| | Case 5:24-cv-01894 Document 1-3 | Filed 09/05/24 Page 2 of 32 Page ID #:20 |
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| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 | 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 <i>Attorneys for Plaintiff</i> | ELECTRONICALLY FILED SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN BERNARDINO SAN BERNARDINO DISTRICT 7/11/2024 5:26 PM By: Deborah Nugent, DEPUTY |
| 9 | | F THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA F SAN BERNARDINO |
| 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 | BRYNN GROSSMAN, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, <i>Plaintiff</i> , vs. BROOKLYN BEDDING LLC, <i>Defendant</i> . | Case No. CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT JURY TRIAL DEMANDED 1. False Advertising Law 2. Unfair Competition Law 3. Consumer Legal Remedies Act 4. Quasi-Contract/Unjust Enrichment UNLIMITED CIVIL CASE |
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I. Introduction.

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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 madeup 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 ... 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).

In addition, California's Consumer Legal Remedies Act prohibits "advertising goods or 5. 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 Brooklyn Bedding LLC ("Defendant" or "Leesa") sells and markets mattresses and bedding products online through the Leesa brand and website, www.leesa.com ("Leesa Products" or "Products").

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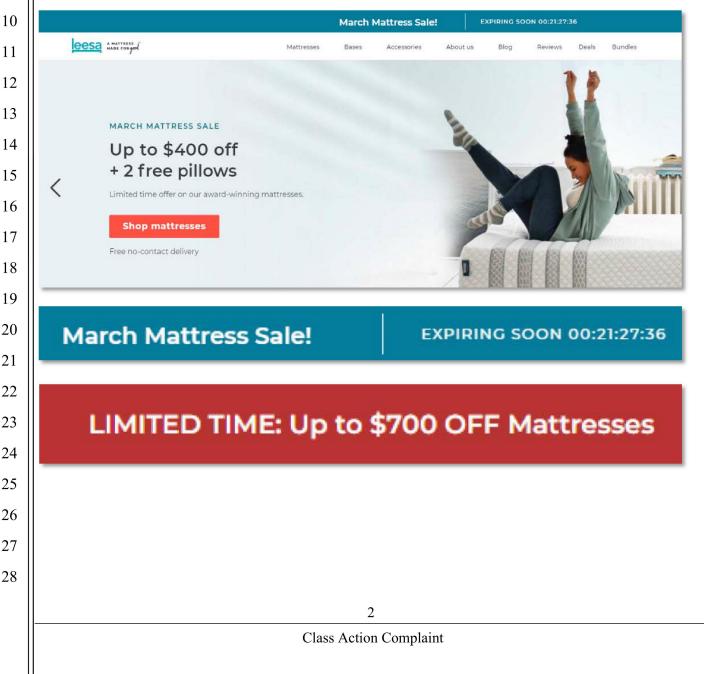
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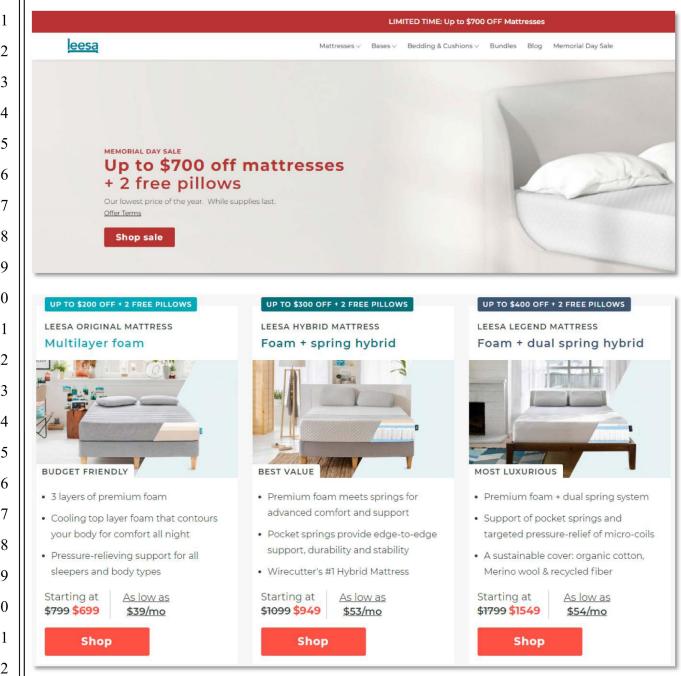
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9. On its website, Defendant lists purported regular prices and advertises purported
"Limited Time" discounts from those listed regular prices. These include "LIMITED TIME"
discounts offering "up to \$X off" and "X% off." Defendant uses countdown clocks 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. Examples are
shown below:





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 regular prices Defendant advertises are not actually Defendant's regular prices, 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. Nor are the purported discounts "LIMITED TIME" or "EXPIRING SOON"—quite the opposite, they are always available.

Class Action Complaint

11. As described in greater detail below, Ms. Grossman bought items from Defendant from its website, www.leesa.com. When Ms. Grossman made her purchase, Defendant advertised that a sale was going on, and so Defendant represented that the Products Ms. Grossman purchased were being offered at a steep discount from their purported regular prices that Defendant advertised. And based on Defendant's representations, Ms. Grossman believed that she was purchasing Products whose regular price and market value were the purported regular prices 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. Grossman to buy from Defendant when she did.

12. In truth, however, the representations Ms. Grossman relied on were not true. The purported regular prices were not the true regular prices that Defendant sells the products for, the purported discounts were not the true discounts, and the discounts were ongoing—not time-limited. Had Defendant been truthful, Ms. Grossman and other consumers like her would not have purchased the Products, or would have paid less for them.

13.Plaintiff brings this case for herself and the other customers who purchased LeesaProducts.

II. Parties

14. Plaintiff Brynn Grossman is domiciled in Joshua Tree, California.

15. The proposed class includes citizens of California.

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. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because Defendant sold Leesa Products to consumers in California, including to Plaintiff.

18. Venue is proper because Defendant does business in this county, Plaintiff resides in San Bernardino County, and a substantial portion of the transaction occurred in this county.

> 4 Class Action Complaint

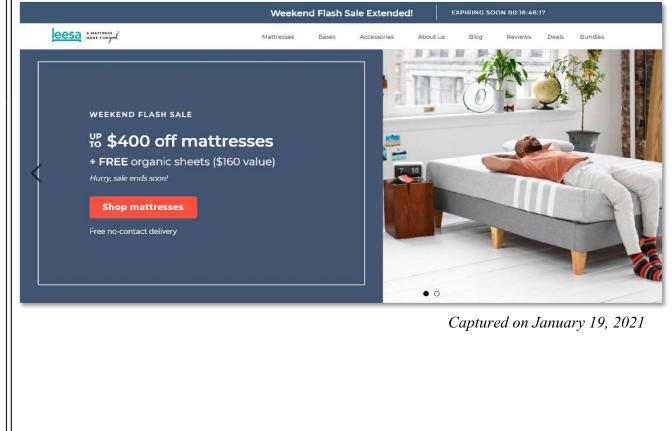
IV. Facts.

Defendant's fake prices and fake discounts. A.

19. Defendant Brooklyn Bedding manufactures, distributes, markets, and sells mattresses and bedding products. Defendant sells its Products directly to consumers through its website, www.leesa.com.

20. On its website, Defendant creates the false impression that its Products' regular prices are higher than they truly are.

21. At any given time, on its website, Defendant advertises steep discounts on its Products. These discounts always offer "X%" or "\$X" off the listed regular prices Defendant advertises. Even though in truth these discounts run in perpetuity, Defendant prominently claims they are "LIMITED TIME" or "EXPIRING SOON." And it advertises these discounts extensively: on an attentiongrabbing banner on every webpage of its website; in a large banner image on its homepage; on the 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:



| 1 | | Memorial D | Day Sale Early A | ccess! | EXPIRING SOO | N 00:20:04: | 34 | |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-----------|------------------------|
| 2 | leesa | Mattresses Base | es Accessories | Bundles I | Deals About | Blog | Reviews | Rewards |
| 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 | MEMORIAL DAY EARLY ACCESS SA Up to \$500 off ma Shop our exclusive limited time offers + red with mattress purchase. Shop mattresses Free no-contact delivery | ttresses | | | | | | 1 |
| | | | | | | 14 | 15 | 2021 |
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| 1 | leesa | Labor Day S Mattres | ale: Up to \$500 Of | | + 20% Off Bund | | | DN 00:16:27:41 Blog |
| 2 | leesa | Mattres | ises∨ Bases∨ E | seading & cush | ions V Bunale | s Labor De | ay sale 1 | Biog |
| 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 | LABOR DAY SALE Up to \$500 off m Celebrate the pursuit of rest this Labor Da get 2 free pillows.* Shop mattresses -Details | | | | | | | |
| D | | | | C | aptured o | on Sept | tembe | er 4, 2021 |
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| | | Class Act | tion Compla | int | | | | |
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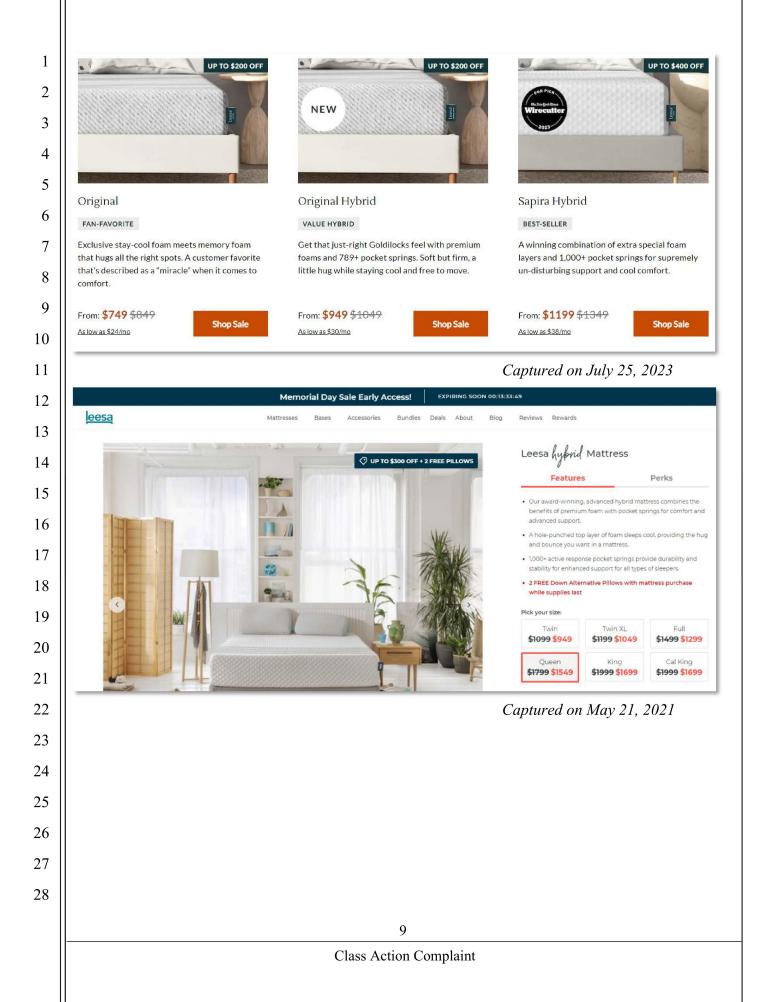
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| | Extended Presidents Day Sale: Up to \$500 Off Mattresses EXPIRING SOON |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| leesa | Mattresses 🗸 Bases 🗸 Bedding & Cushions 🗸 Bundles Presidents Day Sale Blog |
| | off mattresses |
| | Captured on February 25, 2022 |
| | Up to \$700 off mattresses + 2 free pillows EXPIRING SOON 02:17:35:25 |
| Leesa | $Mattresses \lor Bases \lor Bedding \lor Blog 4th \text{ of July Sale}$ |
| Up to \$700 off matter + 2 free pillows (\$12 Meticulously designed mattresses for better sl Shop sale | 20 value) |
| | Captured on June 17, 2022 |

| | | Cyber Monday Sale Extended – Save up to \$820 Limited Time Deals that Sleigh on Bedding | |
|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Leesa | Mattresses ~ Bas | es ∨ Bedding ∨ Blog Financing C | Cyber Monday Deals |
| | | | |
| | | + | |
| | | | |
| | CYBER MONDAY SALE | | · |
| | Save up to \$820! \$700 off Select Mattresses + 2 Free Pillows (\$120 Value) <u>Terms</u> | | |
| | Shop Sale | | |
| | | | 199999999 |
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| | < March Ma | - | SOON 00:12:10:04 |
| Leesa | Mattresses ~ | Bases v Bedding v Blog Financing | 3 |
| | MARCH MATTRESS SALE Up to \$700 off mattresses! + 2 FREE Pillows (Up to \$278 Value) <u>Terms</u> Shop Sale | our Pica Br New Jerk Eines Wirecutter 2022 | |
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| Leesa | Home / Mattresses / Original Hybrid M | Mattresses Bases Bedding Blog Financing | Stor |
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| | Home / Mattresses / Original Hybrid M | | |
| | | EXEMPTION "Bread appeal and excellent performance make it an attractive choice for many sleepers." | |
| | 1.0 | VALUE HYBRID UP TO \$200 OFF Original Hybrid Mattress | |
| | ADVISOR | * * * * <u>52Recieus</u> 24k- Leosa Reviews 🤗 | |
| | "this bed wowed our testers." | Order in the next 2 hours 39 minutes and ships early as Wednesday, August 02. | free as |
| | | NEW! Best For Bo | nuses |
| | Strategist Best Medium-Firm | A responsive too foam layer contours to your comfortable alignment and deeper sleep. | r body for |
| | Hybrid Mattress, 2023 | High pirflow foam that sleeps cocl and helps pressure relief. | |
| | | 789+ pocket springs deliver edge support an for all body types and sleep positions. | d mobility |
| | "excellent performance." | 田 2 FREE pillows with purchase | |
| | Concernance and | | |
| | California (| \$1299 \$1499 Sive \$200 Pick your size: 595' x 795' x 11 | l" / 86lbs |
| | | Queen | ~ |
| Information s | inipping Method Payment Method Express checkout amazon pay ShOp Pay | Original Mattress OLEEN ULEEN | 1,099.00 |
| | | Image: Standard Street Street Standard Street St | 1,099.00 FREE! - \$200.0 |
| ParyNeri Contact information Email Cantact me with news and offers Duping address Countryregen United States First name Address Apartment, suite, etc. (optional) City Solut | Express checkout amajon pay OR Alicady have an account? | Image: Standard S | FREE! |
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higher purported discount ("Save \$400") than the twin-size ("Save \$150"), all sizes of the same mattress (and other Products) are always advertised as on sale for a discounted price.¹

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 or when the countdown clock expires, for example: "Offer valid 4/4/23at 8:00 AM ET – 5/2/23 8:00 AM ET." 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 April 19, 2023, Defendant advertised a purportedly time-limited sale that was "valid 4/4/23 at 8:00 AM ET – 5/2/23 8:00 AM ET."

Spring Refresh Sale Offer Terms

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Offer valid 4/4/23 at 8:00 AM ET - 5/2/23 8:00 AM ET

Up to \$700 Off Select Mattresses + 2 Free Pillows (Up to \$120 Value)

Discount automatically applied to the Studio, Original, Original Hybrid, Sapira Hybrid, and Legend Hybrid mattresses. Two free Down Alternative Pillows will be added to your cart; however, these items are not eligible for free returns or warranty claims. Excludes Bundles, Youth, Kids, and Trundle mattresses.

Up to 20% Off Select Bedding

Discount automatically applied to bedding.

Captured on April 19, 2023

25. However, on May 3, 2023, the day that the time-limited sale was supposed to have ended, Defendant advertised the same sale with a new expiration date, 6/6/23.

¹ A limited set of Products are sometimes excluded from Defendant's sales and discounts (for example, Defendant's "trundle mattresses"). Other than these exclusions, Defendant's advertised sales are sitewide and always available. And, as explained below, the proposed class only includes consumers who purchased Products advertised at a discount.

Memorial Day Sale Offer Terms Offer valid 5/2/23 at 8:00 AM ET - 6/6/23 8:00 AM ET

Save up to \$820: Up to \$700 Off Mattresses + 2 Free Pillows (Up to \$120 Value) Discount automatically applied to the Studio, Original, Original Hybrid, Sapira Hybrid, and Legend Hybrid mattresses. Two free Down Alternative Pillows will be added to your cart; however, these items are not eligible for free returns or warranty claims. Excludes Bundles, Youth, Kids, and Trundle mattresses.

Up to 20% Off Select Bedding Discount automatically applied to bedding.

Captured on May 3, 2023

26. To confirm that Defendant always offers discounts off of purported regular prices, Plaintiff's counsel performed an investigation of Defendant's advertising practices using the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine (available at www.archive.org).² Defendant's sales have persisted continuously since at least January 1, 2020. For example, 54 randomly selected screenshots of Defendant's website, www.leesa.com, were collected from the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine, from the 2020-2022 period. In addition, 46 additional screenshots from the www.leesa.com website were captured in 2023 by visiting the website and recording screenshots. One hundred percent of the 100 randomly selected screenshots of Defendant's website, captured on the Wayback Machine and directly on the website, displayed a purportedly time-limited discount.

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 prices displayed in "strikethrough font" (*e.g.*, "\$1400") are Defendant's regular prices and former prices (that is, the price at which the goods were actually offered for sale on Defendant's website

² The Internet Archive, available at archive.org, is a library that archives web pages. https://archive.org/about/

before the limited-time offer went into effect). In other words, reasonable consumers reasonably
believe that the listed strikethrough regular prices Defendant advertises represent the amount that
consumers formerly had to pay on Defendant's website 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 buying from Defendant on its website 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 listed 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 listed regular prices in the amounts advertised. In truth, however, Defendant *always* offers discounts off the purported 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, as discussed below, the prevailing prices for the Products Defendant sells. And, the listed regular prices do not represent the true market value for the Products, because Defendant's Products are *always* available for less than that on Defendant's website, 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 TIME" or "EXPIRING SOON"—quite the opposite, they are always available.

В.

Defendant's purported regular prices were not the prevailing prices during the 90 days immediately preceding Defendant's advertisement of the purported discount.

30. As explained above, Defendant sells its Leesa Products through its website, www.leesa.com. Some Leesa Products are also available through a small number of third-party retailers, including Amazon, Potterybarn, and West Elm.

31. Often, third-party retailers sell the Leesa Products for prices below Defendant's listed regular prices. For example, on October 22, 2023, Defendant advertised the queen-sized Sapira Hybrid Mattress with a listed regular price of \$1,999, for a supposedly discounted price of \$1,699:

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Sapira Hybrid Mattress

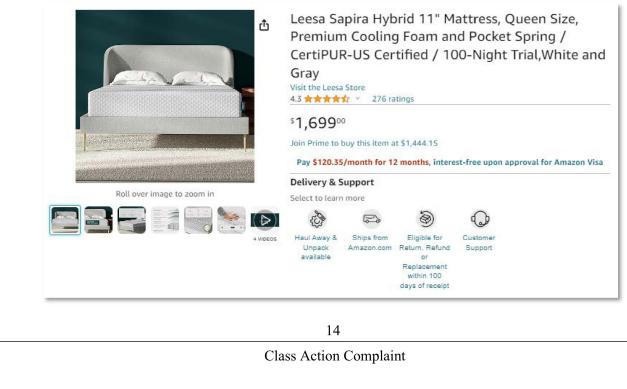
★ ★ ★ ★ 2<u>,090 Reviews</u> 24k+ Leesa Reviews 🤣

| \$1699 \$1999 As low as \$54/m | → Save \$300 o* with Bread Pay [™] <u>Learn</u> |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Pick your size: | <u>More</u> 60" x 80" x 11" / 115lbs |
| Queen | ~ |
| A | dd to cart |

32. On the same day, Amazon was selling the Product for \$1,699—the supposedly "discounted" price Defendant was advertising. But on Amazon, that supposedly discounted price was listed as the regular price. And, on the listing, Amazon represented to consumers that the "List Price" is "the suggested retail price … as provided by a manufacturer, supplier, or seller." Defendant is the manufacturer and supplier of these Products. So, for this Product, Defendant provided Amazon with a suggested retail price equal to its own supposedly "discounted" price and below its own advertised "regular" prices.

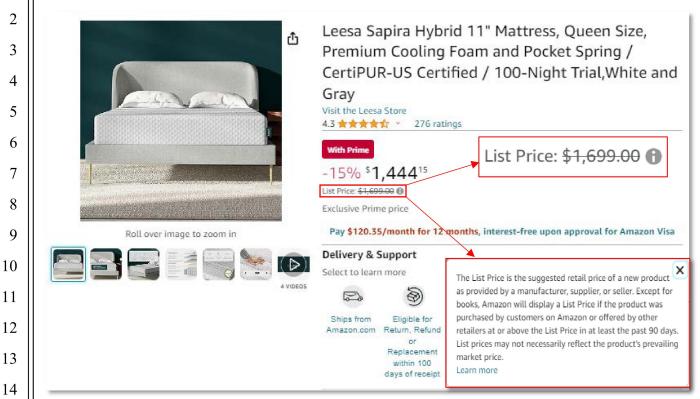
33. Plus, for consumers who are Amazon "Prime" members, Amazon sold the mattress for an even lower price (\$1,444.15).

Non-Prime member:



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Prime member:



34. And, a third-party Amazon price tracker reveals that in the three-months preceding the day of the screenshots above (October 22, 2023), the queen-sized Leesa Sapira Hybrid matress was never sold at the purported regular price of \$1,999 on Amazon, and was always sold, even to non-Prime subscribers, for at least \$100 less than that price.

35. Amazon regularly sells Leesa Products to "Prime" subscribers for lower prices than even Leesa's purported "discount" prices. For example, on October 22, 2023, the following prices were advertised on Leesa.com and Amazon.com for Leesa Products:

| Product | Leesa.com Listed | Leesa.com | Amazon.com Price |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | Regular Price | "Discounted" Price | |
| Original Mattress | \$1299 | \$1099 | \$808.14 |
| (Queen) | | | |
| Original Hyrbid | \$1499 | \$1299 | \$1199.25 |
| Mattress (Queen) | | | |
| Sapira Hybrid | \$1999 | \$1699 | \$1444.15 |
| Mattress (Queen) | | | |
| Studio Mattress | \$799 | \$749 | \$636.65 |
| (Queen) | | | |
| Legend Hybrid | \$2599 | \$2099 | \$1574.25 |
| Mattress (Queen) | | | |

36. In short, as information from Amazon shows, third-party sellers regularly sell Defendant's Products for less than the purported regular prices that Defendant advertises. This is not surprising, as prices charged by third-party retailers converge on Defendant's price, especially since this Product is sold in an e-commerce market and Defendant, the manufacturer, sells the Products directly to consumers through its publicly available website.

37. Moreover, regardless of third-party retailers' prices, Leesa Products are primarily sold through Defendant's branded website, www.leesa.com. If consumers are searching for a Leesa Product, they will go to Defendant's website. For example, if a consumer Googles "Leesa Mattress," the first result will be Leesa.com (followed by a New York Times review that repeatedly cites to Leesa.com³).

38. The difference in the number of product reviews on Defendant's website versus
Amazon.com, one of the world's largest retailers of consumer goods, also shows that the Leesa
Products are most commonly sold on Defendant's website (for Defendant's prices). For example, as of

³ https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/reviews/leesa-mattress/

the filing of this Complaint, the Leesa "Original Mattress" has 19,989 reviews on Leesa's website, but only 1,100 on Amazon.com:

🕇 19,989 Reviews 🛛 24k+ Leesa Reviews 😪

Leesa.com:

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Original Mattress

Amazon.com:

Leesa Original Foam 10" Mattress, Queen Size, Cooling Foam and Memory Foam / CertiPUR-US Certified / 100-Night Trial,Grey Visit the Leesa Store 4.2

39. So, because the Leesa Products are most commonly sold on Defendant's website, they are most commonly sold for the discounted prices always available on Defendant's website.

40. Moreover, as discussed above, Amazon regularly sells Leesa Products to its "Prime" subscribers for far lower prices than Leesa's listed regular prices. And, because the vast majority of Amazon shoppers have a "Prime" membership, the vast majority of Amazon's sales of Leesa Products are at these lower prices.⁴ Thus, between sales on Defendant's website and Amazon, the Products routinely and predominantly sell for prices below Defendant's purported regular prices, and the listed regular prices are not the prevailing market rates.

C. Defendant's advertisements are unfair, deceptive, and unlawful.

41. 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 https://www.statista.com/statistics/234253/share-of-amazon-prime-subscribers-in-the-united-states/

42. 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.

43. 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).

44. 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.

45. And finally, California's unfair competition law bans unlawful, unfair, and deceptive business practices. *See* Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200.

46. 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.

D. Defendant's advertisements harm consumers.

47. 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 and that these are former prices that Defendant sold its Products at before the time-limited discount was introduced.

48. 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.

49. 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.

50. 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."⁵ 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."⁶

51. Similarly, when consumers believe that an offer is expiring soon, the sense of urgency makes them more likely to buy a product.⁷

52. 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,

 ⁵ https://www.invespcro.com/blog/how-discounts-affect-online-consumer-buying-behavior/.
 ⁶ RetailMeNot Survey: Deals and Promotional Offers Drive Incremental Purchases Online, Especially Among Millennial Buyers (prnewswire.com).

⁷ 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).

due to Defendant's misrepresentations, Plaintiff and the class paid more for the Products they bought than they otherwise would have.

E. Plaintiff was misled by Defendant's misrepresentations.

53. On June 27, 2023, Defendant's website advertised a "4th of July Sale" that promised "EXPIRING SOON" offers including a "FREE Mattress Protector" and up to "\$700 Off" on its mattress Products:



Captured on June 27, 2023

54. On this day, Ms. Grossman purchased a queen-sized Sapira Hybrid Mattress and mattress protector from Defendant's website while the same sale was on-going. She made this purchase while living in Twentynine Palms, California. The website represented that the Sapira Hybrid Mattress had a regular price, but was on sale for a discounted price of \$1,699.00 plus tax. Defendant represented that Ms. Grossman was receiving a discount for the items that she ordered. In the email order confirmation that Defendant sent to Ms. Grossman after she made her purchase, Defendant represented that Ms. Grossman was paying the \$1,699.00 plus tax discounted price for the Sapira Hybrid Mattress, and that the mattress protector was free. In short, Defendant represented that the Products had a certain regular price and that Ms. Grossman was receiving a substantial discount for the items that she purchased.

55. Ms. Grossman read and relied on Defendant's representations on the website, specifically that the Products were being offered at a discount for a limited time and had a regular price. Based on Defendant's representations described and shown above, Ms. Grossman reasonably understood that Defendant regularly (and before the promotion Defendant was advertising) sold the
Products she was purchasing at the published regular price, that this regular price was the market value
of the Products that she was buying, and that she was receiving the advertised discount as compared to
the regular price. 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.

56. In reality, as explained above, Defendant's products, including the Products that Ms. Grossman purchased, are *always* available at a discounted price of off the purported regular prices.⁸ In other words, Defendant did not regularly sell the Products Ms. Grossman purchased at the purported regular prices, and the Products were not discounted as advertised. Plus, the sale was not timelimited—Defendant's products are always on sale.

V. Class action allegations.

57. Plaintiff brings the asserted claims on behalf of the proposed Class of: All persons who, while in the state of California and within the applicable statute of limitations period, purchased one or more Leesa Products advertised at a discount on Defendant's website.

58. 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

59. 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.

- 60. Class members can be identified through Defendant's sales records and public notice.
- ⁸ As explained above, a limited set of Defendant's Products are sometimes excluded from Defendant's sales. The Products purchased by Ms. Grossman, however, are continuously on sale.

Predominance of Common Questions

61. 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) damages needed to reasonably compensate Plaintiff and the proposed class.

Typicality & Adequacy

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

Superiority

63. 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 §§ 17500 & 17501 et. seq. (By Plaintiff and the Class)

64. Plaintiff incorporates each and every factual allegation set forth above.

65. Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of herself and members of the Class.

66. Defendant has violated sections 17500 and 17501 of the Business and Professions

Code.

67. Defendant has violated, and continues to violate, section 17500 of the Business and Professions Code by disseminating untrue and misleading advertisements to Plaintiff and Class members.

68. 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.*, \$1049) and displaying it next to a lower, discounted price. Reasonable consumers would understand prices advertised in strikethough font 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.

69. 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 "limited time" and only "valid" for a certain time period are false and misleading too.

70. 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.

71. Defendant's misrepresentations were intended to induce reliance, and Plaintiff saw, read, and reasonably relied on the statements when purchasing Leesa Products. Defendant's misrepresentations were a substantial factor in Plaintiff's purchase decision.

72. In addition, class-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 Leesa Products.

73. Defendant's misrepresentations were a substantial factor and proximate cause in causing damages and losses to Plaintiff and the Class.

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74. Plaintiff and the Class were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct because (a) they would not have purchased Leesa Products if they had known the truth, and/or (b) they overpaid for the Products because the Leesa Products were sold at a price premium due to the misrepresentation.

75. As a result of Defendant's misconduct, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to restitution including full restitution, restitutionary disgorgement, and restitution of the difference between what she and the Class paid and what she and the Class would have been willing to pay had Defendant's advertisements been truthful.

76. Plaintiff incorporates each and every factual allegation set forth above.

77. Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of himself and members of the Class.

Second Cause of Action:

Violation of California's Consumer Legal Remedies Act

(by Plaintiff and the Class)

78. Plaintiff and the Class are "consumers," as the term is defined by California Civil Code § 1761(d).

79. Plaintiff and the Class have engaged in "transactions" with Defendant as that term is defined by California Civil Code § 1761(e).

80. 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.

81. 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.

82. Defendant violated, and continues to violate, section 1770 of the California Civil Code.
83. 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.

84. 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.

85. 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 (4) misrepresenting the reason for the sale (*e.g.*, "Presidents' Day Sale," when in fact the sale is ongoing and not limited to Presidents' Day).

86. 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.

87. Defendant's misrepresentations were intended to induce reliance, and Plaintiff saw, read, and reasonably relied on them when purchasing Leesa Products. Defendant's misrepresentations were a substantial factor in Plaintiff's purchase decision.

88. In addition, class-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 Leesa Products.

89. Defendant's misrepresentations were a substantial factor and proximate cause in causing damages and losses to Plaintiff and the Class.

90. Plaintiff and the Class were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct because (a) they would not have purchased Leesa 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.

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91. Accordingly, pursuant to California Civil Code § 1780(a)(2), Ms. Grossman, on behalf of herself and all other members of the Class, seeks injunctive relief.

92. CLRA § 1782 NOTICE. On June 20, 2024, a CLRA demand letter was sent to Defendant's 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 Class within 30 days of receipt, Plaintiff and the Class will seek monetary relief under the CLRA, including full restitution, restitutionary disgorgement, and restitution of the difference between what she and the Class paid and what she and the Class would have been willing to pay had Defendant's advertisements been truthful, punitive damages, and reasonable attorneys' fees.

93. A CLRA venue declaration is attached.

Third Cause of Action:

Violation of California's Unfair Competition Law

(by Plaintiff and the Class)

94. Plaintiff incorporates each and every factual allegation set forth above.

95. Plaintiff brings this cause of action on behalf of herself and members of the Class.

96. 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

97. Defendant engaged in unlawful conduct by violating the FAL and the CLRA, 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. § 45(a)(1). As the FTC's regulations make clear, Defendant's false pricing schemes violate the FTCA. 16 C.F.R. § 233.1, § 233.2.

The Deceptive Prong

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98. 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.

99. Defendant's representations were misleading to Plaintiff and other reasonable consumers.

100. Plaintiff relied upon Defendant's misleading representations and omissions, as detailed above.

The Unfair Prong

101. 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.

102. Defendant violated established public policy by violating the FAL, the CLRA, and the FTCA, as alleged above and incorporated here. The unfairness of this practice is tethered to a legislatively declared policy (that of the FAL, the CLRA, and the FTCA).

103. The harm to Plaintiff and the Class 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.

104. Plaintiff and the Class could not have reasonably avoided this injury. As alleged above, Defendant's representations were deceptive to reasonable consumers like Plaintiff.

* *

105. Defendant's conduct, as alleged above, was immoral, unethical, oppressive, unscrupulous, and substantially injurious to consumers.

106. For all prongs, Defendant's representations were intended to induce reliance, and Plaintiff saw, read, and reasonably relied on them when purchasing Leesa Products. Defendant's representations were a substantial factor in Plaintiff's purchase decision.

107. In addition, class-wide reliance can be inferred because Defendant's representations 2 were material, i.e., a reasonable consumer would consider them important in deciding whether to buy 3 Leesa Products.

108. Defendant's representations were a substantial factor and proximate cause in causing damages and losses to Plaintiff and the Class members.

109. Plaintiff and the Class were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct because (a) they would not have purchased the Leesa 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.

110. As a result of Defendant's misconduct, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to restitution including full restitution, restitutionary disgorgement, and restitution of the difference between what she and the Class paid and what she and the Class would have been willing to pay had Defendant's advertisements been truthful.

Fourth Cause of Action:

Quasi-Contract/Unjust Enrichment

(by Plaintiff and the Class)

111. Plaintiff incorporates each and every factual allegation set forth above.

112. Plaintiff brings this claim on behalf of herself and the Class.

113. As alleged in detail above, Defendant's false and misleading advertising caused Plaintiff and the Class to purchase Leesa Products and to pay a price premium for these Products.

114. In this way, Defendant received a direct and unjust benefit, at Plaintiff's expense.

115. As a result of Defendant's misconduct, Plaintiff and the Class are entitled to restitution including full restitution, restitutionary disgorgement, and restitution of the difference between what she and the Class paid and what she and the Class would have been willing to pay had Defendant's advertisements been truthful.

VII. **Relief.**

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

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An order certifying the asserted claims, or issues raised, as a class action;

| 1 | • A juo | Igment in favor of Plaintiff and the proposed class; | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 2 | • Resti | tution, disgorgement, and other just equitable relief; | | | | |
| 3 | • Pre- and post-judgment interest; | | | | | |
| 4 | • An injunction prohibiting Defendant's deceptive conduct, as allowed by law; | | | | | |
| 5 | • Reasonable attorneys' fees and costs, as allowed by law; | | | | | |
| 6 | Any | • Any additional relief that the Court deems reasonable and just. | | | | |
| 7 | VIII. Demand for | and for Jury Trial. | | | | |
| 8 | 117. Plain | tiff demands the right to a jury trial on all claims so triable. | | | | |
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| 10 | Dated: July 11, 2024 | Respectfully submitted, | | | | |
| 11 | | By: <u>/s/ Simon Franzini</u> | | | | |
| 12 | | Simon Franzini (Cal. Bar No. 287631) simon@dovel.com | | | | |
| 13 | | Grace Bennett (Cal. Bar No. 345948) grace@dovel.com | | | | |
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