

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

MAURICE BECKLES, individually and on  
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

RECKITT BENCKISER LLC and RB  
HEALTH (US) LLC,

Defendants.

Case No.

**COMPLAINT**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

Plaintiff Maurice Beckles (“Plaintiff”) brings this action on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated against Defendants Reckitt Benckiser LLC and RB Health (US) LLC (“Defendants” or “Reckitt”). Plaintiff makes the following allegations pursuant to the investigation of his counsel and based upon information and belief, except as to allegations specifically pertaining to himself which are based on personal knowledge.

**NATURE OF THE ACTION**

1. Plaintiff brings this class action on behalf of himself and similarly situated consumers who purchased K-Y brand lubricant (the “Lubricant” or the “Products”).
2. Reckitt is a multinational consumer goods company that manufactures, distributes, and sells hygiene, health, and nutrition products under various brand names throughout the world.
3. Reckitt’s website explains, “we make loved and trusted products that enrich the lives of millions of people around the world. Our manufacturing skill and innovation, combined with our passion for quality and efficiency, drives our growth and powers our purpose.”

4. K-Y, a brand owned by Reckitt, manufactures, distributes, markets, and sells lubricants, gels, sprays, and condoms to enhance pleasure and ensure safety during sexual intercourse.

5. According to K-Y's website, they created the world's first lubricant over 100 years ago. Since then, they have sold various types of lubricant, including water-based lubricant, couples lubricant, warming lubricant, intense pleasure lubricant, and more.

6. Each of Defendants' Lubricants list the ingredients on the back of the packaging.

7. Some of Defendants' Lubricants, including the sensitive jelly lubricant, states that it is "gentle yet effective" and provides "soothing moisture for sensitive intimate areas." It further states it is "a gentle, non-irritating personal lubricant."

8. Defendants' also market and sell "water-based" lubricant called K-Y Jelly. The packaging of K-Y Jelly states it is a "body friendly formula" and a "gentle formula – not made with sulphates, hormones, parabens, artificial colorants and fragrances."

9. However, unbeknownst to consumers, the Products are unfit for their intended purpose because they contain PFAS, "forever chemicals," which are dangerous to human health. This not disclosed anywhere on the Products' packaging and is omitted from the ingredient lists.

10. PFAS are a group of synthetic chemicals. Because PFAS persist and accumulate over time, they are harmful even at very low levels. Indeed, PFAS have been shown to have a number of toxicological effects in laboratory studies and have been associated with thyroid disorders, immunotoxic effects, and various cancers.

11. Furthermore, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") outlined a host of health effects associated with PFAS exposure, including liver damage, decreased fertility, and increased risk of asthma.

12. Accordingly, Plaintiff brings claims against Defendants individually and on behalf of a class of all others similarly situated for claims of breach of warranties, fraud, state consumer protection laws, and unjust enrichment.

### **PARTIES**

13. Plaintiff Maurice Beckles is, and at all times relevant to this action has been, a resident of Brooklyn, New York. In or around June 28, 2024, Mr. Beckles purchased Defendants' K-Y Jelly water-based personal lubricant from a Rite Aid store located in Brooklyn, New York. When Mr. Beckles made his purchase, he carefully reviewed the Product's labeling. He did not see anywhere on the packaging a disclosure or statement that the Products contained PFAS, or the harm that may result from contact with PFAS. Based on the label, including the claim that it was a "body friendly formula," he reasonably believed the Product was safe for use on his and his partner's genitalia during sexual intercourse, and did in fact use the Product. But they were not safe, as they contained PFAS. Had Defendants disclosed on the label that the Products contained PFAS, and the harms that can result from contact with PFAS, he would not have purchased the Products, or at the very least, would have only been willing to pay significantly less. As a direct result of Defendants' material misrepresentations and omissions, Mr. Beckles suffered, and continues to suffer, economic injuries. Mr. Beckles would consider purchasing Defendants' Products in the future if Defendants removed the PFAS from them.

14. Defendant Reckitt Benckiser LLC is a Delaware limited liability corporation with its headquarters and principal place of business located in Parsippany, New Jersey.

15. Defendant RB Health (US) LLC is a Delaware limited liability corporation with its headquarters and principal place of business located in Parsippany, New Jersey.

16. Defendants are wholly-owned subsidiaries of Reckitt Benckiser Group PLC, a public limited company registered in England and Wales.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

17. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)(2)(A). There are more than 100 Class Members, the aggregate claims of all members of the proposed Class exceed \$5,000,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs, and at least one Class Member is a citizen of a state different than Defendant.

18. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because Defendants conduct substantial business in the State of New York such that Defendants have significant, continuous, and pervasive contacts with this state, and because a substantial portion of the events giving rise to this complaint occurred in this District.

19. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 because this District is where a substantial part of the conduct giving rise to Plaintiff's claims occurred and where Defendants do substantial business.

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

#### **I. The Products and Defendants' Marketing**

20. Defendants manufacture, market, and sell lubricants under their brand K-Y across the country in a variety of types to target different sexual purposes.

21. All of Defendants' Lubricants include their listed ingredients directly on the packaging, typically consisting of a combination of water, propylene glycol, hydroxyethyl cellulose, benzoic acid, carbomer, sodium hydroxide, hydrogenated castor oil, glycerin, or maltodextrin, and other ingredients based on the specific product.

22. The packaging of Defendants' K-Y Jelly class water-based personal lubricant, which Mr. Beckles purchased, claims it is a "body friendly formula" and a "gentle formula – not made with sulphates, hormones, parabens, artificial colorants and fragrances."



23. However, Defendants' Lubricants are not friendly to one's body or gentle on sensitive intimate areas because they contain dangerous PFAS.

24. Defendants' packaging, including the ingredient lists, does not disclose the presence of PFAS.

25. Reasonable consumers purchased and continue to purchase Defendants' Products under the reasonable belief that they are made up of a "body friendly" and "gentle" formula and

thus do not contain synthetic chemicals that could adversely impact their health or the health of their sexual partners.

## **II. PFAS in Defendants' Products.**

26. Defendants' Products pose a health and safety risk due to the presence of PFAS in the Products.

27. The Products Plaintiff purchased were sent to an independent lab for testing, the results of which found the presence of organic fluorine in Plaintiff's Products, confirming the presence of PFAS.

28. Organic fluorine is a marker for PFAS because all PFAS are carbon-based compounds that contain fluorine.

29. Total organic fluorine analysis is used to detect organic fluorine, which is the foundational element (and defining characteristic) of PFAS.

30. In the context of chemistry, the term "organic" refers to compounds containing carbon. Organic fluorine is created by the chemical bond between carbon atoms and fluorine atoms. The strong bond created between carbon and fluorine is what defines PFAS and is the reason for their common usage.

31. Total organic fluorine testing is critical to the detection of the 99.99% of PFAS that cannot be detected through limited targeted testing. Because organic fluorine is the identifying element of PFAS and is present in all PFAS varieties, the detection of organic fluorine in a sample necessarily means that PFAS are present in some form.

32. It is nearly impossible for total organic fluorine testing to yield a false positive detection of PFAS in a sample. Total organic fluorine testing only measure fluorine that originates from a substance where fluorine is attached to a carbon backbone. Therefore, total

organic fluorine testing does not detect any other forms of fluorine, such as inorganic fluorine (i.e., fluoride).

33. Organic fluorine is not naturally present in the human body, and is practically nonexistent outside of its use in man-made PFAS.

34. In light of the limitations of targeted testing, total organic fluorine testing is the only method that is able to reliably detect the presence or absence of the thousands of varieties of PFAS for which targeted testing is not currently available.

35. Consequently, total organic fluorine testing is widely accepted by scientists, researchers, and regulators as the reliable method to detect a PFAS chemical in a sample.

36. According to Scott Belcher, Ph.D. & Associate Professor with the Center for Environmental & Health Effects of PFAS at North Carolina State University, “fluoropolymers, such as polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), are extremely common forms of PFAS that could be contributing to the organic fluorine found in [products]. Methods used for detecting individual PFAS, such as PFOA or GenX, cannot directly identify PTFE. However, the analysis of total organic fluorine (TOF) does account for all PFAS contaminants in [products], including PTFE. Therefore, this method of testing serves as a good ‘spot-check’ of consumer products.”

37. The presence of PFAS in Defendants’ Lubricants raises legitimate concerns regarding their impact on consumer health. PFAS can enter the body during sexual intercourse through skin absorption. The female and male genitals have delicate tissues that are more prone to absorbing chemicals than other areas of the body. When genitalia comes in contact with lubricants, PFAS can be absorbed readily.

38. What is more, when body temperature increases during sexual intercourse, the heat can increase the transfer of PFAS through the skin barrier. PFAS may also enter consumers' bodies orally during or after the use of Defendant's Products during sexual activity.

### **III. PFAS Are Harmful to Humans**

39. According to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, PFAS "are man-made chemicals that have been used in industry and consumer products worldwide since the 1940s. They have been used to make nonstick cookware, water-repellent clothing, stain resistant fabrics and carpets, some cosmetics, some firefighting foams, and products that resist grease, water, and oil."

40. One common characteristic of concern in regard to PFAS is that many types break down very slowly and can build up in people, animals, and the environment over time. In fact, all PFAS contain carbon-fluorine bonds—one of the strongest in nature—making them highly persistent in the environment and our bodies.

41. Consequently, PFAS are often referred to as "forever chemicals."

42. PFAS are often divided into two groups: long chain and short chain, both of which break down slowly, if at all. In fact, long chain PFAS have been banned in the European Union and phased out by major U.S. manufacturers due to their health risks. Regardless of length, research from the U.S. National Toxicology Program suggests that both long chain and short chain PFAS have similar levels of toxicity.

43. PFAS have been connected to severe and lingering health consequences. Erika Schreder, Director of Science at Toxic-Free Future, and Jennifer Dickman, Senior Program Associate of Safer Chemicals, Healthy Families, have explained that "[p]rimary among [PFAS-



linked health concerns] are cancer and effects on lipid metabolism, but they also include immune suppression, thyroid disease, and harm to reproduction.”

44. Similarly, Dr. Lina S. Birnbaum, stated that “[t]hese toxic chemicals are linked to serious problems like cancer, liver damage, decreased fertility, and asthma. ... PFAS can [also] weaken our immune system, making us more vulnerable to infectious diseases like COVID-19.”

45. In children, PFAS has also been linked to “[l]ower antibody response[s] to some vaccines,” thereby rendering children more vulnerable to disease they would otherwise be immune from.

46. Significantly, a study conducted by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health found that “dermal exposure to PFOA is immunotoxic and raise concern about potential adverse effects from dermal exposure.”

47. PFAS can be harmful at extremely low levels of exposure. According to the EPA, the levels at which negative human health effects could occur are significantly lower than previously understood, including at near zero in some instances.

48. In other words, there is no “safe” level of exposure to PFAS. Even “trace” levels of PFAS can be harmful to human health.

49. There is no effective treatment for removal of PFAS from the body. Therefore, experts agree that the most effective strategy to decrease health risk is to avoid and/or limit exposure to products known to contain PFAS.

50. Only in recent years has the presence of PFAS used in consumer products, and their consequent risks, begun to be publicized and discussed in the media and scientific literature. Based on this newly available information, consumers are rightfully concerned about the presence or risk of PFAS in various consumer products.

51. In June 2022, the EPA announced a lifetime health advisory related to PFAS. A health advisory is not a binding regulation but serves as “informal technical guidance to assist government officials.” The June 2022 advisory sets lifetime health advisory levels for PFOA at 0.004 parts per trillion (ppt) and PFOS at 0.02 ppt. These levels are below the detection capability of most measurement devices, meaning that EPA considers any detection of PFOA or PFOS to exceed the lifetime health advisory level.

52. On April 10, 2024, the Biden Administration issued the first-ever national, legally enforceable drinking water standard to protect communities from exposure to PFAS. The standards set a maximum contaminant level of 4 parts per trillion for PFOA and PFOS individually. For other forms of PFAS, the maximum set by the Administration is 10 parts per trillion.

53. Moreover, for PFOA and PFOS, the EPA is setting a Maximum Contaminant Level health-based goal at zero. This is reflective of the latest science supporting that there is no level of exposure to PFAS without risk of health impacts, including several cancers.

54. In light of the harm caused by PFAS, consumers have grown increasingly aware of and concerned about PFAS in their bodies, the environment, and the products they use. In a survey of more than 1,000 consumers, nearly all participants (98%) indicated they were interested in knowing about the presence of harmful chemicals in everyday products.

55. Relevant here, repeated exposure to PFAS have been linked to various health concerns, including hormonal disruptions, reproductive issues, and even potential carcinogenic effects.

56. No reasonable consumer would expect that a product marketed for use during sexual intercourse on female and male sensitive areas would contain dangerous PFAS, which are

indisputably linked to harmful health effects in humans. Accordingly, Plaintiff and Class Members suffered economic injuries as a result of purchasing the Products.

#### **IV. Defendants' Misrepresentations And Omissions Are Actionable**

57. Plaintiff and Class Members would not have purchased the Products on the same terms had they known the truth about the Product.

58. As the result of Defendants' brand recognition and reputation, Defendants are able to charge, and do charge, a premium above the price for lubricants charged by competitors and generic manufacturers.

59. Defendants referred, and continue to refer, to the Lubricants as being made up of a "body friendly formula," and a "gentle formula."

60. Nowhere on the Products packaging or labels do Defendants disclose the presence of PFAS. Reasonable consumers would believe the Products to be free of harmful toxins. This is especially true since the Lubricants instruct users that the Products are intended for "penile, vaginal, and/or anal application" and to "apply desired amount to your intimate areas."

61. Plaintiff and Class Members bargained for Lubricants that were free of harmful toxins and were deprived of the basis of their bargain when Defendants sold them a Product containing PFAS.

62. Accordingly, Plaintiff and Class Members suffered economic injuries as a result of purchasing the Products.

63. Moreover, because these facts relate to a critical safety-related deficiency in the Product, Defendants were under a continuous duty to disclose to Plaintiff and Class Members the true standard, quality, and grade of the Products and to disclose that the Products may contain substances known to have adverse health effects. Defendants, as manufacturers or a party to a

contract to manufacture, thereby providing and approving designs of the Products, and as sellers and advertisers of the Products, are best situated to know the content of its Products.

Nonetheless, Defendants concealed and affirmatively misrepresented the true nature of the Products, as discussed herein.

64. Consumers lack the expertise to ascertain the true ingredients in the Lubricants prior to purchase.

65. Absent testing by a qualified lab, consumers such as Plaintiff and the Class Members were unable to determine that Defendants' Products contained PFAS given Defendants' failure to disclose the presence of PFAS.

66. Accordingly, reasonable consumers must, and do, rely on Defendants to accurately and honestly advertise its Products' ingredients, formulas, and benefits. Further, consumers rely on Defendants to not contradict those representations by using artificial chemicals in their lubricants that are known to pose a risk to human health. Such misrepresentations are material to reasonable consumers purchasing decisions.

67. Consumer reliance upon Defendants' representations and omissions were reasonable and foreseeable. It is beyond reasonable dispute that the presence of harmful chemicals in lubricants is material to reasonable consumers.

68. Defendants had exclusive knowledge of the contents and ingredients of its K-Y Lubricants, including whether the products contained PFAS.

69. Defendants also had exclusive knowledge of its ingredients suppliers and obtained or could have obtained information from their suppliers about the contents and ingredients of the lubricants, including whether they contained PFAS.

70. Likewise, Defendants are in the best position to know what content it places on the Products during the relevant timeframe.

71. Defendants' false statements, misleading, and material omissions are intentional and careless, and render their Products worthless or less valuable.

72. Had Defendants disclosed to Plaintiff and Class Members that the Lubricants contained and still contain PFAS, Plaintiff and Class Members would not have purchased Defendants' Products, or they would have paid significantly less for them.

73. Plaintiff and Class Members were among the intended recipients of Defendants' deceptive representations and omissions described herein.

74. Defendants' representations and omissions, as described herein, are material in that a reasonable person would attach importance to such information and would be induced to act upon such information in making purchase decisions, especially for a product such as lubricants.

75. In making the false, misleading, and deceptive representations, Defendants knew and intended consumers would pay a premium for their K-Y brand Lubricants that are made from or contain synthetic or artificial chemical ingredients that are known to be harmful to humans and the environment.

76. Plaintiff and Class Members paid money for Defendants' Products and paid a premium for an expected quality above (or at least comparable to) that of Defendants' competitors. However, Plaintiff and Class Members did not obtain the full value of the Products due to Defendants' misrepresentations as described herein.

77. Plaintiff and Class Members purchased, purchased more of, or paid more for, Defendants' K-Y brand Lubricant than they would have had they known the truth about the

Products' harmful ingredients. Accordingly, Plaintiff and Class Members have suffered injury in fact and lost money or property as a result of Defendants' wrongful conduct.

### **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

78. ***Nationwide Class.*** Plaintiff brings this nationwide class action pursuant to rules 23(b)(2), 23(b)(3), and 23(c)(4) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, individually and on behalf of a class defined as:

All persons in the United States who purchased the Products during the statute of limitations period (the "Class").

79. Plaintiff also seeks to represent a subclass of all persons who purchased the Products in New York during the Class Period (the "New York Subclass" or "Subclass").

80. Excluded from the Classes are: (1) persons who made such purchases for purposes of resale; (2) any Judge or Magistrate presiding over this action and any members of their families; (3) Defendants, Defendants' subsidiaries, parents, successors, predecessors, and any entity in which Defendants or their parent has a controlling interest and their current or former employees, officers, and directors; and (4) Plaintiff's counsel and Defense counsel.

81. As a result of additional information obtained through further investigation and discovery, the above-described Class and Subclass may be modified or narrowed as appropriate.

82. ***Numerosity.*** At this time, Plaintiff does not know the exact number of members of the aforementioned Class and Subclass ("Class Members" or "Subclass Members").

However, given the nature of the claims, Plaintiff believes that Class and Subclass Members are so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable.

83. ***Commonality and Predominance.*** There is a well-defined community of interest in the questions of law and facts involved in this case. Questions of law and fact common to

members of the Class that predominate over questions that may affect individual Class Members include:

- Whether the Products contain PFAS;
- Whether Defendants misrepresented and/or failed to disclose material facts concerning the Products;
- Whether Defendants had a duty to disclose the presence of PFAS in its Products;
- Whether the Products posed a health risk to consumers;
- Whether Defendants' conduct was unlawful;
- Whether Defendants have been unjustly enriched as a result of the unlawful conduct alleged in this Complaint such that it would be inequitable for Defendants to retain the benefits conferred upon it by Plaintiff and the Class;
- Whether Plaintiff and the Class sustained damages with respect to the common law claims asserted, and if so, the proper measure for their damages.

84. With respect to the New York Subclass, additional questions of law and fact common to the members include whether Defendants violated New York General Business Law § 349, and New York General Business Law § 350.

85. **Typicality.** The claims of the named Plaintiff are typical of the claims of the Classes because the named Plaintiff, like other members of the Classes, purchased the Products, relying on the representations, warranties, and omissions made by Defendants on its packaging that the Products were safe and did not contain harmful chemicals.

86. **Adequate Representation.** Plaintiff is an adequate representative of the Class and New York Subclass because his interests do not conflict with the interests of the Class Members he seeks to represent, he has retained competent counsel experienced in prosecuting class

actions, and he intends to prosecute this action vigorously. The interests of the Class Members will be fairly and adequately protected by Plaintiff and his counsel.

87. ***Superiority.*** The class mechanism is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient adjudication of the claims of Class Members. Each individual Class Member may lack the resources to undergo the burden and expense of individual prosecution of the complex and extensive litigation necessary to establish Defendants' liability. Individualized litigation increases the delay and expense to all parties and multiplies the burden on the judicial system presented by the complex legal and factual issues of this case. Individualized litigation also presents a potential for inconsistent or contradictory judgments. In contrast, the class action device presents far fewer management difficulties and provides the benefits of single adjudication, economy of scale, and comprehensive supervision by a single court on the issue of Defendants' liability. Class treatment of the liability issues will ensure that all claims and claimants are before this Court for consistent adjudication of liability issues.

## **CAUSES OF ACTION**

### **COUNT I**

#### **Violation of New York General Business Law § 349 (On Behalf Of The New York Subclass)**

88. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

89. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the New York Subclass against Defendants.

90. Defendants market the Products as being safe for use on genitalia when testing has shown the likely presence of PFAS, which have a negative impact on human health.

91. Defendants have violated, and continue to violate, § 349 of the New York General Business Law ("GBL"), which makes deceptive acts and practices unlawful. As a direct and



proximate result of Defendants' violation of § 349, Plaintiff and other members of the New York Subclass have suffered damages in an amount to be determined at trial.

92. By the acts and conduct alleged herein, Defendants committed unfair or deceptive acts and practices by failing to disclose that the Products contained PFAS.

93. Defendants deceptively marketed their Products as consisting of a "body safe" and "gentle" formula. These statements lead consumers to believe the Products are safe to use.

94. The foregoing deceptive acts and practices are misleading in a material way because, as alleged throughout, PFAS are harmful to humans and raise material safety concerns. Accordingly, Defendants' omissions and misrepresentations were material to Plaintiff and members of the New York Subclass.

95. Defendants' improper consumer-oriented conduct is misleading in a material way in that it, inter alia, induced Plaintiff and the New York Subclass members to purchase and to pay the requested price for the Products when they otherwise would not have, or would not have been willing to pay as much.

96. Defendants made the untrue and/or misleading representations and omissions willfully, wantonly, and with reckless disregard for the truth. Defendants manufacture, market, and sell the Products and therefore possessed the knowledge of what the Products contained.

97. Plaintiff and the New York Subclass members have been injured by their purchase of the Products, which were worth less than what they bargained and/or paid for, and which they selected over other products that may have been truthfully marketed.

98. Defendants' labelling induced Plaintiff and the New York Subclass members to buy the Products, to buy more of them, and/or to pay the price requested.

99. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' violation of § 349, Plaintiff and other members of the New York Subclass paid for falsely advertised Products and, as such, have suffered damages in an amount to be determined at trial.

100. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff and the New York Subclass members are entitled to (1) actual damages and/or statutory damages; (2) punitive damages; and (3) reasonable attorneys' fees, pursuant to GBL § 349(h).

**COUNT II**  
**Violation of the New York General Business Law § 350**  
**(On Behalf Of The New York Subclass)**

101. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

102. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the New York Subclass against Defendants.

103. The acts of Defendants, as described above, and each of them, constitute unlawful, deceptive, and fraudulent business acts and practices.

104. GBL § 350 provides: "False advertising in the conduct of any business, trade or commerce or in the furnishing of any service in this state is hereby declared unlawful."

105. GBL § 350-a defines "false advertising," in relevant part, as "advertising, including labeling, of a commodity . . . if such advertising is misleading in a material respect."

106. Plaintiff and the members of the New York Subclass are consumers who purchased Defendants' Products in New York.

107. As a seller of goods to the consuming public, Defendants are engaged in the conduct of business, trade, or commerce within the intended ambit of § 350.

108. Based on the foregoing, Defendants have engaged in consumer-oriented conduct that is deceptive or misleading in a material way, which constitutes false advertising in violation

of § 350 by failing to disclose that the Products contain PFAS, and marketing them as consisting of a “body safe” and “gentle” formula, which is false given the presence of dangerous chemicals.

109. As manufacturers and sellers of the Products, Defendants possessed the knowledge that the Products contain PFAS.

110. Defendants’ representations (made by statement, word, design, device, sound, or any combination thereof), and also the extent to which Defendants’ advertising has failed to reveal material facts with respect to their Products, as described above, have constituted false advertising in violation of § 350.

111. Defendants’ actions led to direct, foreseeable, and proximate injury to Plaintiff and the members of the New York Subclass.

112. As a consequence of Defendants’ deceptive marketing scheme, Plaintiff and the other members of the New York Subclass suffered an ascertainable loss, insofar as they would not have purchased the Products had the truth been known, would not have paid the requested price for the Products and/or would have purchased fewer of the Products; moreover, as a result of Defendants’ conduct, Plaintiff and the other members of the New York Subclass received Products of less value than what they paid for. A product that does not contain harmful chemicals is worth more than a product that does contain harmful chemicals.

113. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff and the New York Subclass members are entitled to (1) actual damages and/or statutory damages; (2) punitive damages; and (3) reasonable attorneys’ fees, pursuant to GBL § 350-e(3).

**COUNT III**  
**Breach of Express Warranty**  
**(On Behalf Of The Nationwide Class)**

114. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

115. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the Class and New York Subclass against Defendants.

116. In connection with the sale of the Products, Defendants, as the designer, manufacturer, marketer, distributor, and/or seller issued written warranties by representing that the Products' formula were "body friendly" and "gentle" for use on "sensitive intimate areas." Defendants also list the Products' ingredients on the packaging, all of which omit the presence of PFAS as an ingredient.

117. The Products do not conform to the above-referenced representations because the Products contain dangerously high levels of PFAS and are therefore not "body friendly" and "gentle" for use on "sensitive intimate areas."

118. Plaintiff and the members of the proposed Class and the New York Subclass were injured as a direct and proximate result of Defendants' breach because (a) they would not have purchased the Products if they had known the Products contain dangerously high levels of PFAS, and (b) they overpaid for the Products on account of the Product's misrepresentations.

**COUNT IV**  
**Breach of Implied Warranty**  
**(On Behalf Of The Nationwide Class)**

119. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

120. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the Class and New York Subclass against Defendants.

121. At all relevant times, Defendants were the merchant of the Products that were sold to Plaintiff and Class members and was in the business of marketing, promoting, and selling such products to the consuming public. Defendants designed, developed, and sold the Lubricants knowing that Plaintiff and Class members would use them on their body for sexual intercourse.

122. Each Product sold by Defendants comes with an implied warranty that it will be merchantable and fit for the ordinary purpose for which it would be used. Defendants expected the consuming public, including Plaintiff and Class Members, to use the Products on their skin and such use was reasonably foreseeable. Plaintiff and Class Members also expected the Lubricants to be useable and to perform in a manner consistent with their packaging and labeling. Plaintiff and Class Members used the Products under this belief.

123. Defendants breached their implied warranty of merchantability because their Products were not in merchantable condition when sold because they contain or have a material risk of containing dangerous PFAS. The Products are not fit for merchantability because the safety risks of coming in contact with PFAS outweigh the utility of Defendants' Products, given there are comparable lubricants on the market that do not contain PFAS.

124. Defendants' Products are not fit for the ordinary purpose for which they were sold because they contain or have a material risk of containing dangerous PFAS.

125. Defendants did not properly disclaim the warranty of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose.

126. As a result of Defendants' breaches of implied warranties of merchantability, as alleged herein, Plaintiff and the Class Members seek an order awarding compensatory damages and any other just and proper relief available under the law.

**COUNT V**  
**Fraudulent Concealment**  
**(On Behalf Of The Nationwide Class)**

127. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

128. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the Class and New York Subclass against Defendants.

129. Defendants concealed and failed to disclose on the Products packaging and labeling the material fact that the Lubricants contained or risked containing PFAS, and that the Lubricants were not safe for use.

130. As discussed at great length above, it has been widely publicized that PFAS are harmful chemicals to humans, animals, and the environment. The EPA, CDC and many other groups and publications have reported on the potential risks and dangers of PFAS. Accordingly, Defendants knew or should have known that PFAS are dangerous, and concealing this known fact is detrimental to the consumer.

131. Defendants have a duty to disclose that the Lubricants contained or risked containing PFAS; however, Defendants did not make this disclosure.

132. Plaintiff and the Class Members all paid a premium for the Products based upon the way the Products are represented, which did not include the inclusion of PFAS. Products that are tainted with PFAS are not worth a premium to a reasonable consumer.

133. Defendants had superior knowledge or means of knowledge available to them and knew that Plaintiff and Class Members would rely upon the representations and omissions of Defendants regarding the quality and ingredients of its Lubricants. Consumers lack the meaningful ability to test or independently ascertain or verify whether a product contains PFAS, especially at the point of sale.

134. Defendants' concealment was material and intentional because people are concerned with what is in the products that they are putting onto and into their bodies. Consumers such as Plaintiff and the Class Members are influenced by the ingredients and contents listed, as well as any warnings (or lack thereof) on the products they buy. Defendants know that if they had not omitted that the Products contained or risked containing PFAS, then

Plaintiff and the Class Members would not have agreed to pay a premium price for the Products, or would not have purchased the Products at all; however, Defendants wanted to increase sales and profits.

135. Defendants' concealment misled Plaintiff and the Class Members as to the true nature of what they were buying and putting onto and into their bodies and their sexual partners' bodies.

136. Defendants fraudulently concealed that the Products contained or risked containing PFAS. Consequently, Plaintiff and the other members of the Class have suffered injury and are entitled to damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

137. Defendants had a duty to Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class to exercise reasonable and ordinary care in the developing, testing, manufacture, marketing, detailing, distribution, and sale of the Product.

**COUNT VI**  
**Unjust Enrichment**  
**(On Behalf Of The Nationwide Class)**

138. Plaintiff incorporates the foregoing allegations as if fully set forth herein.

139. Plaintiff bring this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the Class and New York Subclass against Defendants.

140. To the extent required by law, this cause of action is alleged in the alternative to legal claims, as permitted under Fed. R. Civ. P. 8.

141. Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class Members conferred benefits on Defendants by purchasing the Products.

142. Defendants were unjustly enriched in retaining the revenues derived from Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class Members' purchases of the Products. Retention of those monies under these circumstances is unjust and inequitable because Defendants misrepresented and failed to

disclose that the Products were unfit for their intended purpose as it was not safe for use. These omissions and misrepresentations caused injuries to Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class Members because they would not have purchased the Products if the true facts were known.

143. Because Defendants' retention of the non-gratuitous benefits conferred on them by Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class Members is unjust and inequitable, Defendants have been unjustly enriched in an amount to be determined at trial.

144. Here, equitable relief in the form of non-restitutionary disgorgement of profits is appropriate because Plaintiff may lack an adequate remedy at law if, for instance, damages resulting from his purchase of the Product is determined to be an amount less than the premium price of the Product. Without compensation for the full premium price of the Products, Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class Members would be left without the parity in purchasing power to which they are entitled.

145. Non-restitutionary disgorgement of profits may also be more certain, prompt, and efficient than other legal remedies requested herein. The return of the full premium price will ensure that Plaintiff and the Class Members are in the same place they would have been in had Defendants' wrongful conduct not occurred, *i.e.*, the position to make an informed decision about the purchase of the Products absent omissions and misrepresentations with the full purchase price at their disposal.

146. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' unjust enrichment, Plaintiff and the Class Members suffered injury and seek the disgorgement and restitution of Defendants' wrongful profits, revenue, and benefits, plus interest, to the extent and in the amount deemed appropriate by the Court, and such other relief as the Court deems just and proper to remedy Defendants' unjust enrichment.



**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests, individually and on behalf of the alleged Classes, that the Court enter judgment in their favor and against Defendants as follows:

- (a) For an order certifying the Classes under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, naming Plaintiff as the representative of the Classes, and naming Plaintiff's attorneys as Class Counsel;
- (b) For an order declaring that Defendants' conduct violates the causes of action referenced herein;
- (c) For an order finding in favor of Plaintiff and the Class and Subclass on all counts asserted herein;
- (d) For compensatory, statutory, and punitive damages in amounts to be determined by the Court and/or jury;
- (e) For prejudgment interest on all amounts awarded;
- (f) For an order of restitution and all other forms of equitable monetary relief;
- (g) For injunctive relief as pleaded or as the Court may deem proper; and;
- (h) For an order awarding Plaintiff and the Class and Subclass their reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses and costs of suit.

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38(b), Plaintiff demands a trial by jury of any and all issues in this action so triable as of right.

Dated: September 12, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

**BURSOR & FISHER, P.A.**

By: /s/ Joshua D. Arisohn  
Joshua D. Arisohn

Joshua D. Arisohn  
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*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

MAURICE BECKLES, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated

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

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

DEFENDANTS

RECKITT BENCKISER LLC and RB HEALTH (US) LLC

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

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

Attorneys (If Known)

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

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

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- Citizen of This State, Citizen of Another State, Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country, PTF DEF, 1 1, 2 2, 3 3, 4 4, 5 5, 6 6

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

Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.

Table with columns: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, IMMIGRATION, BANKRUPTCY, SOCIAL SECURITY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES. Includes various legal categories like Insurance, Personal Injury, Real Estate, etc.

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 Original Proceeding, 2 Removed from State Court, 3 Remanded from Appellate Court, 4 Reinstated or Reopened, 5 Transferred from Another District, 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer, 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d) Brief description of cause: Unfair & deceptive practices

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

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

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER

DATE 09/12/2024 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

Handwritten signature of Josh Auroch

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # AMOUNT APPLYING IFP JUDGE MAG. JUDGE

**CERTIFICATION OF ARBITRATION ELIGIBILITY**

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

Case is Eligible for Arbitration

I, Joshua D. Arisohn, counsel for MAURICE BECKLES, do hereby certify that the above captioned civil action is ineligible for compulsory arbitration for the following reason(s):

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

**DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - FEDERAL RULES CIVIL PROCEDURE 7.1**

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

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

Please list all cases that are arguably related pursuant to Division of Business Rule 3 in Section VIII on the front of this form. Rule 3(a) provides that "A civil case is "related" to another civil case for purposes of this guideline when, because of the similarity of facts and legal issues or because the cases arise from the same transactions or events, a substantial saving of judicial resources is likely to result from assigning both cases to the same judge and magistrate judge." Rule 3(a) provides that " A civil case shall not be deemed "related" to another civil case merely because the civil case involves identical legal issues, or the same parties." Rule 3 further provides that "Presumptively, and subject to the power of a judge to determine otherwise pursuant to paragraph (b), civil cases shall not be deemed to be "related" unless both cases are still pending before the court."

**NY-E DIVISION OF BUSINESS RULE 1(d)**

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

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

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

**BAR ADMISSION**

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

Yes  No

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

Yes (If yes, please explain)  No

I certify the accuracy of all information provided above.

Signature: Joshua Arisohn

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of New York

MAURICE BECKLES, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated

Plaintiff(s)

v.

RECKITT BENCKISER LLC and RB HEALTH (US) LLC

Defendant(s)

Civil Action No. 1:24-cv-6412

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) Reckitt Benckiser LLC 399 Interpace Pkwy Parsippany, NJ 07054

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

Joshua D. Arisohn Bursor & Fisher, P.A. 1330 Avenue of the Americas, Floor 32 New York, NY 10019

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

BRENNA B. MAHONEY CLERK OF COURT

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. \_\_\_\_\_

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

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

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

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

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

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

I returned the summons unexecuted because \_\_\_\_\_ ; or

Other *(specify)*:

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

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's address*

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc:

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Eastern District of New York

MAURICE BECKLES, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated

Plaintiff(s)

v.

RECKITT BENCKISER LLC and RB HEALTH (US) LLC

Defendant(s)

Civil Action No. 1:24-cv-6412

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: (Defendant's name and address) RB Health (Us) LLC
399 Interpace Pkwy
Parsippany, NJ 07054

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it) — or 60 days if you are the United States or a United States agency, or an officer or employee of the United States described in Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 (a)(2) or (3) — you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff or plaintiff's attorney, whose name and address are:

Joshua D. Arisohn
Bursor & Fisher, P.A.
1330 Avenue of the Americas, Floor 32
New York, NY 10019

If you fail to respond, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

BRENNA B. MAHONEY
CLERK OF COURT

Date:

Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk

Civil Action No. \_\_\_\_\_

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

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

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was received by me on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_ .

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

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

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

I returned the summons unexecuted because \_\_\_\_\_ ; or

Other *(specify)*: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's address*

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc: