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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

M.L., individually on behalf of himself and on
behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

THANG BOTANICALS, INC., and FTLS
HOLDINGS LLC, collectively doing business as
7ΩHMZ, and DOES 1-10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff M.L.¹ (“Plaintiff”) bring this action on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated against Defendants Thang Botanicals, Inc. (d/b/a 7OHMZ, 7-OHMZ, or 7OHMZ (“Thang”)) and FTLS Holdings, LLC (“FTLS”) (collectively, “Defendants” or “7-OHMZ”) and Does 1 through 10, inclusive.

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is a civil class action against Defendants for their false, misleading, deceptive, and negligent sales practices regarding their 7-Hydroxymitragynine (“7-OH”) tablet products (collectively, the “7-OH Products” or the “7-OH Tablets”). 7-OH is an alkaloid (psychoactive chemical) found in the kratom plant (*mitragyna speciosa*). Kratom is both a plant and a drug. The plant originates from Southeast Asia where its leaves have long been ingested to produce stimulant and opiate-like effects. Use of kratom in the United States was practically non-existent until the last decade. Since then, Kratom has become a massively popular substance in the United States. This is because it is currently legal to consume, and because of the stimulant and opiate-like effects produced by its two major alkaloids: 7-OH and Mitragynine.

2. However, what consumers do not know is that the opiate-like effects produced by Mitragynine and 7-OH are not the result of novel chemical interactions in the brain. Rather, these alkaloids are behaving, in part, exactly like opioids. That is, the Mitragynine and 7-OH found in the kratom plant activate the same opioid receptors in the human brain as morphine, heroin, and other opiates. Consequently, kratom consumption has the same risks of addiction, dependency, and painful withdrawal symptoms, among various other negative side effects.

3. But it gets worse. While both active alkaloids in kratom interact with the opioid receptors, 7-OH is substantially more potent than mitragynine. Indeed, some studies have shown that 7-OH is ten times more potent than morphine in activating the mu-opioid receptor, which is the receptor associated most strongly with opioid addiction.

4. In raw kratom though, 7-OH does not appear in great quantities, making up less than 0.05% of kratom powder by weight. For raw kratom powder consumers this means that normal doses of kratom

¹ Because this action concerns issues of addiction and medical status, Plaintiff is filing under his initials for the sake of their personal privacy. Plaintiff is a reasonable consumer who fell victim to Defendant’s omissions and misrepresentations about the addictive nature of kratom, which operates like an opioid, and became addicted as a result. Since addiction issues are still wrongly stigmatized, Plaintiff is filing this matter anonymously but will reveal his name as necessary to the Court under seal.

1 powder do not contain enough 7-OH to produce the intense narcotic effects (and concomitantly strong
2 withdrawals) characteristic of traditional opioids. This is not to say that kratom can be consumed with
3 abandon—kratom is highly addictive and will induce opioid withdrawal symptoms if taken too
4 frequently—rather, this is to say that in comparison to raw kratom addiction, the withdrawal symptoms
5 from pure 7-OH consumption would be substantially worse.

6 5. Defendants do not sell raw kratom. Defendants' Tablets are pure 7-Hydroxymitragynine.
7 14mg of it to be precise. This makes Defendants' 7-OH Tablets substantially more addictive than even
8 kratom, and the withdrawal symptoms significantly worse.

9 6. Almost as soon as Defendants' Tablets hit the market the horror stories began to surface.
10 Consumers stating that they were blindsided by these Tablets, thinking they were just a different form of
11 kratom, and suffering through the worst withdrawal symptoms they had ever experienced – worse than
12 heroin by some accounts.

13 7. The general public is largely unaware of kratom and its addictive potential. So, when it
14 comes to “7-Hydroxymitragynine,” a derivative of kratom with a tortuously complex name, the public is
15 even less aware of it and its negative effects.

16 8. When reasonable consumers think of opioids, they think of heroin, fentanyl, hydrocodone,
17 oxycodone, or morphine; they do not think of 7-OH Tablets or expect the “kratom alkaloid” product sold
18 at their local gas stations or corner stores to act like an opioid or have the same addiction and dependency
19 risks as opioids. 7-OH is extremely addictive and, as a result, tens of thousands of unsuspecting consumers
20 have developed 7-OH dependencies that cause them serious physical, psychological, and financial harm.

21 9. Defendants have intentionally failed to disclose these material facts regarding the dangers
22 of 7-OH consumption anywhere on its 7-OH Tablets' labeling, packaging, or marketing material. As a
23 result, Defendants have violated warranty law and state consumer protection laws.

24 10. Defendants rely on their Products' vague packaging and consumers' limited knowledge of
25 7-Hydroxymitragynine to get unsuspecting people addicted to their Products and reap substantial profits
26 from these addictions. Defendants rely on this ignorance and does nothing to correct it. Such activity is
27 outrageous and is contrary to California law and public policy.
28

11. Plaintiff seeks relief in his action individually, and as a class action, on behalf of similarly situated purchasers of Defendants' Products, for the following violations of: (i) Oregon's Unlawful Trade Practices Act, Or. Rev. Stat. § 646.605, *et seq.* (the "UTPA"); (ii) breach of implied warranty; (iii) unjust enrichment; and (iv) fraud by omission.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

12. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to the Class Action Fairness Act, 28 U.S.C. Section 1332(d)(2), because this case is a class action where the aggregate claims of all members of the proposed Classes (defined below), exclusive of interest and costs, exceed the sum or value of \$5,000,000 and Plaintiff, and at least some members of the proposed Classes, have a different state citizenship from Defendants.

13. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because Defendants are entities with constitutionally sufficient contacts with this District to make personal jurisdiction in this Court proper. Moreover, 7OHMZ principal place of business is in this District.

14. Venue is proper in this District because Defendant 7OHMZ is headquartered in this District.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

A. Background and Pharmacology of Kratom and 7-Hydroxymitragynine

15. "Kratom" refers to the substance derived from the leaves of a tropical plant, *mitragyna speciosa* (the "kratom plant"), indigenous to Southeast Asia, where it has been used in herbal medicine since the 19th Century. Kratom's first reported use in scientific literature was in 1836, when it was noted that Malays used kratom tree leaves as a substitute for opium. Historic use of the kratom plant was particularly well-documented in Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia, where kratom remains popular to this day.

16. Kratom is the most widely used drug in Thailand. This popularity does not mean Thailand believes kratom is harmless. To the contrary, Thailand understands that kratom is dangerous, as demonstrated by its ban of the substance in 1943.² Kratom was also historically popular in Malaysia until it was banned in 1952 under the Poisons Act.

² In 1943, Thailand banned the possession, use, and propagation of kratom, and later banned all kratom sales, imports, exports, and consumption all together. However, in 2021, Thailand decriminalized possession of kratom in response to a growing pressure on its justice system to fix the country's overcrowded prisons through liberalization of its drug laws.

1 17. Kratom’s unknown and inconsistent effects have historically been part of its appeal. For
2 instance, the earliest accounts of kratom characterize kratom use for both a stimulant effect during hard
3 day-labor by chewing fresh kratom leaves, and also for an analgesic or relaxing effect by brewing kratom
4 into a tea.

5 18. In the Western world, kratom is sold online and at herbal stores, gas stations, corner stores,
6 smoke shops, and “head” shops where it is primarily marketed as an herbal medicine or natural supplement
7 to use to “treat” a variety of ailments (e.g., pain, mental health, opioid withdrawal symptoms), and/or to
8 obtain a “legal” or “natural” high.

9 19. To create consumable kratom products, kratom plant leaves are harvested, dried, and
10 crushed into a fine powder that is then packaged and sold in pouches, capsules, or liquid formulations.³

11 20. The chemicals in the kratom plant which produce a psychoactive effect when ingested are
12 called “alkaloids.” “Alkaloids” are a class of various naturally occurring organic chemical compounds.
13 The primary alkaloids in kratom leaves responsible for the kratom’s effects are mitragynine (“MG”) and
14 7-Hydroxymitragynine (“7-OH”).

15 21. MG and 7-OH produce a wide spectrum of effects because they interact with many
16 different receptors in the brain. Studies show that MG and 7-OH interact with alpha-2 adrenergic receptors
17 (adrenaline), D2 dopamine receptors, and the serotonin receptors (5-HT2A and 5-HT2C), all of which
18 contribute to kratom’s mood-lifting and stimulant-like effects.

19 22. Defendants’ Products are unique as compared to most other kratom products on the market
20 and represent a “next gen” iteration of the substance in terms of addictiveness and harm-potential.

21 23. In other words, in raw kratom, 7-OH typically only occurs in doses which are no greater
22 than 2% of total alkaloid content (or 0.05% by weight). 7-OH is different than MG because, although
23 both interact with the mu-opioid receptor,⁴ MG has a dramatically lower affinity for the mu-opioid
24 receptor, whereas 7-OH has an affinity for the mu-opioid receptor which is comparable to—or greater
25

26 ³ When kratom leaves are extracted into a liquid formulation, this is colloquially called a kratom “extract
27 shot.”

28 ⁴ The mu-opioid receptor produces the most addictive or habit-forming effects, such as euphoria and
analgesia. For this reason, the mu-opioid receptor is known as “the gateway to addiction” because it is the
receptor which all opioids interact with to produce the classic opioid high feelings of euphoria, sedation,
and pain relief.

1 than—opioids like Percocet, morphine, and oxycontin. Studies have shown that when 7-OH is
2 administered in concentrated, isolated, doses it presents a significantly greater risk of inducing physical
3 and mental addiction in consumers than raw kratom. Yet, consumers are largely ignorant of this fact.

4 24. For instance, while both 7-OH and MG target the opioid-receptors, 7-OH's effect on the
5 opioid receptors is approximately forty-six times that of MG, and thirteen times that of morphine.⁵ Both
6 MG and 7-OH were found to be more potent to the mu-opioid receptor than morphine when taken via oral
7 administration.

8 25. Accordingly, kratom products are referred to as a “quasi-opiate” by health professionals
9 because of their opioid-like characteristics. This is doubly true of 7-OH, which interacts solely and more
10 intensely with the mu-opioid receptor.

11 26. Opioids are addictive not only because of the pleasurable effects that they produce, but also
12 because sudden cessation of opioid use causes severe withdrawal symptoms which users feel compelled
13 to avoid by taking more of the drug. The tragedy of addiction is that users want to stop but cannot.

14 27. All substances that act on the opioid receptors have a high risk of addiction, and 7-OH is
15 no exception. Addiction occurs when an opioid is ingested on a regular basis and, over time, the user
16 develops a tolerance to the drug that requires the user to consume an increased dose of the drug to achieve
17 the same effects a lower dose previously had. As these doses increase, the body becomes dependent on
18 the drug to feel normal and function properly. When the drug is suddenly taken away or the user tries to
19 stop taking the drug, withdrawal occurs. Withdrawal symptoms cause the user to feel much worse than
20 they did before they started taking the drug and can be extremely painful and intolerable to the user.

21 28. Indeed, 7-OH withdrawal symptoms are very similar to those of traditional opioid
22 withdrawal. These symptoms include irritability, anxiety, difficulty concentrating, depression, sleep
23 disturbance including restless legs, tearing up, runny nose, muscle and bone pain, muscle spasms, diarrhea,
24 decreased appetite, chills, inability to control temperature, extreme dysphoria, and malaise.

25 29. Users typically start substances like 7-OH because of how good it makes them feel, but
26 once addicted, they use 7-OH to avoid the pain and sickness of withdrawal. Use is no longer is about
27 getting high, but about not feeling “sick.”

28

⁵ *Kratom—Pharmacology, Clinical Implications, & Outlook: A Comprehensive Review*, National Library of Medicine, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7203303>.

B. Kratom and 7-OH Use and Addiction in the United States

30. Over the past decade, kratom has exploded in popularity within the United States. As of 2021, the American Kratom Association estimates that kratom is a \$1.3 billion a year industry, with 11 million to 15 million annual users within the United States. Studies show that 1 million United States residents use kratom monthly, and that two-thirds of those users use kratom daily.

31. Kratom's popularity is attributed to several factors: first, kratom is marketed as a safe substitute for painkillers and so it appeals to consumers who falsely equate "natural" with "safe;" second, kratom has received media attention as a "nootropic" or "smart" drug because it is stimulating at low doses; third, kratom is widely available and unregulated within the United States; fourth, it produces a "pleasurable" high; and lastly, users are unaware of kratom's opioid-like characteristics, addiction, and withdrawal potential.

32. 7-OH is new to the market. Having only arrived in 2022 or even more recently. Defendants' Products, for instance, came to market in 2023.

33. Kratom is still a relatively unknown substance to the average consumer, and most people have never heard of it. This is doubly true of 7-OH. Even if consumers have heard of kratom they may not have heard of 7-OH.

34. 7-OH sellers advertise it is a substitute for coffee, a pain reliever, a treatment for opioid withdrawal, an antidepressant, an anti-anxiety supplement, and that it improves focus and gives users a boost of energy to get through the day. Some even assure consumers that 7-OH is a non-addictive way to deal with opioid withdrawal. These 7-OH companies universally reiterate these purported "benefits" of 7-OH consumption, without disclosing any of the corresponding harms of 7-OH use.

35. As a result of 7-OH manufacturers', retailers', and advertisers' failure to warn consumers of 7-OH's addictive potential, many 7-OH users find themselves blindsided when they stop taking 7-OH and find themselves facing severe withdrawal symptoms after having stopped using what they thought was a harmless supplement. Further, because 7-OH is relatively unknown in the United States, there are not well-established recovery resources for addicted users to turn to for resources and aid. Some 7-OH users turn to the Internet for support, and there are well-populated and very active Internet forum support groups for consumers struggling with, and recovering from, kratom addictions.

36. The reports from addicted 7-OH users are heart-wrenching. Consistent among these reports is a feeling of initial shock when users realized they had become unknowingly addicted to 7-OH, how difficult it was to stop their 7-OH use. Below are several accounts from the “Quitting Kratom” forum on www.reddit.com, which has over 45,000 members as of September 2024.⁶

- i. In one post titled **Beware of 7-Hydroxymitragynine**, a user wrote: I ended up getting these extract pills that were 14mg of 7 Hydroxymitragynine per pill. Used them for about a week for some bad pain, and then got thrown into aggressive withdrawal. I've been on a now 3 month taper journey off of just a week of using them. It's been hell. Trying to get there slowly tapering. Just wanted to put the PSA out there, something like 7Ohmz might be tempting, and it is incredible for pain, but it threw me into awful withdrawal that's now forced me to have to taper off of it and take a dose every 12 hours. This was after 2 and a half years of regular Kratom use that never gave me withdrawal. This week of using 7ohmz though mixed with my 2 and a half years of Kratom experience created a withdrawal shitstorm that was never expected. Beware.
 - a. **Another user responded:** I don't know how you're cold turkey from the 7Ohmz, I tried and it was worse than when I had to kick morphine. I've had to do a long and slow taper with 6grams of Kratom powder every 12 hours currently. The 7ohmz withdrawal is very scary, worse than any opiate I've been on.
 - b. **Another User Responded:** I started taking those because the guy suggested them now it's every day for 3 months. I can't stop and get bad withdrawals at 24 hr mark. I'm taking about 6 a day now and I'm spending over 1K per month now it's going to ruin me if I don't stop. I can't believe this is legal, idk what to do
- ii. In separate post titled **7ohmz**, another user wrote: Guys I desperately need help. I have been taking 7 Ohmz for maybe 6 months. Like more than three a day. The more research I do on them the more I realize they're not even Kratom and no one scientifically really knows anything about them. I am going across the country tomorrow and am going to be CT for 8 days. I actually really want to stop and I've been trying to for a really long time, but I am terrified of the withdrawals. I don't know what to do. I actually upped my dose this week and have probably been taking more like five a day. I am so embarrassed to say that, I am now realizing that everyone is cautioning even the fucking American Kratom Society about these things. I'm really worried about my mental health not to mention I am going to be with my wife/kids and parents for 8 days. I don't know what I was thinking. Any recommendations?
- iii. In another post titled **Could not and would not believe you all...** another user wrote: Long time lurker, first time poster. I went CT three days ago... after using for 1 1/2 years. The last 3 months I've been exclusively abusing the 7-Ohmz tablets, a full pack of three a day. I told myself you were all exaggerating. I told myself you were all weak. Now I'm completely humbled and fully ashamed. The last three days I've experienced a fatigue and fever like I've never experienced before. Trying to fall asleep and stay asleep, is absolutely impossible. During the night I sweat through my sheets...during the day I feel like a walking corpse. And I caved. I took half a tablet today just to stop the WD symptoms I was feeling. Now my brain just wants to rationalize what I've done. But I know, deep down this was the wrong move...I'm truly ashamed. I share this post for the people like me, who are lurking or glancing at this subreddit from time to time and telling themselves “naw I'll be fine...I can handle the WD whenever I decide or if I ever stop.” I share this post for future me to look at to read and see the

⁶ See <https://www.reddit.com/r/quittingkratom>.

seriousness of my addiction and situation. I know that next time I quit I need to be more prepared. If you abuse it the way I do...Kratom is robbing you of life, and you trade it willingly for a 2 hour high. There's so much more to life than getting high. Thank you to this community, I hope you all know how much reading your stories and struggles does for someone like me. Thank you 🙏

37. Other experiences with kratom (not necessarily 7-OH products) described on the subreddit are similarly horrifying:

- i. **One user wrote:** I started using kratom in pill and powder form a couple years ago. I had no idea it was addictive, and I liked how it made me feel.... so much that I went from using it a couple weekends a month to wanting to use it every weekend to wanting to use it every day. I upped my dose a whole bunch, and soon I started to realize that, when I didn't take it, I would start to get what seemed like withdrawals! WTF? I googled it and did some more research and learned that I was indeed going through withdrawals. I immediately decided to suck it up and get off that stuff and spend a week withdrawing. Unfortunately, it wasn't that simple. I was addicted. That poison was in my mind constantly. I started using again and, LONG story short and many MANY other withdrawal attempts later, I had lost my JOB, my boyfriend, and my personality. It landed me in the hospital many times actually. I was losing hair, my eyes looked horrible, my skin was horribly dry, and I was miserable. I decided to go to REHAB. Effing rehab for this sh!t.
- ii. **Another user shared:** I just tapered down from 80gpd to 20, and the experience was so awful that I just decided to jump yesterday, figuring "Let's just get this over with already!" Well, I gotta tell you, last night may have been one of the roughest nights of my life. It felt like a bad acid trip. I got zero sleep. The RLS was so bad I kept getting out of bed, bundling up, which was exhausting in itself, and going for a loop around the property outside; while hoping to be able to crawl back in bed and actually sleep. Nope. It felt like I was being electrocuted!!! This is even with clonidine and gabapentin. But, I'm determined to NEVER go through that first night again! (And of course I was lamenting my rash decision to jump, and DYING to take some K). But, there's no turning back now. I'm hoping I'll get some sleep tonight since I had none last night. Wish me luck please :).
- iii. **Another user shared:** I was the worst kratom addict I knew and now I'm coming up on 5 months sober. Let me first qualify VERY quickly... Multiple extract shots a day, crying on the way to the store, cut up all my credit cards multiple times (until I got Apple Pay), sent my credit cards to myself in the mail, got on oral naltrexone, got on vivitrol (the injectable shot), gave my wife my wallet, lied every day, ... Today I'm sober off of everything and almost 5 months clean. I don't crave alcohol or drugs anymore. Cravings were my biggest problem. I don't think about kratom all day any longer. I had to walk my sad @\$@ all the way to a 12 step program in order to get help. I have to talk to other struggling people. I had to start working a program of recovery which i still work...My habit was \$50 a day, and with a newborn and mortgage etc I'm still trying to climb out of that hole. But man, to go from complete self-hate to self-love makes everything worth it. I hated myself, not anymore.

38. This Internet forum is filled with other accounts like these, and the stories are consistently the same – well-meaning people were looking to feel better by taking with what they thought was an “herbal supplement,” only to develop an opioid-like addiction. This anecdotal evidence makes clear that 7-OH's addictive potential is a material fact to reasonable consumers that, if known, would help inform

their purchase and consumption decisions. However, Defendants' Products have no information whatsoever warning that 7-OH is similar to an opioid, is habit-forming, or that regular use will result in opioid-like dependency and withdrawal symptoms.

39. Consumers who knew the truth about 7-OH may not have purchased Defendants' Products or would have paid less than they did for them.

C. Defendants Knew or Should Have Known they were Selling a Highly Addictive Drug to Unsuspecting Consumers

40. Defendants manufacture their 7-OH Tablets in a highly specialized lab and utilize highly technical knowledge about kratom and its alkaloids to synthesize their Products. Thus, Defendants are acutely aware of the addiction risks posed by their Products.

41. In an appearance on The Kratom Advocacy Podcast on September 9, 2024, Gregory Dalli (CFO for both Defendants 7OHMZ and FTLS Holdings) stated that "7-Hydroxymitragynine in specific is a really *perfect key for the MU opioid receptor*, and the reason why that is such an important thing is *you don't need to take as much of it to get an effect versus if you look at morphine.*"⁷ Additionally, in that same podcast interview, Gregory Dalli is informed by the interviewer that consumers have stated the Product "has ruined [their] li[v]e[s]." The interviewer then informs Gregory that he has tried Defendants' 7-OH Product and can see how one can get addicted to it.⁸

42. Additionally, in a YouTube video titled *The Most Dangerous Drug in the Smoke Shop*, content creator "Goblin" — known for his candid, firsthand reviews of drug-related substances and harm reduction commentary — described deeply disturbing outreach from individuals connected to the 7OHMZ brand. Goblin, who has openly shared his struggles with addiction, particularly took issue with an unsolicited email he received from "dev@7ohmz.com," in which the company attempted to send him free samples of their flagship product: a high-potency isolate of the kratom alkaloid 7-hydroxymitragynine. The email read, in part:

Hey Goblin,

First off I just want to say that we love your youtube channel and all the drug reviews you do. We are a new company in the kratom industry and we just released our flagship product.

⁷ See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8IBSL_HTW4I, at 3 minutes and 10 seconds.

⁸ *Id.* at 28 minutes and 55 seconds.

1 It's an isolate of the most potent kratom alkaloid 7-hydroxymitragynine. Based on your
2 review videos we think you will really love our product and we would like to send you
some free samples to try. If you are interested, shoot me a reply with your address and we'll
get a package with some samples out in the mail ASAP.

3 Thanks for your time,

4 The 7OHMZ Team

5 43. Following that initial contact, Goblin also received a text message from a purported insider
6 within 7OHMZ or the broader "7OH" industry, who admitted to playing a key role in launching the
7 product line and confessed to being addicted to it himself. The sender wrote:

8 I wanna have a real ass conversation with you about the whole 7oh industry. I was one of
9 the people who helped set this whole thing into motion and I know more about it than 99%
10 of people. There's things that as a company we can't 'legally' say, but I don't want to have
11 to watch my words because of liability reasons. [Redacted Name] said you wanted to record
the conversation, so that complicates things further. But I really just want to be real with
you and give you my perspective as someone with chronic pain, someone who is actively
addicted to 7oh, and someone who helped build this monster.

12 Funny thing is, in the early days I tried contacting you through your email because I wanted
13 to send you some samples and get your opinion on what we we're doing.

14 So lmk if you have any ideas on how we can have a truly open dialogue where I don't have
to watch my words or worry about our conversation biting the whole industry in the ass.

15 44. Goblin's response was swift and clear:

16 Yo – just for clarity all further contact will be recorded and posted publicly, including these
17 messages and all future phone calls. What's on your mind? I personally think people like
you are pretty shitty for the community.

18 According to the video, the anonymous "insider" never replied again. Goblin's outrage — expressed both
19 in the video and across his platform — centered on the fact that the 7OHMZ representatives knowingly
20 attempted to send highly potent and addictive substances to a person they likely knew was in recovery,
21 underscoring a reckless disregard for public health and individual safety.

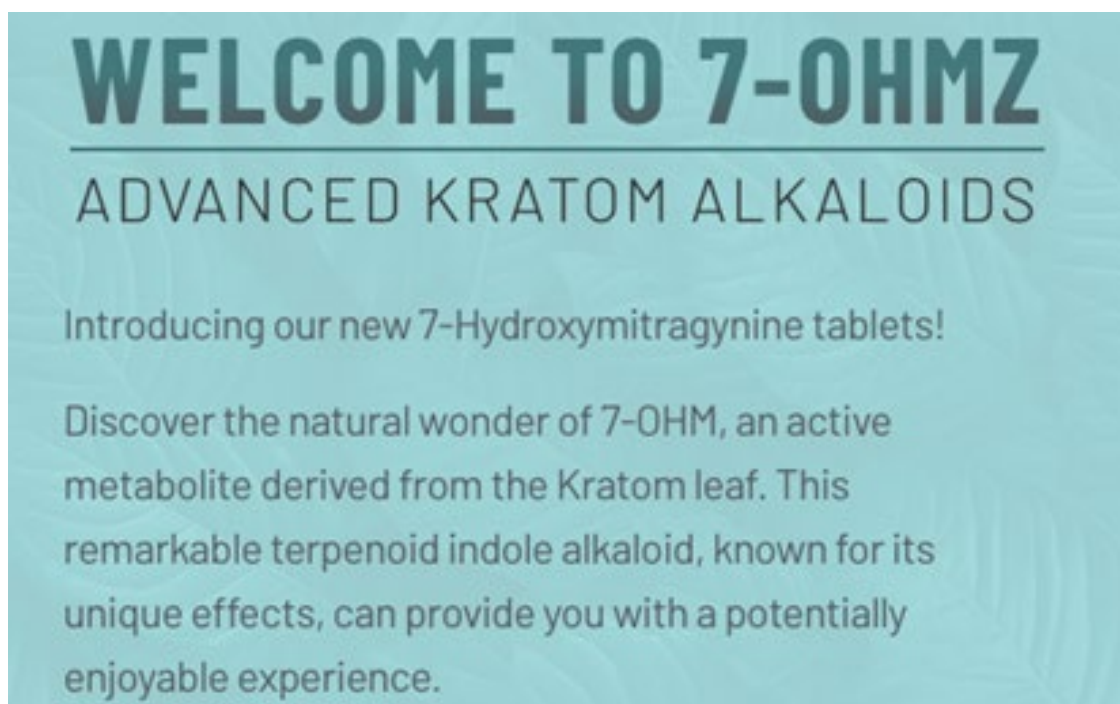
22 45. Despite all of this knowledge, Defendants failed to disclose 7-OH's addictive potential to
23 their customers on their Products' packaging.

24 46. Defendants have no excuse for their lack of a detailed disclaimer warning on their 7-OH
25 Tablet's packaging of 7-OH's harms. The pharmacological effects of 7-OH have been thoroughly studied,
26 and it is well-established that 7-OH acts on the same mu-opioid receptors in the brain as traditional opioids
27 do. Further, there are widespread reports and studies of other addiction and dependency issues.
28

1 47. Defendants therefore know or should have known that kratom users can develop an
2 addiction. Yet, Defendants fail to disclose this material fact on their advertisements or on their Products’
3 packaging.

4 48. The very fact that Defendants possesses the capability to manufacture their 7-OH Tablets
5 shows that it understands the pharmacokinetic nature of 7-OH and the substantial risk of addiction that it
6 poses to consumers. Despite this, Defendants market their 7-OH Products as if they are nothing more
7 than over-the-counter supplements. Indeed, the packaging looks more like allergy medication than a
8 dangerously strong opioid, and Defendants’ glossy website and design language obfuscates the very real
9 truth that it is selling a strong narcotic to consumers who likely do not fully comprehend the risks
10 associated with consuming the Products.

11 49. For instance, in the image pictured below, taken from Defendants’ website, Defendants gives
12 customers a wink and a nod that 7-OH is “known for its unique effects” which “interacts with receptors in
13 an interesting way.” While some customers who have experience with Defendants’ Products may have a
14 sense for what this means, regular consumers do not. Like Plaintiff’s experience described below,
15 consumers may walk into the local headshop and see Defendants’ Product and be enticed into purchasing it
16 because, they think, it looks inviting and if it was dangerous there would be a warning on the package.



50. It gets worse. Just like a street-level drug dealer might do, Defendants have authorized stores, and in some cases, instructed them, to give the tablets out as free samples. The sample pictured below was found by Plaintiff's counsel in a 7OHMZ-branded "free sample" box. This sample bears zero warning that the Product interacts with the *opioid* receptors, that it is substantially more addictive than kratom, or that continued use may result in severe withdrawal symptoms. The very act of giving out "free samples" is a signal to consumers that the Product is safe and harmless. Without the warning, consumers have no reason not to try the sample. They may even enjoy the effects and continue using the Product because they do not believe a Product with such substantial addictive potential would not bear some kind of warning. This is outrageous, a moral and ethical failure, and in contravention of public policy.



51. Reasonable consumers looking at the Products' packaging and online store description would not presume that 7-OH is highly addictive.

52. Nowhere on the packaging does Defendants mention that 7-OH presents the same addiction problems that former opioid users and any other consumers would want to avoid. Consumers seeking help as they come off opioids may be drawn in by Defendants' misleading statements about 7-OH without knowing that they risk trading one addiction for another.

53. As a 7-OH product seller, manufacturer and/or distributor, Defendants occupies a position of superior knowledge to the average reasonable consumer, who likely knows nothing about 7-OH.

54. The information provided on Defendants' Products' packaging in particular is woefully sparse. Another representative image of one of Defendants' Products is depicted below:



55. On Defendants' website homepage, they market their 7-OH Tablets with the following:

Introducing our new 7-Hydroxymitragynine tablets! Discover the natural wonder of 7-OHM, an active metabolite derived from the Kratom leaf. This remarkable terpenoid indole alkaloid, known for its unique effects, can provide you with a potentially enjoyable experience. Derived from the Kratom plant and often referred to as '7-OHM,' this unique compound interacts with receptors in an interesting way.

56. Additionally, Defendants' website's homepage has a section called "What is 7-OHM?" that contains the following description:

7-Hydroxymitragynine is a terpenoid indole alkaloid from the plant *Mitragnyna speciosa*, commonly known as Kratom. It is often referred to as '7-OHM. It was first described in 1994 and is a natural product derived from the mitragynine present in the Kratom leaf. It is considered an oxidized derivative and active metabolite of mitragynine. 7-OHM binds to opioid receptors like mitragynine, but research suggests that 7-OHM binds with greater potency and contributes heavily to the analgesic activity of mitragynine as a metabolite.

1 57. In this description, Defendants admit that their 7-OH Products contain the more potent and
2 more harmful kratom alkaloid (7-OH), instead of the less potent form (MG), but Defendants fail to disclose
3 on the Products' packaging the heightened harm that corresponds with the increased potency of their 7-
4 OH Products.

5 58. Despite these "informative" introductions to their Products, nowhere in any of these
6 disclaimers or descriptions do Defendants provide any warning to consumers on the Products' packaging
7 that their Products interact with opioid receptors or are highly addictive and should not be taken on a daily
8 basis, or note any of the numerous negative side effects and withdrawal symptoms caused by their Products.

9 59. Indeed, the entire contents of the warning on the Products' packaging is a bog-standard
10 disclaimer—written in miniscule text—that consumers should consult a healthcare professional before
11 use and that Defendants are not liable for "misuse of this Product." The warning then directs consumers
12 to a legal disclaimer page on Defendants' website.

13 60. A boilerplate disclaimer and suggestion that consumers check out a website is plainly
14 insufficient. This is a Product that poses a serious risk of intense addiction and withdrawal in line with
15 traditional "hard" opioids.

16 61. Addiction is a disease. As such Defendants' 7-OH Tablets pose an unreasonable health
17 hazard, and Defendants had and have a duty to disclose this fact *on their Products' packaging*.

18 62. What's more, nothing about the Products' packaging would lead reasonable consumers to
19 believe they were purchasing compounds similar to opioids, that function on the same mu-opioid receptors
20 in the brain. It looks as innocuous as a vitamin supplement.

21 63. Defendants, through their misleading advertising and their failure to disclose 7-OH's
22 addictive properties on their Products' labels, relied upon the average consumer's incomplete knowledge
23 of 7-OH to better sell their Products and get users addicted to them.

24 64. Defendants fail to disclose 7-OH's addictive potential because Defendants know that it is
25 a material fact to reasonable consumers which would influence their purchasing and consumption
26 decisions, likely to Defendants' financial detriment.

27 65. As of April 2024, Plaintiff is informed and believes that Defendants have added an
28 addiction warning to the product packaging. While the addition of such a warning may potentially impact

1 the availability of injunctive relief—depending on its adequacy—it does not extinguish or diminish
2 Plaintiff’s and Class members’ claims that arose prior to the inclusion of the warning.

3 66. By any metric, Defendants’ conduct is immoral, unethical, and contrary to California
4 public policy.

5 67. The United States is going through an opiate crisis that is shaking the foundations of our
6 society. Amid this crisis, Defendants are creating more addicts for no reason other than to line their
7 pockets, without adequate disclosure of their Products’ risks through the use of false and misleading
8 packaging and marketing. That cannot— and should not—stand, at least when Defendants’ conduct entails
9 breaches of warranty and violation of state consumer protection statutes as it does here.

10 PARTIES

11 68. Plaintiff is a resident and citizen of Portland, Oregon. He first encountered 7-
12 hydroxymitragynine in February 2024, when a smoke shop employee recommended it. The employee did
13 not provide any information regarding potential risks, including addiction, dependence, or withdrawal
14 symptoms. Plaintiff had never heard of 7-hydroxymitragynine and had no way of knowing how much more
15 potent and dangerous it was than traditional kratom. He began using the defendant’s 7OHMZ branded tablet
16 products around the same time—just three weeks after the birth of his daughter. At that time, he was
17 experiencing fatigue, sleep disruption, and elevated anxiety. He purchased the product—a three-pack of 14
18 mg tablets—from Mellow Mood Smoke Shop in Portland. He examined the packaging before buying it.
19 There were no warnings about addiction or dependency or other indication of potential harm.

20 69. Initially, Plaintiff took one tablet per day. By March 2024, he switched to purchasing the
21 six-pack version of the same 14 mg tablets, realizing it was more cost-effective. As his tolerance grew, so
22 did his dosage—two tablets, then three, and eventually the entire six-pack each day. By July 2024, he was
23 spending approximately \$270 per week—roughly \$1,000 a month—to maintain his use. Around this time,
24 with his paternity leave nearing its end and a new job approaching, Plaintiff attempted to quit. He wanted
25 to reclaim his life for himself and for his family, and to his credit, he was temporarily successful, using
26 raw kratom powder to blunt the withdrawal symptoms. Even then, the symptoms were brutal: cold sweats,
27 tremors, crushing anxiety, cravings, muscle spasms, insomnia, exhaustion, watery eyes, irritability, and
28 other classic signs of opioid-like withdrawal.

70. By September 2024, his cravings and post-acute withdrawal symptoms had become too much to bear. He relapsed. Within weeks, he was back to using a full six-pack daily. In February 2025, he tried again to quit—but failed. As of now, Plaintiff remains dependent on 7-OH. Had the 7OHMZ packaging he initially purchased included a clear warning that the Product was so addictive—just a sentence—Plaintiff would have never bought it.

71. Defendant Thang Botanicals, Inc., d/b/a 7ΩHMZ, is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in San Francisco, California. Defendant Thang owns and operates the 7-OHMZ website, www.7ohmz.com, and also advertises, markets, distributes, and sells its 7-OHMZ Products in California, Oregon, and throughout the United States.

72. Defendant FTLS Holdings, LLC is a Delaware entity with its principal place of business in San Francisco, California. Defendant FTLS Holdings, LLC owns the trademark for the “7ΩHMZ” brand. Defendant FTLS Holdings, LLC is owned and operated by Gregory Dalli, who is also the CFO of Defendant Thang Botanicals/7ΩHMZ. FTLS and Thang/7ΩHMZ operate in furtherance of a single enterprise, and are so financially intertwined as to be considered one and the same entity for purposes of this lawsuit.

73. Plaintiff does not know the true names or capacities of the persons or entities sued herein as Does 1-10, inclusive, and therefore sues such Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and upon such information and belief alleges, that each of the Doe Defendants are, in some manner, legally responsible for the damages suffered by Plaintiff and members of the proposed Classes as alleged herein. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend this Complaint to set forth the true names and capacities of these Defendants when they are ascertained, along with appropriate charging allegations, as may be necessary.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

Plaintiff brings this action pursuant to Rules 23(a), (b)(2) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure on behalf of himself and all other Class members, defined as follows:

All persons nationwide who, within the applicable statute of limitations period, purchased 7-OHMZ kratom products (the “Nationwide Class”).

All persons who, within the applicable statute of limitations period, purchased 7-OHMZ kratom products while in Oregon (the “Oregon Class”).

74. Excluded from the Classes are Defendants, as well as their officers, employees, agents or affiliates, parent companies and/or subsidiaries, and each of their respective officers, employees, agents or affiliates, and any judge who presides over this action. Plaintiff reserves the right to expand, limit, modify, or amend these Class definitions, including the addition of one or more subclasses, in connection with his motion for Class certification, or at any other time, based upon, *inter alia*, changing circumstances and/or new facts obtained during discovery.

75. **Numerosity:** The members of the Classes are so numerous that joinder of all members is impracticable. Plaintiff is informed and believes that the proposed Classes contains at least thousands of consumers throughout California, Oregon and the United States who have been damaged by Defendants conduct as alleged herein. The precise number of members of the Classes is unknown to Plaintiff at this time.

76. ***Existence and Predominance of Common Questions of Law and Fact:*** This action involves common questions of law and fact, which predominate over any questions affecting individual members of the Classes. These common legal and factual questions include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. whether the labels on Defendants' Products have the capacity to mislead reasonable consumers;
- b. whether Defendants knew that 7-OH is a highly addictive substance that causes physical and psychological dependence and opioid-like withdrawal symptoms;
- c. whether Defendants' conduct alleged herein violated the UTPA;
- d. whether Defendants' conduct alleged herein constitutes unjust enrichment;
- e. whether Defendants' conduct constitutes a fraudulent omission;
- f. whether Plaintiff and the Classes are entitled to damages and/or restitution; and
- g. whether an injunction is necessary to prevent Defendants from continuing to sell their 7OHMZ Products without warning labels of their addictiveness.

77. ***Typicality:*** Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Classes in that Plaintiff and the Class members sustained damages as a result of Defendants' uniform wrongful conduct, based upon Defendants' failure to inform Plaintiff and all others similarly situated that their Products are highly addictive and akin to opioids.

78. **Adequacy:** Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the members of the Classes. Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced in complex consumer class action litigation, and Plaintiff intends to prosecute this action vigorously. Plaintiff has no antagonistic or adverse interests to those of the Classes.

79. **Superiority:** A class action is superior to all other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy for, *inter alia*, the following reasons: prosecutions of individual actions are economically impractical for members of the Classes; the Classes are readily definable; prosecution as a class action avoids repetitious litigation and duplicative litigation costs, conserves judicial resources, and ensures uniformity of decisions; and prosecution as a class action permits claims to be handled in an orderly and expeditious manner.

80. Defendants have acted or failed to act on grounds generally applicable to the Classes, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief with respect to the Classes as a whole.

81. Without a class action, Defendants will continue a course of action that will result in further damages to Plaintiff, members of the Classes, and the general public—who are also negatively impacted by the dregs of addiction—and will likely retain the benefits of Defendants wrongdoing.

82. Based on the forgoing allegations, Plaintiff’s claims for relief include those set forth below.

83. Plaintiff is informed that Defendants keeps extensive computerized records through their online sales data, as well as through, *inter alia*, general marketing programs. Defendants have one or more databases through which a significant majority of members of the Classes may be identified and ascertained, and Defendants maintains contact information, including email and home addresses, through which notice of this action could be disseminated in accordance with due process requirements.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION
Violation of Oregon’s Unlawful Trade Practices Act (“UTPA”)
OR. REV. STAT. § 646.605 *et seq.*

84. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference every allegation set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

85. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the members of the proposed Oregon Class against Defendants for violations of the UTPA, Or. Rev. Stat § 646.605, *et seq.*

1 86. The UTPA is intended to be interpreted liberally to protect consumers, covering a broad
2 spectrum of unfair or deceptive practices in trade or commerce.

3 87. The unlawful methods, acts and practices pled herein were committed in the course
4 Defendants' business. ORS § 646.608(1).

5 88. Defendants are a "person," as defined by ORS § 646.605(4). Defendants are engaged in
6 "trade" and "commerce" in Oregon by advertising, offering or distributing for sale goods that directly or
7 indirectly affect the people of the State of Oregon, as defined by ORS § 646.605(8).

8 89. Defendants' 7-OH Tablets are "goods" that Plaintiff M.L. and the proposed Oregon Class
9 obtained primarily for personal purposes, as defined by ORS § 646.605(6).

10 90. ORS § 646.608(1)(e) states that it is an unlawful business practice for a company to
11 represent that their goods sold have characteristics, ingredients, uses, or benefits that they do not have.
12 This provision is specifically intended to prevent economic harm based on deceptive commercial practices
13 and extends to omissions.

14 91. A "representation" under ORS § 646.608(1) is any manifestation of any assertion by words
15 or conduct, including, but not limited to, a failure to disclose a fact.

16 92. The Supreme Court of Oregon has clarified that for a defendant to violate the UTPA
17 provisions prohibiting misrepresentations about a product's attributes, it is not required that the
18 misrepresentations be material to consumer purchasing decisions. *See State ex rel Rosenblum v. Living*
19 *Essentials, LLC*, 371 Or. 23 (2023). This means that any misrepresentation about the product, regardless
20 of its influence on the purchasing decision, can be actionable under the UTPA.

21 93. Defendants have further engaged in "unconscionable tactics" by knowingly taking
22 advantage of consumers' physical infirmity and ignorance, knowingly permitting customers to enter into
23 transactions in which the customers will derive no material benefit. ORS § 646.605(9).

24 94. Defendants' unlawful omissions, acts, and practices pled herein were "willful violations"
25 of ORS § 646.608 because Defendants knew or should have known that Defendants conduct was a
26 violation, as defined by ORS § 646.605(10).

27 95. Defendants' methods, acts and practices, including Defendants' representations,
28 omissions, active concealments and failures to disclose, violated and continue to violate the UTPA.

1 96. With respect to omissions, Defendants at all relevant times had a duty to disclose the
2 information in question because: (i) Defendants had exclusive knowledge of material information that was
3 not known to Plaintiff and the Oregon Class (i.e., that 7-OH is highly addictive); (ii) Defendants concealed
4 material information from Plaintiff and the Oregon Class; and/or (iii) Defendants made partial
5 representations which were false and misleading absent the omitted information.

6 97. Defendants' misrepresentations and nondisclosures deceive and tend to deceive a
7 reasonable consumer and the general public.

8 98. Defendants engaged in these reckless or knowing use of these unlawful methods, acts or
9 practices alleged herein which have been declared unlawful by the UTPA.

10 99. As a direct, substantial and/or proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff and the
11 Oregon Class members suffered compensable and ascertainable losses.

12 100. Plaintiff and the Oregon Class members would not have purchased the Products at the
13 prices they paid if they had known the harmful opioid-like effects of 7-OH consumption and/or its
14 addiction and withdrawal symptoms.

15 101. Plaintiff seeks on behalf of himself and the Oregon Class: (1) the greater of statutory
16 damages of \$200 or actual damages for every violation of the act; (2) punitive damages; (3) appropriate
17 equitable relief, including injunctive and restitution, as appropriate; and (4) attorneys' fees and costs
18 pursuant to ORS § 646.638, *et seq.*

19 102. Under the UTPA, a private plaintiff may seek an injunction as may be necessary to ensure
20 cessation of unlawful business and trade practices. ORS § 646.636. The unlawful acts and omissions pled
21 herein were, are, and continue to be part of a pattern or generalized course of conduct. Defendants' conduct
22 is ongoing and is likely to continue and recur absent a permanent injunction. Accordingly, Plaintiff seeks
23 an order enjoining Defendants from committing such unlawful practices pursuant to ORS § 646.638(8)(c);
24 ORS § 646.636. The balance of the equities favors the entry of permanent injunctive relief against
25 Defendants. Plaintiff, the Oregon Class members and the general public will be irreparably harmed absent
26 the entry of permanent injunctive relief against Defendants. Plaintiff, the Oregon Class members and the
27 general public lack an adequate remedy at law. A permanent injunction against Defendants are in the
28 public interest. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that Defendants' unlawful behavior

1 is ongoing as of the date of the filing of this Complaint. If not enjoined by order of this Court, Defendants
 2 will or may continue to injure Plaintiff and Oregon consumers through the misconduct alleged herein.
 3 Absent the entry of a permanent injunction, Defendants' unlawful behavior will not cease and, in the
 4 unlikely event that it voluntarily ceases, it is capable of repetition and is likely to reoccur.

5 103. This action was brought "within one year after the discovery of the unlawful method, act
 6 or practice." ORS § 646.638(6). By Defendants' design, their misrepresentations and omissions regarding
 7 the effects of the ingredients in their kratom Products made it virtually impossible for the typical consumer
 8 to discover the truth. Plaintiff and members of the proposed Oregon Class were reasonable consumers
 9 who trusted Defendants' representations when they purchased Defendants' kratom Products.

10 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**
 11 **Breach of Implied Warranty**

12 104. Plaintiff realleges and reincorporates by reference all paragraphs alleged above.

13 105. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the Nationwide Class against
 14 Defendants.

15 106. Defendants, as the designers, manufacturers, marketers, distributors, and/or sellers of the
 16 Products, impliedly warranted that 7-OH is not addictive and does not cause opioid-like withdrawal
 17 symptoms because they did not provide disclosure on the Products' packaging stating otherwise.

18 107. Defendants breached their warranty implied in the contract for the sale of their 7-OH
 19 Products because the Products could not pass without objection in the trade under the contract description:
 20 the 7-OH Products were not adequately contained, packaged, and labeled as per Defendants' contract with
 21 Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class members, and the Products do not conform to the implied affirmations
 22 of fact made on the marketing and packaging for the Products that the Products are not addictive and do
 23 not cause withdrawals. U.C.C. §§ 2-313(2)(a), (e), (f). As a result, Plaintiff and the members of the
 24 Nationwide Class did not receive the goods as impliedly warranted by Defendants to be merchantable.

25 108. Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class members purchased the 7-OH Tablets in reliance upon
 26 Defendants' skill and judgement and the implied warranties of fitness for the purpose.

27 109. The 7-OH Products were defective when they left Defendants' exclusive control.

28 110. Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class did not receive the goods as warranted.

111. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendants' breach of their implied warranty, Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class have been injured and harmed because (i) they would not have purchased Defendants' Products on the same terms if they knew that the Products were addictive and could cause opioid-like withdrawal symptoms; and (ii) the Products do not have the characteristics, uses, or benefits as promised by Defendants.

112. On April 9, 2025, Plaintiff's counsel sent Defendants a pre-suit notice letter via certified mail, return receipt requested, on behalf of Plaintiff that complied in all respects with U.C.C. §§ 2-314 and 2-607. Plaintiff's counsel sent Defendants a letter advising Defendants that it breached an implied warranty and demanded Defendants cease and desist from such breaches and make full restitution by refunding the monies received therefrom.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION
Unjust Enrichment

113. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as fully stated herein.

114. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the Nationwide Class members against Defendants.

115. Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class conferred a benefit on Defendants in the form of the gross revenues Defendants derived from the money they paid to Defendants.

116. Defendants had an appreciation or knowledge of the benefit conferred on it by Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class members.

117. Defendants have been unjustly enriched in retaining the revenues derived from Plaintiff's and the Nationwide Class members' purchases of the Products, and retention of such revenues under these circumstances is unjust and inequitable because Defendants failed to disclose on the Products' packaging that the Products were addictive and similar to opioids. This caused injuries to Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class because they would not have purchased the Products or would have paid less for them if the true facts concerning the Products had been known.

118. Defendants accepted and retained the benefit in the amount of the gross revenues they derived from sales of the Products to Plaintiffs and the Nationwide Class members.

1 119. Defendants have thereby profited by retaining the benefit under circumstances which
2 would make it unjust for Defendants to retain the benefit.

3 120. Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class members are, therefore, entitled to restitution in the
4 form of the revenues derived from Defendants' sale of the Products.

5 121. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' actions, Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class
6 members have suffered in an amount to be proven at trial.

7 122. Here, equitable relief is appropriate because Plaintiff may lack an adequate remedy at law
8 if, for instance, damages resulting from his purchase of the Products is determined to be an amount less
9 than the premium price of the Products, Plaintiff would be left without the parity in purchasing power to
10 which he is entitled.

11 123. Restitution may also be more certain, prompt, and efficient than other legal remedies
12 requested herein. The return of the full premium price will ensure that Plaintiff is in the same place he
13 would have been in had Defendants' wrongful conduct not occurred, i.e., in the position to make an
14 informed decision about the purchase of the Products absent omissions with the full purchase price at his
15 disposal.

16 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
Fraud by Omission

17 124. Plaintiff realleges and reincorporates by reference all paragraphs alleged above.

18 125. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the Nationwide Class against
19 Defendants.

20 126. Defendants distributed their Products throughout the United States, including within the
21 States of California and Oregon.

22 127. Defendants misrepresented that their 7-OH Products had attributes or qualities that they do
23 not have by failing to disclose that 7-OH is addictive and can cause opioid-like withdrawal.

24 128. Defendants know that 7-OH is addictive because they employ a highly specialized lab to
25 isolate and extract 7-Hydroxymitragynine from kratom, and because they have received consumer reports
26 of addiction and withdrawal.
27
28

1 129. Defendants know that knowledge of 7-OH's addictive nature is a material fact that would
2 influence the purchasing decisions of reasonable consumers because addiction is an unreasonable health
3 hazard.

4 130. Defendants therefore had a duty to Plaintiff and to the Nationwide Class members to
5 disclose that 7-OH is addictive and can cause withdrawals on the Products' packaging.

6 131. Consumers reasonably and justifiably relied on Defendants' omissions, because it is
7 reasonable to assume that a product which is addictive like an opioid would bear a warning on its
8 packaging.

9 132. As a result of Defendants' omissions, Plaintiff and the Nationwide Class paid for 7-OH
10 Products they may not have purchased, or paid more for those Products than they would have, had they
11 known the truth about 7-OH.

12 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

13 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of himself, and on behalf of the Classes, respectfully requests
14 this Court award relief against Defendants as follows:

15 a. an order certifying the Classes and designating Plaintiff as the Class Representative
16 and his counsel as Class Counsel;

17 b. award Plaintiff and members of the Classes actual, consequential, punitive, and
18 statutory damages, as appropriate;

19 c. award restitutionary disgorgement and non-restitutionary disgorgement, to the
20 extent permitted by law, of all profits and unjust enrichment that Defendants obtained from
21 Plaintiff and the members of the Classes as a result of Defendants' unlawful, unfair, and fraudulent
22 business practices described herein;

23 d. *cy pres* award of any portions of *non*-restitutionary disgorgement, to the extent
24 permitted by law, of all profits and unjust enrichment that Defendants obtained from *any* source
25 as a result of the immoral and illegal conduct alleged herein to a non-profit addiction research and
26 treatment center that specializes in opioid and kratom-related substance use disorder, treatment,
27 prevention, and research.
28

e. award declaratory and injunctive relief as permitted by law or equity, including enjoining Defendants from continuing their unlawful practices set forth herein, and directing Defendants to identify, with Court supervision, victims of their misconduct and pay them all money they are required to pay;

f. order Defendants to engage in a corrective advertising campaign;

g. award attorneys' fees and costs; and

h. award any other further relief as the Court may deem necessary or appropriate.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all claims so triable.

Dated: April 9, 2025

LYNCH CARPENTER, LLP

By: /s/ Todd D. Carpenter

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*Attorneys for Plaintiff
and Proposed Class Counsel*

I. PLAINTIFF(S)

M.L., individually on behalf of himself and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff:
Leave blank in cases where United States is plaintiff. **Portland, Oregon**

Attorney or Pro Se Litigant Information (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

LYNCH CARPENTER, LLP, 9171 Towne Centre Dr, Ste 180, San Diego, CA 92122
(619) 762-1910

DEFENDANT(S)

THANG BOTANICALS, INC., and FTLS HOLDINGS LLC, collectively doing business as 7ΩHMZ, and DOES 1-10, inclusive,

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant:
Use ONLY in cases where United States is plaintiff.

Defendant's Attorney's Name and Contact Information (if known)

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

☐ U.S. Government Plaintiff

☐ Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)

☐ U.S. Government Defendant

☒ Diversity

III. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Statute under which you are filing: (Use jurisdictional statutes only for diversity)

28 U.S.C. Section 1332(d)(2)

Brief description of case: Defendants fraudulently advertised their products.

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

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<div><div>PERSONAL INJURY</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury -Medical Malpractice</div></div> <div><div>PERSONAL INJURY</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury – Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/ Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability</div></div> <div><div>PERSONAL PROPERTY</div><div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability</div></div> <div><div>CIVIL RIGHTS</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/ Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities– Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities–Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education</div></div> <div><div>PRISONER PETITIONS</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty</div></div> <div><div>HABEAS CORPUS</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee– Conditions of Confinement</div></div>	<div><input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC § 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other</div> <div><div>LABOR</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act</div></div> <div><div>IMMIGRATION</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions</div></div>	<div><input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC § 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC § 157</div> <div><div>PROPERTY RIGHTS</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent–Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <input type="checkbox"/> 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016</div></div> <div><div>SOCIAL SECURITY</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))</div></div> <div><div>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</div><div><input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS–Third Party 26 U.S.C. § 7609</div></div>	<div><input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC § 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced & Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/ Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes</div>

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

☒ Original Proceeding

☐ Removed from State Court

☐ Remanded from Appellate Court

☐ Reinstated or Reopened

☐ Transferred from Another District

☐ Multidistrict Litigation–Transfer

☐ Multidistrict Litigation–Direct File

VI. FOR DIVERSITY CASES ONLY: CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

Plaintiff

Defendant

☐ Citizen of California

☒ Citizen of Another State

☐ Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country

☐ Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In California

☐ Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State

☐ Foreign Nation

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT

☒ Check if the complaint contains a **jury demand**.

☐ Check if the complaint contains a **monetary demand**. Amount:

☒ Check if the complaint seeks **class action** status under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23.

☐ Check if the complaint seeks a **nationwide injunction** or Administrative Procedure Act vacatur.

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) OR MDL CASE

Provide case name(s), number(s), and presiding judge(s).

A. et al v. Thang Botanicals, Inc. et al, No. 3:24-cv-07029-TLT (Hon. Trina L. Thompson)

IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGNMENT pursuant to Civil Local Rule 3-2 (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

☒ SAN FRANCISCO/OAKLAND

☐ SAN JOSE

☐ EUREKA-MCKINLEYVILLE

COMPLETING THE CIVIL COVER SHEET

Complete the form as follows:

- I. Plaintiffs-Defendants.** Enter names (last, first, middle initial) of plaintiff and defendant. If the plaintiff or defendant is a government agency, use the full name or standard abbreviations. If the plaintiff or defendant is an official within a government agency, identify first the agency and then the official, giving both name and title.
County of Residence. For each civil case filed, except U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county where the first listed plaintiff resides at the time of filing. In U.S. plaintiff cases, enter the name of the county in which the first listed defendant resides at the time of filing. In land condemnation cases, the county of residence of the “defendant” is the location of the tract of land involved.
Attorney/Pro Se Litigant Information. Enter the firm name, address, telephone number, and email for attorney of record or pro se litigant. If there are several individuals, list them on an attachment.
- II. Jurisdiction.** Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 8(a), pleadings must establish the basis of jurisdiction. If multiple bases for jurisdiction apply, prioritize them in the order listed:
 - (1) *United States plaintiff.* Jurisdiction based on 28 U.S.C. §§ 1345 and 1348 for suits filed by the United States, its agencies or officers.
 - (2) *United States defendant.* Applies when the United States, its agencies, or officers are defendants.
 - (3) *Federal question.* Select this option when jurisdiction is based on 28 U.S.C. § 1331 for cases involving the U.S. Constitution, its amendments, federal laws, or treaties (but use choices 1 or 2 if the United States is a party).
 - (4) *Diversity of citizenship.* Select this option when jurisdiction is based on 28 U.S.C. § 1332 for cases between citizens of different states and complete Section VI to specify the parties’ citizenship. Note: Federal question jurisdiction takes precedence over diversity jurisdiction.
- III. Cause of Action.** Enter the statute directly related to the cause of action and give a brief description of the cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless jurisdiction is based on diversity. Example: U.S. Civil Statute: 47 U.S.C. § 553. Brief Description: Unauthorized reception of cable service.
- IV. Nature of Suit.** Check one of the boxes. If the case fits more than one nature of suit, select the most definitive or predominant.
- V. Origin.** Check one of the boxes:
 - (1) *Original Proceedings.* Cases originating in the United States district courts.
 - (2) *Removed from State Court.* Proceedings initiated in state courts may be removed to the district courts under Title 28 U.S.C. § 1441. When the petition for removal is granted, check this box.
 - (3) *Remanded from Appellate Court.* Check this box for cases remanded to the district court for further action, using the date of remand as the filing date.
 - (4) *Reinstated or Reopened.* Check this box for cases reinstated or reopened in the district court. Use the reopening date as the filing date.
 - (5) *Transferred from Another District.* Check this box for cases transferred under Title 28 U.S.C. § 1404(a). Do not use this for within-district transfers or multidistrict litigation (MDL) transfers.
 - (6) *Multidistrict Litigation Transfer.* Check this box when a multidistrict (MDL) case is transferred into the district under authority of Title 28 U.S.C. § 1407.
 - (7) *Multidistrict Litigation Direct File.* Check this box when a multidistrict litigation case is filed in the same district as the Master MDL docket.
- VI. Residence (citizenship) of Principal Parties.** Mark for each principal party *only* if jurisdiction is based on diversity of citizenship.
- VII. Requested in Complaint.**
 - (1) *Jury demand.* Check this box if plaintiff’s complaint demanded a jury trial.
 - (2) *Monetary demand.* For cases demanding monetary relief, check this box and enter the actual dollar amount being demanded.
 - (3) *Class action.* Check this box if plaintiff is filing a class action under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23.
 - (4) *Nationwide injunction.* Check this box if plaintiff is seeking a nationwide injunction or nationwide vacatur pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act.
- VIII. Related Cases.** If there are related pending case(s), provide the case name(s) and number(s) and the name(s) of the presiding judge(s). If a short-form MDL complaint is being filed, furnish the MDL case name and number.
- IX. Divisional Assignment.** Identify the divisional venue according to Civil Local Rule 3-2: “the county in which a substantial part of the events or omissions which give rise to the claim occurred or in which a substantial part of the property that is the subject of the action is situated.” Note that case assignment is made without regard for division in the following case types: Property Rights (Patent, Trademark and Copyright), Prisoner Petitions, Securities Class Actions, Anti-Trust, Bankruptcy, Social Security, and Tax.