defendant advertised the exact same sale with a new expiration date, June 30, 2022.

## UP TO 70\% OFF YOUR ORDER

Savings reflected at checkout when you enter.
Promotion Code: CABIN

Receive up to $70 \%$ off your order online, in-store or by phone (excludes buy more and save pricing, monogramming, gift boxing, gift cards, shipping, taxes, duties, Lands' End Business Outfitters purchases, and excluded items as marked). Specific discounts vary between styles, colors and if shipped directly from manufacturer. Promotions and products may vary instore. Prices as marked in-store. Excludes clearance in-store. Discount will be applied at checkout. This offer has no cash value. Promotional savings may be deducted from returns. 5-7 business day delivery to most addresses. Free standard shipping is valid on orders of $\$ 99$ or more (after promotions and discounts are applied) shipped to US and Canada addresses only. Offer valid through 11:59 p.m. Central, June 30, 2022.Not valid on previous purchases or when combined with any other promotional offers.
26. To confirm that Defendant consistently offers discounts off of 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). ${ }^{1}$ Defendant's sales have persisted for years.
27. 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 . 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.
28. Based on Defendant's advertisements, reasonable consumers reasonably believe that the regular prices Defendant advertises are Defendant's 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 reasonably believe that the regular prices Defendant advertises represent the amount that consumers formerly had to pay for Defendant's goods, before the limited-time sale began. Said differently, reasonable consumers reasonably believe that, prior to the supposedly time-limited sale, consumers had to pay the regular price to get the item and did not have the opportunity to get a discount from that regular price.
29. Reasonable consumers also reasonably believe that the regular prices Defendant advertises represent the true market value of the Products, and are the prevailing prices for those Products; and that they are receiving reductions from those regular prices in the amounts advertised. In truth, however, Defendant persistently offers discounts off the purportedly regular prices it advertises. As a result, everything about Defendant's price and purported discount advertising is false. The regular 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
${ }^{1}$ The Internet Archive, available at archive.org, is a library that archives web pages. https://archive.org/about/
value for the Products, because Defendant's Products are consistently 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, and are often not a discount at all. Nor are the purported discounts limited in time or expiring soon-quite the opposite, they are consistently available.

## B. Defendant's advertisements are unfair, deceptive, and unlawful.

30. 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.
31. 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 $\ldots$ within three months next immediately preceding" the advertising. Cal. Bus. \& Prof. Code § 17501.
32. 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).
33. 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.
34. And finally, California's unfair competition law bans unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business practices. See Cal. Bus. \& Prof. Code $\S 17200$.
35. 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.

36. Based on Defendant's advertisements, reasonable consumers 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.
37. Reasonable consumers 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.
38. 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.
39. 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 " $80 \%$
${ }^{2}$ https://www.invespcro.com/blog/how-discounts-affect-online-consumer-buying-behavior/.
[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." ${ }^{3}$
40. Similarly, when consumers believe that an offer is expiring soon, the sense of urgency makes them more likely to buy a product. ${ }^{4}$
41. 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.

42. On November 16, 2022, Mr. Plata purchased various items including, a "Men's Short Sleeve Cotton Linen Tee," a pair of "Men's Straight Fit Comfort-First Knockabout Chino Pants," a "Men's Squall Waterproof Winter Hat," a "Men's Regular Custom Embroidered Sweater Fleece Vest," a pair of "Men's Ultralight Slippers," and a "Men’s Sweater Fleece Shirt Jacket" from Defendant's website. He made this purchase while living in Ontario, California.
43. On November 16, 2022, Defendant represented on its website that a timelimited, "Receive up to $70 \%$ off your order" sitewide sale was running, which continued through the date of Mr. Plata's purchase until "11:59 p.m. Central, November 23, 2022," and that the sale applied to Mr. Plata's order:
[^0]
## RECEIVE UP TO 70\% OFF YOUR ORDER!

Savings reflected at checkout when you enter.
Promotion Code: SWEET

Receive up to $70 \%$ off your order online, in-store or by phone (excludes buy more and save pricing, monogramming, gift boxing, gift cards, shipping, taxes, duties, Lands' End Business Outfitters purchases, and excluded items as marked). Specific discounts vary between styles, colors and if shipped directly from manufacturer. Promotions and products may vary instore. Prices as marked in-store. Excludes clearance in-store. Discount will be applied at checkout. This offer has no cash value. Promotional savings may be deducted from returns. 57 business day delivery to most addresses. Free standard shipping is valid on orders of $\$ 99$ or more (after promotions and discounts are applied) shipped to US and Canada addresses only. Offer valid through 11:59 p.m. Central, November 23, 2022. Not valid on previous purchases or when combined with any other promotional offers.
44. In the email order confirmation that Defendant sent to Mr. Plata, Defendant represented that the combined regular price of the 6 items purchased was $\$ 226.88$ plus tax, and that Mr. Plata was receiving a total discount of $\$ 127.27$ for the products that he purchased:

## ITEM

Men's Short Sleeve Cotton Linen Tee


Qty: 1
$\$ 23.97$ \$11.98

Item\# 529149-8M4

Size: L
Color: KHAKI

This item is in stock.

Subtotal \$226.88

Promotional Savings -\$127.27

Shipping
Sales Tax
ORDER TOTAL \$107.34
45. Defendant represented that the Products had a certain regular price and that Mr. Plata was receiving a substantial discount for the items that he purchased.
46. Mr. Plata read and relied on Defendant's representations on the website and email confirmation, specifically that the Products were being offered at a discount for a limited time and had the regular prices listed above. Based on Defendant's representations described and shown above, Mr. Plata reasonably understood that the Products he was purchasing regularly (and before the promotion Defendant was advertising) retailed at the published regular price, that this regular price was the market value of the Products that he was buying, that he was receiving the advertised discount as compared to the regular price, and that advertised discount was only available for a limited time (during the limited time promotion). He would not have made the purchase if he had known that the Products were not discounted as advertised, and that he was not receiving the advertised discount.
47. Plaintiff faces an imminent threat of future harm. Plaintiff would purchase Products from Defendant again in the future if he could feel sure that Defendant's regular prices accurately reflected Defendant's 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 regular prices, discounts, and sales are not false or deceptive. For example, while he could watch a sale until the countdown ends to see if the sale is permanent, doing so could result in him 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 Products he would like to purchase.

## E. Defendant breached its contract.

48. When Mr. Plata purchased and paid for the Lands' End Products he bought as described above, he accepted offers that Defendant made, and thus, a contract was formed at the time that he made a purchase. The offer was to provide Products having a particular listed regular price and market value, and to provide that Product at the discounted price advertised on the website.
49. Defendant's website and email confirmations list the market value of the items that Defendant promised to provide (which are shown above). Defendant agreed to provide a discount equal to the difference between the regular prices listed by Defendant, and the prices paid by Mr. Plata (also shown above). For example, Defendant offered to provide (among other things) the "Men's Sweater Fleece Shirt Jacket" with a market value of $\$ 49.97$, for a discounted price of $\$ 19.98$; and to provide a discount of \$29.99.
50. The regular price and market value of the items Mr. Plata would receive, and the amount of the discount he would be provided off the regular price of those items, were specific and material terms of the contract.
51. Mr. Plata performed his obligations under the contract by paying for the items he purchased.
52. Defendant breached its contract by failing to provide Mr. Plata 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.

## F. No adequate remedy at law.

53. Plaintiff seeks damages and, in the alternative, restitution. Plaintiff is permitted to seek equitable remedies in the alternative because he has no adequate remedy at law.
54. A legal remedy is not adequate if it is not as certain as an equitable remedy. The elements of Plaintiffs 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 his legal claims.
55. In addition, 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.

56. 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 Lands' End Products advertised at a discount.
- California Subclass: all persons who, while in the state of California and within the applicable statute of limitations period, purchased one or more Lands' End Products advertised at a discount.

57. 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) Plaintiff's 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

58. 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.
59. Class members can be identified through Defendant's sales records and public notice.

## Predominance of Common Questions

60. 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

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

## Superiority

62. 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 $\mathbb{S} 17500$ \& 17501 et. seq.

(By Plaintiff and the California Subclass)
63. Plaintiff incorporates each and every factual allegation set forth above.
64. Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of himself and members of the California Subclass.
65. Defendant has violated Sections 17500 and 17501 of the Business and Professions Code.
66. 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.
67. As alleged more fully above, Defendant advertises former prices along with discounts. Defendant does this, for example, by crossing out a higher price (e.g., \$49.97) and displaying it next to 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.
68. 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 consistently 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 "limited time" and only "valid" for a certain time period are false and misleading too.
69. 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.
70. Defendant's misrepresentations were intended to induce reliance, and Plaintiff saw, read, and reasonably relied on the statements when purchasing Lands' End Products. Defendant's misrepresentations were a substantial factor in Plaintiff's purchase decision.
71. 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 Lands' End Products.
72. Defendant's misrepresentations were a substantial factor and proximate cause in causing damages and losses to Plaintiff and the subclass.
73. Plaintiff and the subclass were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct because (a) they would not have purchased Lands' End Products if they had known the truth, and/or (b) they overpaid for the Products because the Lands’ End Products were sold at a price premium due to the misrepresentation.

## Second Cause of Action:

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

74. Plaintiff incorporates each and every factual allegation set forth above.
75. Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of himself and members of the California Subclass.
76. Plaintiff and the subclass are "consumers," as the term is defined by California Civil Code § 1761(d).
77. Plaintiff and the subclass have engaged in "transactions" with Defendant as that term is defined by California Civil Code $\S 1761$ (e).
78. 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.
79. 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.
80. Defendant violated, and continues to violate, section 1770 of the California Civil Code.
81. 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.
82. 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.
83. 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, including by (1) misrepresenting the regular price of Products, (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 (4) misrepresenting the reason for the sale (e.g., "Black Friday Sale," when in fact the sale is ongoing and not limited to Black Friday).
84. 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.
85. Defendant's misrepresentations were intended to induce reliance, and Plaintiff saw, read, and reasonably relied on them when purchasing Lands' End Products. Defendant's misrepresentations were a substantial factor in Plaintiff's purchase decision.
86. 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 Lands' End Products.
87. Defendant's misrepresentations were a substantial factor and proximate cause in causing damages and losses to Plaintiff and the subclass.
88. Plaintiff and the subclass were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct because (a) they would not have purchased Lands' End 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.
89. Accordingly, pursuant to California Civil Code § 1780(a)(2), Mr. Plata, on behalf of himself and all other members of the subclass, seeks injunctive relief.
90. CLRA 1782 NOTICE. On March 14, 2024, a CLRA demand was sent to Defendant's 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.
91. A CLRA venue declaration is attached.

## Third Cause of Action:

## Violation of California's Unfair Competition Law (by Plaintiff and the California Subclass)

92. Plaintiff incorporates each and every factual allegation set forth above.
93. Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of himself and members of the California Subclass.
94. 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

95. 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

96. 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.
97. Defendant's representations were misleading to Plaintiff and other reasonable consumers.
98. Plaintiff relied upon Defendant's misleading representations and omissions, as detailed above.

## The Unfair Prong

99. 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.
100. 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).
101. 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.
102. Plaintiff and the subclass could not have reasonably avoided this injury. As alleged above, Defendant's representations were deceptive to reasonable consumers like Plaintiff.
103. Defendant's conduct, as alleged above, was immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous, and substantially injurious to consumers.
104. For all prongs, Defendant's representations were intended to induce reliance, and Plaintiff saw, read, and reasonably relied on them when purchasing Lands' End Products. Defendant's representations were a substantial factor in Plaintiffs purchase decision.
105. 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 Lands' End Products.
106. Defendant's representations were a substantial factor and proximate cause in causing damages and losses to Plaintiff and the subclass members.
107. Plaintiff and the subclass were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct because (a) they would not have purchased the Lands' End

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)
108. Plaintiff incorporates each and every factual allegation set forth above.
109. Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of himself and the Nationwide Class. In the alternative, Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of himself and the California Subclass.
110. Plaintiff and class members entered into contracts with Defendant when they placed orders to purchase Products from Defendant.
111. The contracts provided that Plaintiff and class members would pay Defendant for the Products purchased.
112. The contracts further required that Defendant provides Plaintiff and class members with Products that have a market value equal to the regular prices advertised. 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.
113. The specific discounts were a specific and material term of each contract.
114. Plaintiff and class members paid Defendant for the Products they purchased, and satisfied all other conditions of their contracts.
115. 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 advertised, and by failing to provide the promised discount. Defendant did not provide the discount that it had promised.
116. Plaintiff provided Defendant with notice of this breach of contract, by mailing a notice letter to Defendant's headquarters, on March 14, 2024.
117. 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 Nationwide Class)
118. Plaintiff incorporates each and every factual allegation set forth above.
119. Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of himself and the Nationwide Class. In the alternative, Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of himself and the California Subclass.
120. Defendant, as the manufacturer, marketer, distributor, supplier, and/or seller of the Lands' End Products, issued material, written warranties by advertising that the Products had a prevailing market value equal to the regular price displayed. This was an affirmation of fact about the Products (i.e., a representation about the market value) and a promise relating to the goods.
121. This warranty was part of the basis of the bargain and Plaintiff and members of the class relied on this warranty.
122. In fact, the Lands' End Products' stated market value was not the prevailing market value. Thus, the warranty was breached.
123. Plaintiff provided Defendant with notice of this breach of warranty, by mailing a notice letter to Defendant's headquarters, on March 14, 2024.
124. Plaintiff and the class 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 Lands' End 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)

125. Plaintiff incorporates each and every factual allegation in paragraphs 1-47, 53-62 above.
126. Plaintiff brings this cause of action in the alternative to his Breach of Contract claim (Claim IV) on behalf of himself and the Nationwide Class. In the alternative, Plaintiff brings this claim on behalf of himself and the California Subclass.
127. As alleged in detail above, Defendant's false and misleading advertising caused Plaintiff and the class to purchase Lands' End Products and to pay a price premium for these Products.
128. In this way, Defendant received a direct and unjust benefit, at Plaintiff's expense.
129. (In the alternative only), due to Defendant's misrepresentations, its contracts with Plaintiff and other class members are voidable.

Plaintiff and the class seek restitution, and in the alternative, rescission.

## Seventh Cause of Action:

## Negligent Misrepresentation

## (by Plaintiff and the California Subclass)

130. Plaintiff incorporates each and every factual allegation set forth above.
131. Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of himself and members of the California Subclass.
132. 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.
133. These representations were false.
134. 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.
135. Defendant intended that Plaintiff and subclass members rely on these representations and Plaintiff and subclass members read and reasonably relied on them.
136. 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 Lands' End Products.
137. Defendant's misrepresentations were a substantial factor and proximate cause in causing damages and losses to Plaintiff and subclass members.
138. Plaintiff and subclass members were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct because (a) they would not have purchased Lands' End 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)
139. Plaintiff incorporates each and every factual allegation set forth above.
140. Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of himself and members of the California Subclass.
141. 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.
142. These representations were false.
143. 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.
144. Defendant intended that Plaintiff and subclass members rely on these representations and Plaintiff and subclass members read and reasonably relied on them.
145. 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 Lands' End Products.
146. Defendant's misrepresentations were a substantial factor and proximate cause in causing damages and losses to Plaintiff and subclass members.
147. Plaintiff and subclass members were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct because (a) they would not have purchased Lands' End 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.

148. Plaintiff seeks the following relief for himself 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.

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

Dated: April 5, 2024
Respectfully submitted, By: /s/ Simon Franzini
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[^0]:    ${ }^{3}$ 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).

