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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

**CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

W.G., individually and on behalf of  
all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

PDX AROMATICS LLC d/b/a  
Kraken Kratom,

Defendant.

Case No.: 5:25-cv-1589

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

FOR:

- (1) VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA'S CONSUMERS LEGAL REMEDIES ACT ("CLRA"), CAL. CIV. CODE § 1750, *et seq.*;
- (2) VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA'S UNFAIR COMPETITION LAW ("UCL"), CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17200, *et seq.*;
- (3) BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY;
- (4) UNJUST ENRICHMENT;
- (5) FRAUD BY OMISSION.

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

1 Plaintiff W.G. (“Plaintiff”) brings this action on behalf of himself and all  
2 others similarly situated against Defendant PDX Aromatics LLC d/b/a Kraken  
3 Kratom (“Defendant”).

#### 4 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

5 1. This is a civil class action lawsuit against Defendant for false,  
6 misleading, deceptive, and negligent sales practices regarding its kratom powder,  
7 kratom liquid shots, kratom extract tablets, kratom liquid extract, kratom extract  
8 soft gels, kratom chocolate, and kratom gummies (collectively, the “Products”).

9 2. Kratom is a dried leaf that is sold as a loose powder, packaged into  
10 capsules, or made into extracts or other consumables. However, what reasonable  
11 consumers do not know, and Defendant fails to disclose, is that the active  
12 ingredients in kratom are similar to opioids. That is, kratom works on the exact  
13 same opioid receptors in the human brain as morphine and its analogs; has similar  
14 effects as such, and critically, has the same risk of physical addiction and  
15 dependency, with similar withdrawal symptoms. When reasonable consumers  
16 think of opiates and opioids, they think of heroin, fentanyl, hydrocodone,  
17 oxycodone, and morphine; they do not expect that the “all natural” product bought  
18 at their local corner store operates like an opioid, with similar addiction and  
19 dependency risks. Kratom is perniciously addictive – on an entirely different level  
20 than caffeine or nicotine – and it has sunk its hooks into tens of thousands of  
21 unsuspecting consumers and caused them serious physical, psychological, and  
22 financial harm. Defendant has intentionally and negligently failed to disclose these  
23 material facts anywhere on its labeling, packaging, or marketing materials, and it  
24 has violated warranty law and state consumer protection laws in the process.

25 3. Defendant relies on its Products’ innocuous packaging and the  
26 public’s limited knowledge about kratom and its pharmacology to get users  
27 addicted, while reaping profits along the way. Reasonable consumers do not  
28

1 expect the liquid extract bottles, pouches of kratom powder, bottles of kratom  
2 capsules, chocolate bars, or gummies, which they can purchase at gas stations and  
3 corner stores, to contain a Product with the same addictive potential of morphine  
4 and its analogs. Defendant relies on this ignorance and until mid-2023 did nothing  
5 to correct it. Such activity is outrageous and is in contravention of California law  
6 and public policy.

7 4. Defendant and its officers have engaged in a systemic effort to peddle  
8 an addictive substance to unsuspecting and oftentimes vulnerable consumers.  
9 Plaintiff seeks relief in this action individually, and as a class action on behalf of  
10 similarly situated purchasers of Defendant's Products, for: (1) violation of  
11 California's Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code § 1750, et seq.; (2)  
12 violation of California's Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200,  
13 et seq.; (3) breach of implied warranty; (4) unjust enrichment; and (5) fraud by  
14 omission.

15 5. Because this action concerns issues of addiction and medical status,  
16 Plaintiff W.G. is filing under his initials for the sake of his personal privacy.  
17 Plaintiff W.G. is a reasonable consumer who fell victim to Defendant's omissions  
18 and misrepresentations about the addictive nature of kratom, which operates like  
19 an opioid, and became addicted as a result. Since addiction issues are still wrongly  
20 stigmatized, Plaintiff W.G. is proceeding in this matter anonymously but will  
21 reveal his name as necessary to the Court under seal.

## 22 **PARTIES**

23 6. Plaintiff W.G. is a citizen of California who resides in Corona,  
24 California, and intends to stay there. Plaintiff W.G. first purchased the Products  
25 from Defendant's website in or around April 2023. W.G. did not want to take  
26 anything addictive but gathered from Defendant's website that the Products were  
27 not addictive. Plaintiff W.G. used the Products with no realization he had an  
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1 addiction until nine months ago when he attempted to use less of the Products.  
2 Once Plaintiff W.G. did so, he experienced withdrawal symptoms including  
3 headaches, low energy, and cold sweats. This was the moment Plaintiff W.G.  
4 realized Defendant did not tell the truth about the Products, and that Plaintiff W.G.  
5 had become addicted to them. Had W.G. known that the Products were highly  
6 addictive, by way of a warning on the Products' packaging, Plaintiff W.G. would  
7 have never purchased the Products.

8 7. Defendant PDX Aromatics, LLC d/b/a Kraken Kratom is an Oregon  
9 limited liability company with its principal place of business in Portland, Oregon.  
10 Defendant markets, sells, and distributes the Products throughout the United States,  
11 including California. Defendant manufactured, marketed, and sold the Products at  
12 issue at all times during the relevant Class Period.

### 13 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

14 8. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to  
15 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d) because there are more than 100 class members and the  
16 aggregate amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000, exclusive of interest, fees,  
17 and costs, and at least one Class Member is a citizen of a state different from  
18 Defendant.

19 9. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the parties because Plaintiff  
20 resides in California, is a citizen of California, and submits to the jurisdiction of  
21 this Court, and because Defendant has, at all times relevant hereto, systematically  
22 and continually conducted, and continues to conduct, business in this District.  
23 Defendant therefore has sufficient minimum contacts with this state, including  
24 within this District, and/or intentionally availed itself of the benefits and privileges  
25 of the California consumer market through the promotion, marketing, and sale of  
26 the Products to residents within this District and throughout this State.  
27 Additionally, Defendant marketed and sold the Products to Plaintiff in this District.  
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1           14. In the Western world, kratom is sold online and at herbal stores, gas  
2 stations, corner stores, smoke shops, and “head” shops where it is primarily  
3 marketed as an herbal medicine or natural supplement to use to “treat” a variety of  
4 ailments (e.g., pain, mental health, opioid withdrawal symptoms), and/or to obtain  
5 a “legal” or “natural” high.

6           15. To create consumable kratom products, kratom plant leaves are  
7 harvested, dried, and crushed into a fine powder that is then packaged and sold in  
8 pouches, capsules, liquid formulations, or foods like chocolates or gummies.<sup>2</sup>

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

14           17. MG and 7-OH produce a wide spectrum of effects because they  
15 interact with many different receptors in the brain. Studies show that MG and 7-  
16 OH interact with alpha-2 adrenergic receptors (adrenaline), D2 dopamine  
17 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           18. Most crucially, MG and 7-OH interact with the mu-opioid receptor.  
20 The mu-opioid receptor produces the most addictive or habit-forming effects, such  
21 as euphoria and analgesia. For this reason, the mu-opioid receptor is known as  
22 “the gateway to addiction” because it is the receptor which all opioids interact with  
23 to produce the classic opioid high feelings of euphoria, sedation, and pain relief.

24           19. MG and 7-OH cause a variety of pharmacological effects depending  
25 on their potency, resulting in a highly dose-dependent response to each kratom

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26           <sup>2</sup> When kratom leaves are extracted into a liquid formulation, this is colloquially  
27 called a kratom “extract shot.”  
28

1 product. For example, a low dose (0.5 grams to 3 grams) is typically described as  
2 stimulating or energizing, whereas a high dose (3+ grams) is typically described as  
3 euphoric, sedating, and analgesic. Nonetheless, in sufficient doses, kratom's  
4 effects are substantially similar to those of opioids and other drugs.

5 20. Accordingly, kratom is referred to as a "quasi-opiate" by health  
6 professionals because of its opioid-like characteristics. This concept that kratom is  
7 essentially an opioid is affirmed by several facts: first, as discussed above,  
8 kratom's effects are substantially similar to those of opioids; second, kratom  
9 alleviates opioid withdraw symptoms; and third, repeated use of kratom causes  
10 opioid withdrawal symptoms.

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

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

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

3 24. Users typically start substances like kratom because of how good it  
4 makes them feel, but once addicted, they use kratom to avoid the pain and sickness  
5 of withdrawal. Use is no longer is about getting high, but about not feeling “sick.”

6 25. Kratom users state that kratom addiction is unique in the way it sneaks  
7 up on them. What is particularly insidious about kratom, they describe, is that  
8 because they are unaware of kratom’s negative side effects and its addictive  
9 potential, when they begin to experience the negative symptoms attributable to  
10 addiction in the early stages of taking kratom products, they do not attribute it to  
11 the kratom. Instead, kratom users then take more kratom believing the kratom  
12 companies’ claims that kratom will help them feel better.

13 26. Long-term kratom users further report experiencing depression,  
14 anxiety, anhedonia, and reduced sex drive due to their kratom use.

## 15 **II. KRATOM USE AND ADDICTION IN THE UNITED STATES**

16 27. Kratom use in the United States has exploded over the past decade.  
17 As of 2023, the American Kratom Association estimates that kratom is a 1.5 billion  
18 dollar a year industry, with 11-15 million annual users in the United States, up  
19 from 3-5 million users in 2016.

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



1           29. However, kratom is still generally a relatively unknown substance to  
2 the average consumer, and most people have never heard of it. Kratom sellers  
3 advertise that it is a substitute for coffee, a pain reliever, a treatment for opioid  
4 withdrawal, an antidepressant, an anti-anxiety supplement, and that it improves  
5 focus and gives users a boost of energy to get through the day. These kratom  
6 companies universally reiterate these purported “benefits” of kratom consumption,  
7 without disclosing any of the corresponding harms of kratom use.

8           30. Further, because kratom does not produce as extreme of a “high” as  
9 cocaine or heroin, it is easy for users to take kratom daily without realizing they  
10 are developing an addiction and harming themselves. This makes kratom  
11 particularly insidious as addiction sneaks up on unsuspecting and uninformed  
12 users.

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

22           32. The reports from addicted kratom users are heart-wrenching.  
23 Consistent among these reports is a feeling of initial shock when users realized  
24 they had become unknowingly addicted to kratom, and how difficult it was to stop  
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1 their kratom use. Below are several accounts from the “Quitting Kratom” forum on  
2 www.reddit.com, which has over 45,000 members as of October 2024:<sup>3</sup>

3 One user wrote: “I’ve been on a 50gpd [grams per day] habit for about  
4 4 years. Like most people here, **I was in denial that the Kratom was**  
5 **causing my multitude of issues. How could it be the Kratom when**  
6 **everyone keeps telling me how great it is?** I made myself believe  
7 that I had underlying issues that the Kratom was helping. Spoiler: It  
8 wasn’t. **I slowly became a shell of the person I used to be. TRUE**  
9 **clinical depression symptoms with zero joy in my life.** I started  
10 browsing this subreddit and reading everyone’s stories and I related to  
every single one. **Everyone had the same exact experience I had**  
**and at that moment I knew it was the Kratom causing my**  
**depression.”** (emphasis added).

11 A gas station employee wrote: “I work at a gas station where we sell  
12 kratom such as powders, gold and silver pills and especially shots etc  
13 (you know which one I’m talking about) **it’s just mind blowing to me**  
14 **how many people are practically addicted and how many**  
15 **customers literally scavenge their money to pay for their daily shot.**  
Why are people so addicted especially to those shots.”

16 Another user solicited “extract horror stories” – one user responded:  
17 “Took 2-3 shots a day for almost 2 years. How did it screw me up?  
18 Let me count the ways. Financially it was draining me, 100%! **I would**  
19 **estimate 60% of my hair fell out. My skin was grey. My eyes were**  
20 **dark. I became a hermit.** No longer wanted to do anything, including  
21 self care or hygiene. Just taking a shower was a chore I had to talk  
myself into the last few months. I was disgusting and did not care at  
all. **All I cared about was that I had enough K for tomorrow.”**

22 In response to the same “extract horror stories” post, another user  
23 responded: “I used [kratom extract] pills and sometimes the shots for  
24 over 5 years. I’m now 290 days clean from them. **They were so hard**  
25 **to kick bc of how addicting they are.** And you can just walk in the  
26 store and buy them. I was spending \$45 day on this stuff. **I wasted**  
**tens of thousands of dollars on it and my life suffered.** Lots of my  
hair fell out and it’s only now starting to grow back some, I think most

27 <sup>3</sup> See <https://www.reddit.com/r/quittingkratom>.  
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1 of it is gone for good. I'm repairing my marriage and friendships.  
2 Everything. Stay away from this stuff."

3 Another user responded: "Amen. This shit got hold of me as bad as  
4 anything else I've ever done... spent WAY more money on these  
5 fucking things than real honest to God hard drugs back in the day.  
6 **Anywhere from 6-10 of these things daily for... years. Let's call it 7**  
7 **at an average of \$18/pop = \$126/day x 30 = \$3780/month = about**  
8 **\$45k/year.** How fucking embarrassing. I made \$140,000 last year  
9 living in Georgia (pretty low cost of living) and pretty regularly get  
10 busted "borrowing" money from my 10 year old son. Fuck this; I'm  
11 not living like this anymore."

12 About 2 years ago, another user wrote: "I saw 'A Leaf of Faith' and  
13 got the impression that kratom was a generally friendly substance to  
14 use freely, never knowing how addictive it was, how much it was  
15 further numbing me beyond how alcohol already was, how it was  
16 slowly wiping out my sex drive, and likely contributing to my perpetual  
17 brain fog. ... My second attempt [at quitting] was maybe another 7 or  
18 8 months later. Kratom was making me pretty miserable. I was reading  
19 posts in this subreddit and I was finally aware of how addicted I was;  
20 feeling crappy, sluggish, and sorta spacey pretty much all the time."

21 About 2 years ago, another user wrote: "What a difficult journey it has  
22 been. I was a ~75 GPD [grams per day] user. **Quitting kratom was**  
23 **one of the hardest things I've had to do in my life.** I learned the hard  
24 way that kratom causes withdrawals on a work trip 3 years ago. I  
25 should have stopped then and there but I gave in because the RLS was  
26 so bad. ... **Kratom withdrawal is seriously no joke so don't think**  
27 **you're the only one struggling so much.** I'm only a week free but  
28 after this experience I know for sure that I will never go back. Good  
luck everyone!" (emphasis added).

About 2 years ago, another user wrote a post titled *Kratom Is An Addictive Drug*. It said, in part: "It's been 23 hours since my last dose. **I just wanted to give my story hoping that it would help others see that they've been lied to, deceived and manipulated into thinking this plant is 'harmless and safe'.** As a matter of fact, reading the horror stories on this subreddit was the first step in my recovery... I started taking it almost 3 years ago after hearing about it on... well,

1 Reddit. They touted it is a miracle plant that had all the benefits of an  
2 opioid with none of the side effects.” (emphasis added).

3 About 19 months ago, another user wrote: “**I think the perfect word**  
4 **to describe Kratom addiction is ‘insidious’.** Here is the definition  
5 – *‘proceeding in a gradual, subtle way, but with harmful effects.’* I  
6 think this is why it takes so long to realize what is going on. There was  
7 never a rock bottom moment for me like there would be for other more  
8 conventional abused drugs. No overdose, no bad behavior, no  
9 abusiveness to my family, no DWI, etc.. - It was just a lazy, slow  
10 descent into nothingness. I was living in a groundhogs day type of  
existence. Wake up, go to work, leave work, buy an extract shot or 2,  
have dinner, drink my shot, mindlessly look at my phone and/or watch  
TV. Wake up and do it all over again.” (italic emphasis in original,  
bold emphasis added).

11 About 12 months ago, another user wrote: “I started using k[ratom]  
12 when I had knee surgery Dec 2019 so 3 years. **I didn’t want to use**  
13 **pain killers because I got sober from alcohol 3/6/2018 and i felt the**  
14 **pain killers were going to make me relapse.** I didn’t know I would  
end up in a worst place as I am now.” (emphasis added).

15 About 2 years ago, another user wrote: “Was in bed all day yesterday  
16 fighting withdrawals. I used to even be an athlete - strong lean and fit,  
17 until I got on [kratom] shots and extracts. Didn’t even get high any  
more - just wanted to not feel bad.”

18 About 4 years ago, another user wrote: “I researched kratom before  
19 using it and almost every site promoted that its harmless with healthy  
20 benefits, and that its withdrawals are like coffee for 3 days max.  
21 Information wasn’t clear that kratom could become a negative  
22 addiction that takes months to recover” ... “**I took something I**  
23 **thought was helping me for 1.5-2 years, not even knowing the**  
24 **downsides bc that information was so misleading. It fucked up my**  
**digestion, energy, mood, brain fog, anxiety, etc. Fuck kratom, and**  
**fuck those who peddle it as a harmless cure-all.**” (emphasis added)

25 About 10 months ago, another user wrote: “For any newcomers: this  
26 stuff is absolutely no joke. It’s not harmless and the wd [withdrawal]  
27 is *definitely* **not** like caffeine. I’ve cold turkey’d caffeine before and I  
28 had a slight headache for a couple hours. I definitely have never woken

1 up in a pool of my own sweat from not having my caffeine. ... **This**  
2 **stuff is a drug. A serious drug. And it's super freakin addictive.**  
3 ***Extracts, powder, or in my case, capsules...it doesn't matter.*** Yes  
4 some forms are more addictive than others but the WD is hellacious no  
5 matter how you're taking it." (emphasis added).

6 About 10 months ago, another user wrote: "This stuff is a drug, and  
7 dangerous! **I started taking it because of all the good things I heard**  
8 **and read about it.** I've never been addicted to or dependent on  
9 anything before, but this stuff has totally taken control of my life."  
10 (emphasis added).

11 About 9 months ago, another user wrote: "I finally realized a few weeks  
12 ago how much of a negative impact kratom was having on my life. I  
13 noticed myself planning my whole day around my doses and making  
14 sure when I left the house I'd bring an extra dose with me in a shaker  
15 bottle. It was heavily affecting my mood overall, but especially in  
16 public settings. I did not want to leave my house most days even if I  
17 did dose."

18 About 9 months ago, another user wrote: "I have been taking OPMS  
19 black pills for about a year now. It has ran my bank dry. When I wake  
20 up in the morning I fucking crave this shit. I have never been addicted  
21 to opiates or anything like that. I get to the point where I am going to  
22 go cold turkey and am so confident but when I wake up my brain makes  
23 me think its okay to go get it. I cant talk to anyone about this in my  
24 family or friends. I have a very high stress job and am also going  
25 through a nasty break up. I feel so alone with trying to stop and when  
26 I betray myself and go to get more, i fight back tears in the parking lot  
27 (I am a grown ass man). I am not an emotional person and in my  
28 environment theres no room for emotions. Should I taper off? What  
the fuck do I do?"

About 3 months ago, another user wrote: "I was taking one to two opms  
gold shots a day (sometimes three) for about two years straight. When  
the 24hr mark hit the withdrawals kicked in hard. I had become  
absolutely obsessed with scavenging 20\$ together to make sure I got my  
shot each day. Constantly driving to the shop, hoping no one would  
see me pop out. I wanted to quit every night but just couldn't stand the  
withdrawals. I finally quit (on day 17 ct) with the help of a quit buddy  
I found in this sub. I'm still not right at all, RLS is there and my sleep

1 is still off. I'm sneezing more than I ever have. But, music is back, I  
2 have more money in my pocket and I feel free from the grips. I've still  
3 got a long ways to go but am committed to never touching that shit  
again. It brought out the worst version of me.”

4 33. This Internet forum is filled with accounts just like these. The stories  
5 are consistent – well-meaning people who were looking to feel better, in mind  
6 body and spirit, by taking an “herbal supplement,” only to end up with an opioid-  
7 like addiction.

8 34. As these accounts make clear, the addictive potential of kratom is a  
9 material fact to reasonable consumers which would help inform their purchase and  
10 consumption decisions. Until mid-2023, Defendant’s Products had no warnings,  
11 whatsoever, that kratom is similar to an opioid, is habit-forming, and that regular  
12 use will result in opioid-like dependency with withdrawal symptoms similar to  
13 those of traditional opioids.

14 35. Consumers who knew the truth about kratom would not have  
15 purchased Defendant’s Products or would have paid less than they did for them.

16 **III. DEFENDANT KNEW OR SHOULD HAVE KNOWN IT WAS**  
17 **SELLING A HIGHLY ADDICTIVE DRUG TO UNSUSPECTING**  
18 **CONSUMERS**

19 36. Despite its traditional medical uses, kratom dependence has been  
20 known and observed for a long time and is well-documented in Southeast Asia,  
21 where the plant originates and has the longest history of use. Addiction to kratom  
22 among users in Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia has been documented by  
23 scientists and researchers in the United States since at least 1988.

24 37. To reiterate, this is not an instance where scientific merit is still up for  
25 debate. Western civilization has known for decades that kratom is highly addictive  
26 and has the potential to cause physical and psychological dependence in regular  
27 users. In Southeast Asia, it has been known for over a century that kratom is  
28



addictive. For example, a 2007 study found that 2.3% of people in Thailand have used kratom, and that many of those users developed a dependence on kratom to avoid withdrawal.

38. However, the fact that kratom's addictive potential has been known in the *scientific community*, does not mean that the general public is aware of it. Indeed, most consumers do not know what kratom is and have no idea how addictive it is.

39. Defendant operates under the brand name Kraken Kratom and sells kratom powders, capsules, liquid extracts, kratom shots, soft gels, and candies.





1           40. No matter what Product consumers take, however, they are exposed to  
2 significant levels of addictive alkaloids.

3           41. Upon information and belief, Defendant has interacted with growers  
4 and distributors in Southeast Asia who have disclosed the addictive nature of  
5 kratom to it.

6           42. Even without such interactions, Defendant has received numerous  
7 user reports about the addictive potential of kratom in the United States.

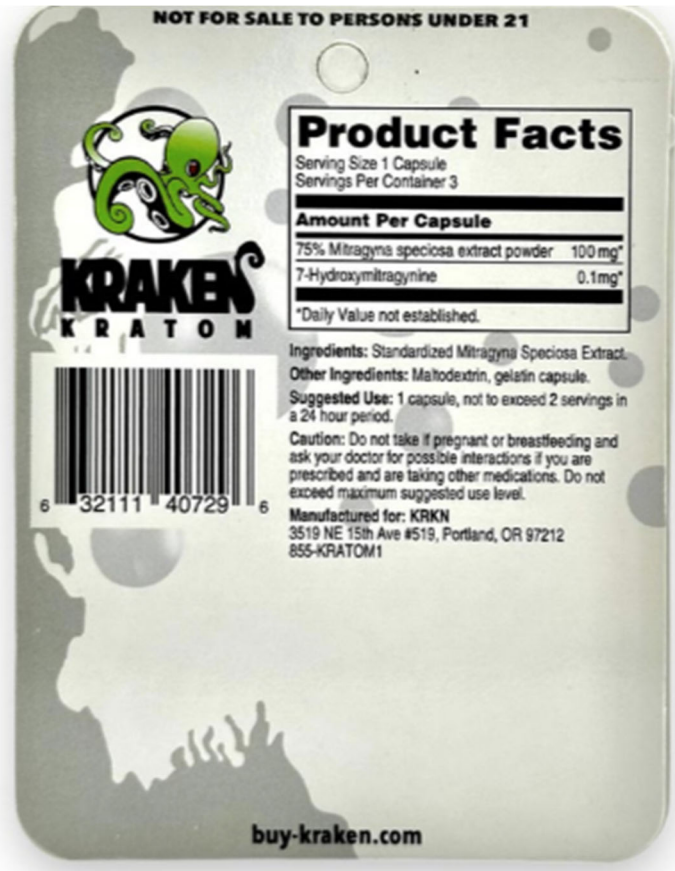
8           43. Defendant manufactures its Products in a highly specialized lab and  
9 utilizes highly technical knowledge about kratom and its alkaloids to synthesize its  
10 Products. Thus, Defendant is acutely aware of the addiction risks posed by its  
11 Products.

12           44. Therefore, the very fact that Defendant possesses the capability to  
13 manufacture its Products shows that it understands the pharmacokinetic nature of  
14 kratom and the substantial risk of addiction that it poses to consumers. Despite  
15 this, Defendant markets its Products as if they are nothing more than over-the-  
16 counter supplements. Indeed, the packaging of its Products looks more like candy  
17 or herbal supplement than a dangerously strong opioid, and Defendant's glossy  
18 website and design language obfuscates the very truth that it is selling a strong  
19 narcotic to consumers who likely do not fully comprehend the risks associated with  
20 consuming the Products.

21           45. Defendant therefore knew or should have known that the Products it  
22 sells are highly addictive.

23           46. Despite this knowledge, Defendant failed to disclose the addictive  
24 potential of its Products on its website or anywhere on its Products' packaging.  
25 Until mid-2023 Defendant provided no warning or disclaimer on its website on the  
26 risks of addiction associated with the Products. And to this day, any disclaimers  
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on the Products' packaging are woefully insufficient with no mention of the Products' addictive qualities.



47. Any “warnings” which Defendant may have placed on its website, however, are fundamentally inadequate to put reasonable consumers on notice about the risks inherent to taking kratom. At the bottom of its individual Product pages — which cannot be seen without first scrolling down — Defendant gives a vague statement, in preposterously small text that its Products “may be habit forming”, shown below. This is as inconspicuous as it gets.

**BULK KRATOM CAPSULES**[Home](#) / [Kratom Capsules](#) / [Bulk Kratom Capsules](#)

Ingredients: Mitragyna speciosa, Vegetable Cellulose

**Bulk Kratom Capsules**

★★★★★

This is a Kraken original, sourced by our team for over 15 years from the most knowledgeable and trusted suppliers in Indonesia. Each 00-sized veggie capsule contains approximately 750 mg of Bali Kratom powder; 50 capsules equals around 37 grams of material. With an average Mitragynine content tested and verified at 1.8%, this industry standard continues to be one of our strongest sellers.

Kratom grows indigenously across Southeast Asia, in places like Thailand and Malaysia, and a variety's origin is often part of its name. These days most kratom for sale in the United States comes from Indonesia, but strains typically retain characteristics of their seed lineage despite where they happen to be cultivated.

Our raw powders, leaf, and encapsulated products test at an average of >1.5% mitragynine.

PRODUCT NAME	PRICE	QTY
<b>Bali Kratom Capsules - 455g (est. 720ct)</b>	\$164.99	— 0 +
<b>White Vein Borneo Kratom Capsules - 455g (est. 720ct)</b>	\$179.99	— 0 +
<b>Maeng Da Thai Kratom Capsules (Yellow Vein) - 455g (est. 720ct)</b>	\$179.99	— 0 +
<b>Red Borneo Kratom Capsules - 455g (est. 720ct)</b>	\$184.99	— 0 +
<b>Red Maeng Da Kratom Capsules - 455g (est. 720ct)</b>	\$189.99	— 0 +

☐ Yes, I want it!**LIMITED OFFER! ONLY \$18.04**

Would you like to include Zenith NANO Liquid Kratom Extract - 1 Count with your order for a special price of only \$18.04?

**ADD TO CART**

Now accepting:



Or pay in 4 interest-free installments with

**GMP COMPLIANT**  
PRODUCTS & FACILITY**LAB TESTED**  
QC INSPECTED**FREE SAME-DAY SHIPPING**  
Available on All Orders**FREE USPS PRIORITY 2-DAY**  
For orders over \$199**FREE COLLECT ON DELIVERY**  
On all orders**Frequently Asked Questions**

WHAT ARE BULK KRATOM POWDER CAPSULES?	+
WHY SHOULD YOU BUY KRATOM CAPSULES IN BULK?	+
WHERE ARE BULK KRATOM CAPSULES MANUFACTURED?	+
HOW MANY CAPSULES COME IN BULK SIZE PACKAGES?	+
HOW MANY KRATOM CAPSULES SHOULD I TAKE?	+

Our Kratom products are uniformly blended and composite tested to meet current AHPA standards. Purchasing wholesale from Kraken means never having to worry about product quality or contamination issues. As an American Kratom Association approved vendor and the first to receive this accreditation, our customers have peace of mind in knowing they are buying compliant Kratom products.



Kraken Kratom is the AKA's first to receive accreditation for Good Manufacturing Practices. More info on this can be found [here](#).

All of our products are tested for quality, identification, heavy metals content ([AOAC 2013.06] Arsenic, Cadmium, Lead, Mercury) and microbial safety (Aerobic Plate Count [AOAC 990.12], Yeast and Mold [AOAC 997.02], Coliforms and E Coli [AOAC 991.4],

Salmonella [AOAC-RI 050701])

To learn more about our GMP process for blending and testing, please visit [this page](#).

Please visit our [Shipping Restrictions](#) page to learn more about where we are unable to ship Kratom products.

Not to be used while operating motor vehicles or working with heavy machinery. Do not use this product if pregnant and ask a doctor for possible interactions if you are prescribed and taking medication. Not recommended for long-term use. May be habit-forming. Not suitable by use of persons under the age of 21. Do not exceed the maximum suggested use level.

Not to be used while operating motor vehicles or working with heavy machinery. Do not use this product if pregnant and ask a doctor for possible interactions if you are prescribed and taking medication. Not recommended for long-term use. May be habit-forming. Not suitable by use of persons under the age of 21. Do not exceed the maximum suggested use level.

1           48.   Addiction is a disease, a medical condition. Thus, any product which  
2 carries an addiction risk poses a concurrent health hazard, which is a material fact  
3 to consumers. Accordingly, Defendant's Products carry the threat of an  
4 unreasonable health hazard which Defendant was obliged to disclose to consumers  
5 on its Products' packaging.

6           49.   The consequences of kratom addiction are not mild: "in humans,  
7 opioid-like withdrawal symptoms have been reported following cessation of  
8 kratom use," though "the withdrawal syndrome appears to be less severe than  
9 withdrawal from morphine."

10          50.   While kratom withdrawal may be "less severe" than morphine  
11 withdrawal, that is hardly a seal of approval – morphine withdrawal is one of the  
12 most unpleasant experiences that one can endure in modern life. And kratom  
13 withdrawal, while perhaps "less severe" than morphine withdrawal, is still an  
14 "opioid-like withdrawal" (according to the World Health Organization), with the  
15 same physical and mental symptoms.

16          51.   The risk of "opioid-like withdrawal symptoms" is a material fact to  
17 reasonable consumers.

18          52.   As a kratom product manufacturer and distributor, Defendant  
19 occupied a position of superior knowledge to the average reasonable consumer,  
20 who likely knows next to nothing about kratom.

21          53.   Defendant, through its misleading advertising and its failure to  
22 disclose kratom's addictive properties on its Products' labels, relied upon the  
23 average consumer's incomplete knowledge of kratom to sell its Products and get  
24 users addicted to kratom.

25          54.   Defendant fails to disclose kratom's addictive potential because  
26 Defendant knows that it is a material fact to reasonable consumers which would  
27  
28

1 influence their purchasing and consumption decisions, likely to Defendant's  
2 detriment.

3 55. By any metric, Defendant's conduct is immoral, unethical, and  
4 contrary to California public policy.

5 56. The United States is going through an opiate crisis that is shaking the  
6 foundations of our society. Amid this crisis, Defendant is creating more addicts for  
7 no reason other than to line its pockets, without adequate disclosures of its  
8 Products' risks and through the use of false and misleading packaging. That  
9 cannot – and should not – be allowed, at least when their conduct entails breaches  
10 of warranty and violation of state consumer protection statutes (as it does here).

### 11 **CLASS ALLEGATIONS**

12 48. ***Class Definition.*** Plaintiff brings this action as a class action pursuant  
13 to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 23(a), 23(b)(2), and 23(b)(3), on behalf of  
14 himself and all other similarly situated consumers, and seek to represent a class  
15 (the "**Class**") defined as:

16 All persons in the United States who, within the applicable  
17 statute of limitations period, up to and including the date  
18 of final judgment in this action, purchased Bumble Bee  
kratom products.

19 49. Plaintiff W.G. also seeks to represent a subclass of all Class members  
20 who purchased Defendant's Products in California, within the applicable statutory  
21 period (the "**California Subclass**," collectively, together with the **Class**, the  
22 "**Classes**").

23 50. Specifically excluded from the Classes are Defendant and any entities  
24 in which Defendant has a controlling interest, Defendant's agents and employees,  
25 the judge to whom this action is assigned, members of the judge's staff, and the  
26 judge's immediate family.

1           51. Plaintiff reserve the right to amend the definition of the Classes if  
2 discovery or further investigation reveals that the Classes should be expanded or  
3 otherwise modified.

4           52. **Numerosity.** Members of the Classes are so numerous that their  
5 individual joinder herein is impracticable. On information and belief, the Classes  
6 comprise of at least thousands of consumers throughout California and the United  
7 States. The precise number of Class members and their identities are unknown to  
8 Plaintiff at this time but may be determined through discovery. Class members  
9 may be notified of the pendency of this action by mail and/or publication through  
10 the distribution records of Defendant.

11           53. **Commonality and Predominance.** Common questions of law and  
12 fact exist as to all Class members and predominate over questions affecting only  
13 individual Class members. Common legal and factual questions include, but are  
14 not limited to:

- 15           a. whether the labels on Defendant's Products have the capacity  
16           to mislead reasonable consumers;
- 17           b. whether Defendant knew that kratom is a highly addictive  
18           substance;
- 19           c. whether Defendant had a duty to inform consumers about the  
20           risks inherent to consumption of its Products;
- 21           d. whether Defendant's conduct alleged herein violated  
22           California's Consumers Legal Remedies Act ("CLRA"), Cal.  
23           Civ. Code § 1750, *et seq.*, and / or California's Unfair  
24           Competition Law ("UCL"), Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200,  
25           *et seq.*;
- 26           e. whether Defendant's conduct alleged herein constitutes unjust  
27           enrichment;
- 28           f. whether Defendant's conduct constitutes negligent omission;

- 1           g.     whether Plaintiff and the Classes are entitled to damages  
2                 and/or restitution; and
- 3           h.     whether Plaintiff and the Classes are entitled to attorneys'  
4                 fees and costs.

5           54.    **Typicality.** Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Classes  
6           in that Plaintiff and the Classes sustained damages as a result of Defendant's  
7           uniform wrongful conduct, based upon Defendant's failure to inform Plaintiff and  
8           all others similarly situated that its Products are highly addictive and operate  
9           similarly to opioids.

10          55.    **Adequacy.** Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect Class members'  
11          interests. Plaintiff have no interests antagonistic to Class members' interests, and  
12          Plaintiff have retained counsel that have considerable experience and success in  
13          prosecuting complex class-actions and consumer-protection cases.

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

21          57.    Defendant has acted or failed to act on grounds generally applicable to  
22          the Classes, thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief with respect to the  
23          Classes as a whole.

24          58.    Without a class action, Defendant will continue a course of action that  
25          will result in further damages to Plaintiff and members of the Classes and will  
26          likely retain the benefits of its wrongdoing.







1 misleading advertising and any act.” Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200. A practice  
2 is unfair if it (1) offends public policy; (2) is immoral, unethical, oppressive, or  
3 unscrupulous; or (3) causes substantial injury to consumers. The UCL allows “a  
4 person who has suffered injury in fact and has lost money or property” to prosecute  
5 a civil action for violation of the UCL. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17204. Such a  
6 person may bring such an action on behalf of himself or herself and others  
7 similarly situated who are affected by the unlawful and/or unfair business practice  
8 or act.

9         63. As alleged below, Defendant has committed unlawful, fraudulent,  
10 and/or unfair business practices under the UCL by: (a) representing that  
11 Defendant’s Products have certain characteristics that they do not, in violation of  
12 Cal. Civil Code § 1770(a)(5); (b) advertising goods and services with the intent not  
13 to sell them as advertised, in violation of Cal. Civil Code § 1770(a)(9); (c) selling  
14 addictive substances to unsuspecting consumers and profiting from their addiction;  
15 and (d) failing to disclose that its Products pose a serious risk of addiction;

16         64. Defendant’s conduct has the capacity to mislead a significant portion  
17 of the general consuming public or of targeted consumers, acting reasonably in the  
18 circumstances.

19         65. Defendant’s conduct has injured Plaintiff W.G. and the California  
20 Subclass he seeks to represent in that they paid money for a product that they  
21 would not have purchased or paid more than they would have but for Defendant’s  
22 failure to disclose the addictive nature of its Products. Such injury is not  
23 outweighed by any countervailing benefits to consumers or competition. Indeed,  
24 no benefit to consumers or competition results from Defendant’s conduct. Since  
25 consumers reasonably rely on Defendant’s labels, and thus also its omissions,  
26 consumers could not have reasonably avoided such injury. *Davis v. Ford Motor*  
27 *Credit Co.*, 179 Cal. App. 4th 581, 597-98 (2009); *see also Drum v. San Fernando*  
28

1 *Valley Bar Ass’n*, 182 Cal. App. 4th 247, 257 (2010) (outlining the third test based  
2 on the definition of “unfair” in Section 5 of the FTC Act).

3 66. Pursuant to California Business and Professional Code § 17203,  
4 Plaintiff W.G. and the California Subclass members seek an order of this Court  
5 that includes, but is not limited to, an order requiring Defendant to (a) provide  
6 restitution to Plaintiff W.G. and the other California Subclass members; (b)  
7 disgorge all revenues obtained as a result of violations of the UCL; (c) pay Plaintiff  
8 W.G. and the California Subclass members’ attorneys’ fees and costs; and (d)  
9 provide injunctive relief by requiring Defendant to affix adequate warnings about  
10 the addictive nature of its Products on the packaging.

11 67. Here, equitable relief is appropriate because Plaintiff W.G. may lack  
12 an adequate remedy at law if, for instance, damages resulting from his purchases of  
13 the Products is determined to be an amount less than the premium price of the  
14 Products. Without compensation for the full premium price of the Products,  
15 Plaintiff W.G. would be left without the parity in purchasing power to which he is  
16 entitled.

17 **COUNT III**  
18 **Breach of Implied Warranty**

19 95. Plaintiff realleges and reincorporates by reference all paragraphs  
20 alleged above.

21 96. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the Classes  
22 against Defendant.

23 97. This claim is brought under California law and any other state with  
24 materially similar law.

25 98. Defendant, as the designer, manufacturer, marketer, distributor, and/or  
26 seller of the Products, impliedly warranted that that kratom is not addictive and  
27 does not cause opioid-like withdrawal symptoms.  
28

1           99. Defendant breached this warranty implied in the contract for the sale  
2 of its kratom Products because the Products could not pass without objection in the  
3 trade under the contract description: the kratom Products were not adequately  
4 contained, packaged, and labeled as per Defendant's contract with Plaintiff and  
5 members of the Classes, and the Products do not conform to the implied  
6 affirmations of fact made on the marketing and packaging for the Products that the  
7 Products are not addictive and do not cause withdrawals. U.C.C. §§ 2-313(2)(a),  
8 (e), (f). As a result, Plaintiff and members of the Class did not receive the goods as  
9 impliedly warranted by Defendant to be merchantable.

10           100. Plaintiff and members of the Classes purchased the Products in  
11 reliance upon Defendant's skill and judgment and the implied warranties of fitness  
12 for the purpose.

13           101. The kratom Products were defective when they left the exclusive  
14 control of Defendant.

15           102. Plaintiff and members of the Classes did not receive the goods as  
16 warranted.

17           103. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendant's breach of the implied  
18 warranty, Plaintiff and members of the Classes have been injured and harmed  
19 because (a) they would not have purchased the Products on the same terms if they  
20 knew that the Products were addictive and could cause opioid-like withdrawal  
21 symptoms; and (b) the Products do not have the characteristics, uses, or benefits as  
22 promised by Defendant.

23           104. On March 12, 2025, prior to filing this action, Defendant was mailed a  
24 pre-suit notice letter on behalf of Plaintiff that complied in all respects with U.C.C.  
25 §§ 2-314 and 2-607. Plaintiff's counsel sent Defendant a letter advising Defendant  
26 that it breached an implied warranty and demanded that Defendant cease and desist  
27  
28

1 from such breaches and make full restitution by refunding the monies received  
2 therefrom.

3 **COUNT IV**  
4 **Unjust Enrichment**

5 105. Plaintiff realleges and reincorporates by reference all paragraphs  
6 alleged above.

7 106. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the Classes  
8 against Defendant under California law and any other state with materially similar  
9 law.

10 107. Plaintiff and the members of the Classes conferred a benefit on  
11 Defendant in the form of the gross revenues Defendant derived from the money  
12 they paid to Defendant.

13 108. Defendant had an appreciation or knowledge of the benefit conferred  
14 on it by Plaintiff and the members of the Classes.

15 109. Defendant has been unjustly enriched in retaining the revenues  
16 derived from Plaintiff and the Class members' purchases of the Products, which  
17 retention of such revenues under these circumstances is unjust and inequitable  
18 because Defendant omitted that the Products were addictive and similar to opioids.  
19 This caused injuries to Plaintiff and members of the Classes because they would  
20 not have purchased the Products or would have paid less for them if the true facts  
21 concerning the Products had been known.

22 110. Defendant accepted and retained the benefit in the amount of the gross  
23 revenues it derived from sales of the Products to Plaintiff and the members of the  
24 Classes.

25 111. Defendant has thereby profited by retaining the benefit under  
26 circumstances which would make it unjust for Defendant to retain the benefit.  
27  
28

1           112. Plaintiff and the members of the Classes are, therefore, entitled to  
2 restitution in the form of the revenues derived from Defendant's sale of the  
3 Products.

4           113. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's actions, Plaintiff and  
5 the members of the Classes have suffered in an amount to be proven at trial.

6           114. Here, equitable relief is appropriate because Plaintiff may lack an  
7 adequate remedy at law if, for instance, damages resulting from their purchase of  
8 the Products is determined to be an amount less than the premium price of the  
9 Products. Without compensation for the full premium price of the Product,  
10 Plaintiff would be left without the parity in purchasing power to which they  
11 entitled.

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

18                           **COUNT V**  
19                           **Fraud by Omission**

20           116. Plaintiff realleges and reincorporates by reference all paragraphs  
21 alleged above.

22           117. Plaintiff brings this claim individually and on behalf of the Classes  
23 against Defendant under California law and any other state with materially similar  
24 law.

25           118. Defendant distributed its Products throughout the country, including  
26 in California.  
27  
28



1           119. Defendant misrepresented that its kratom Products have attributes or  
2 qualities that they do not have by failing to disclose that kratom is addictive and  
3 can cause opioid-like withdrawal.

4           120. Defendant knows that kratom is addictive because it interacts with  
5 kratom vendors, has been made aware of user reports, and has fully characterized  
6 kratom's alkaloids and created advanced extraction methods.

7           121. Defendant knows that knowledge of kratom's addictive nature is a  
8 material fact that would influence the purchasing decision of reasonable  
9 consumers.

10          122. The average reasonable consumer in the kratom purchasing context  
11 does not know that kratom is addictive and cannot reasonably access that  
12 information.

13          123. Defendant therefore had a duty to Plaintiff and the members of the  
14 Classes to disclose that kratom is addictive and can cause withdrawals on the  
15 Products' packaging.

16          124. Consumers reasonably and justifiably relied on Defendant's omission  
17 because it is reasonable to assume that a product which is addictive like an opioid  
18 would bear some kind of a warning.

19          125. As a result of Defendant's omission, Plaintiff and the members of the  
20 Classes paid for kratom Products they may not have purchased, or paid more for  
21 those Products than they would have had they known the truth about kratom.

22                                   **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

23          WHEREFORE, Plaintiff individually and on behalf of all others similarly  
24 situated, seek judgment against Defendant, as follows:

- 25           (a) For an order certifying the Classes and naming Plaintiff as  
26 representatives of the Classes and Plaintiff's attorneys as Class  
27 Counsel to represent the Classes;  
28

- 1 (b) For an order declaring Defendant's conduct violates the statutes  
2 referenced herein;
- 3 (c) For an order finding in favor of Plaintiff and the Classes on all counts  
4 asserted herein;
- 5 (d) For actual, compensatory, statutory, and/or punitive damages in  
6 amounts to be determined by the Court and/or jury;
- 7 (e) For prejudgment interest on all amounts awarded;
- 8 (f) For an order of restitution and all other forms of equitable monetary  
9 relief;
- 10 (g) For injunctive relief as pleaded or as the Court may deem proper; and
- 11 (h) For an order awarding Plaintiff and the Classes their reasonable  
12 attorneys' fees, expenses, and costs of suit.

13 **JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

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

15 Dated: June 25, 2025

16 Respectfully submitted,

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

18 By: /s/ Ryan B. Martin  
19 Ryan B. Martin

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*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

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