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ENDORSED  
FILED  
San Francisco County Superior Court

APR 19 2006

GORDON PARK-LI, Clerk

BY: PARAM NATT

Deputy Clerk

CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE SET

Attorneys for Plaintiff  
RUSSELL BRIMER

SEP 22 2006 - 9 00 AM

DEPARTMENT 212

8 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

9 FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

10 UNLIMITED CIVIL JURISDICTION

13 **CRC** - 06 - 451464

14 RUSSELL BRIMER, )

No. \_\_\_\_\_

15 Plaintiff, )

**COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL  
PENALTIES AND INJUNCTIVE  
RELIEF**

16 v. )

17 NORDSTROM, INC.; and DOES 1 through 150, )  
18 inclusive, )

(Health & Safety Code §25249, et seq.)

19 Defendants. )

20  
21  
22  
23 RUSSELL BRIMER, by and through his counsel, on behalf of himself, on behalf all others  
24 similarly situated and on behalf of the general public, hereby alleges as follows:

25 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

26 1. This Complaint is a representative action brought by plaintiff RUSSELL BRIMER,  
27 on behalf of citizens of the State of California, to enforce each citizen's right to be informed of the  
28 presence of and nature of toxic chemicals in consumer goods.

1           2.       This Complaint seeks to remedy defendants' continuing failures to warn the citizens  
2 of the State of California about the presence of, the nature of, and such citizens' actual and  
3 potential exposure to lead present in or on consumer products placed into the stream of commerce  
4 by defendants.

5           3.       Lead is a chemical that is identified within Title 22, California Code of Regulations  
6 ("CCR") §12000 and that is known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other  
7 reproductive harm. Lead shall hereafter be referred to as "LISTED CHEMICAL".

8           4.       The consumer products containing lead, and for which defendants are responsible,  
9 are candle holders with colored artwork, designs and/or markings on the exterior surface including,  
10 but not limited to, *Skeem Stripe Candle Currant Berry* (4 29258 23629 8). All such consumer  
11 products containing the LISTED CHEMICAL on the exterior surface shall hereafter be referred to  
12 as the "PRODUCTS".

13           5.       Under California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986,  
14 Health & Safety Code §25249.5 *et seq.*<sup>1</sup> (hereafter "Proposition 65"), "No person in the course of  
15 doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the  
16 state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to  
17 such individual...."

18           6.       On February 27, 1987, the State listed lead as a chemical known to cause birth  
19 defects and other reproductive harm. This chemical became subject to the warning requirement  
20 one year later and was therefore subject to the "clear and reasonable warning" requirements of  
21 Proposition 65, beginning on February 27, 1988. (22 CCR §12000(b)(c); Proposition 65.)

22           7.       Defendants' failures to provide proper mandatory warnings about exposure to the  
23 LISTED CHEMICAL in conjunction with the sale of the PRODUCTS is a violation of Proposition  
24 65 and subjects defendants to enjoinder of such conduct as well as civil penalties for each such  
25 violation.

26 ///

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>1</sup> Unless specifically noted, all statutory citations refer to California law.



1 17. Defendants DOES 101-150 (hereafter "RETAIL DEFENDANTS") are each persons  
2 doing business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code §25249.11.

3 18. RETAIL DEFENDANTS offer the PRODUCTS for sale to individuals in the State  
4 of California.

5 19. At this time, the true names of Defendants DOES 1 through 150, inclusive, are  
6 unknown to plaintiff, who therefore sues said defendants by their fictitious name pursuant to Code  
7 of Civil Procedure §474. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that each of  
8 the fictitiously named defendants is responsible for the acts and occurrences herein alleged. When  
9 ascertained, their true names shall be reflected in an amended complaint.

10 20. NORDSTROM, MANUFACTURER DEFENDANTS, DISTRIBUTOR  
11 DEFENDANTS, RETAIL DEFENDANTS, and Defendants DOES 1 through 150 shall, where  
12 appropriate, collectively be referred to hereafter as "DEFENDANTS".

#### 13 VENUE AND JURISDICTION

14 21. Venue is proper in the San Francisco County Superior Court, pursuant to Code of  
15 Civil Procedure §§394, 395, 395.5 because this Court is a court of competent jurisdiction, because  
16 one or more instances of wrongful conduct occurred, and continues to occur, in the County of San  
17 Francisco and/or because DEFENDANTS conducted, and continue to conduct, business in this  
18 County with respect to the PRODUCTS.

19 22. The California Superior Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to  
20 California Constitution Article VI, §10, which grants the Superior Court "original jurisdiction in all  
21 causes except those given by statute to other trial courts." The statute under which this action is  
22 brought does not specify any other basis of subject matter jurisdiction.

23 23. The California Superior Court has jurisdiction over DEFENDANTS based on  
24 plaintiff's information and good faith belief that each defendant is a person, firm, corporation or  
25 association that either is a citizen of the State of California, has sufficient minimum contacts in the  
26 State of California, or otherwise purposefully avails itself of the California market.

27 DEFENDANTS' purposeful availment renders the exercise of personal jurisdiction by California  
28 courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

1 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **(Violation of Proposition 65)**

3 24. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein,  
4 Paragraphs 1 through 23, inclusive.

5 25. The citizens of the State of California have expressly stated in the Safe Drinking  
6 Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, Health & Safety Code §25249.5, *et seq.* (“Proposition  
7 65”) that they must be informed “about exposures to chemicals that cause cancer, birth defects and  
8 other reproductive harm.” (Proposition 65, §1(b).)

9 26. Proposition 65 further states that, “No person in the course of doing business shall  
10 knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer  
11 or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual....”

12 27. Based on information and good faith belief, plaintiff alleges that, at all times  
13 relevant to this Complaint, DEFENDANTS have engaged in the sales of the PRODUCTS in  
14 violation Health & Safety Code §25249.6, *et seq.*, and that DEFENDANTS’ offensive sale of the  
15 PRODUCTS has continued to occur beyond DEFENDANTS’ receipt of plaintiff’s 60-Day Notice  
16 of Violation. Plaintiff also alleges and believes that such violations will continue to occur into the  
17 future.

18 28. On November 23, 2005, a “60-Day Notice” of Proposition 65 violations, containing  
19 a Certificate of Merit pursuant to California Health & Safety Code §25249.7(d)(1), was provided to  
20 public enforcement agencies and to NORDSTROM, INC. stating that exposures to the LISTED  
21 CHEMICAL were occurring in the State of California from the reasonably foreseeable uses of the  
22 PRODUCTS, without the individual purchasers and users first having been provided with a “clear  
23 and reasonable warning” regarding such exposure.

24 29. The appropriate public enforcement agencies have failed to commence and  
25 diligently prosecute a cause of action, under Health & Safety Code §25249.6, *et seq.*, against  
26 DEFENDANTS based on the claims asserted in Plaintiff’s 60-Day Notice.

27 30. At all times relevant to this action, the PRODUCTS contained the LISTED  
28 CHEMICAL.

1           31.     At all times relevant to this action, the DEFENDANTS knew or should have known  
2 that the PRODUCTS contained the LISTED CHEMICAL.

3           32.     At all times relevant to this action, the LISTED CHEMICAL was present in or on  
4 the PRODUCTS in such a way as to be available for transfer or release from PRODUCTS to  
5 individuals during the reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS.

6           33.     The normal and reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS has caused and  
7 continues to cause an exposure to the LISTED CHEMICAL, as such exposure is defined by  
8 22 CCR §12601.

9           34.     Based on information and good faith belief, plaintiff alleges that at all times relevant  
10 to this action, DEFENDANTS had knowledge that individuals' normal and reasonably foreseeable  
11 use of the PRODUCTS would cause an exposure to the LISTED CHEMICAL.

12           35.     At all times relevant to this action, DEFENDANTS, and each of them, intended that  
13 such exposures to the LISTED CHEMICAL from the reasonably foreseeable use of the  
14 PRODUCTS would occur by their deliberate, non-accidental participation in the manufacture,  
15 distribution and/or sale of PRODUCTS to individuals in the State of California.

16           36.     At all times relevant to this action, DEFENDANTS failed to provide a "clear and  
17 reasonable warning" of reproductive toxicity (as defined by 22 CCR §12601) to those consumers or  
18 other individuals in the State of California who were or could become exposed to the PRODUCTS  
19 and the LISTED CHEMICAL contained therein.

20           37.     Contrary to the express policy and statutory prohibition of Proposition 65, enacted  
21 directly by California voters, individuals thus exposed to the LISTED CHEMICAL from the  
22 PRODUCTS, without "clear and reasonable warning", have suffered and continue to suffer  
23 irreparable harm, for which harm they have no plain, speedy or adequate remedy at law.

24           38.     As a consequence of the above-described acts, DEFENDANTS, and each of them,  
25 are liable, pursuant to Health & Safety Code §25249.7(b), for a maximum civil penalty of \$2,500  
26 per day for each violation.

27           39.     As a consequence of the above-described acts, Health & Safety Code §25249.7 also  
28 specifically authorizes the grant of injunctive relief under Proposition 65 against DEFENDANTS.

1                   Wherefore, plaintiff prays judgment against DEFENDANTS, and each of them, as  
2 set forth hereafter.

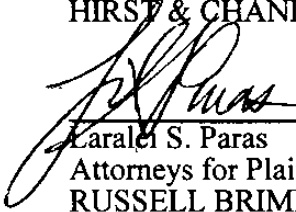
3                   **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

4                   Wherefore, plaintiff prays for judgment against DEFENDANTS as follows:

- 5                   1.       That the Court, pursuant to Health & Safety Code §25249.7(b), assess civil penalties  
6 against DEFENDANTS, and each of them, in the amount of \$2,500 per day for each violation  
7 alleged herein;
- 8                   2.       That the Court, pursuant to Health & Safety Code §25249.7(a), preliminarily and  
9 permanently enjoin DEFENDANTS, and each of them, from offering the PRODUCTS for sale or  
10 use in California, without providing an identification of each of the LISTED CHEMICALS in the  
11 PRODUCTS as well as "clear and reasonable warning[s]" as defined by 22 CCR §12601, as  
12 plaintiff shall specify in further application to the Court;
- 13                   3.       That the Court grant plaintiff his reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit; and  
14                   4.       That the Court grant such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

15 Dated: April 19, 2006

16                   Respectfully Submitted,  
17                   HIRST & CHANLER, LLP

18                     
19                   Caralee S. Paras  
20                   Attorneys for Plaintiff  
21                   RUSSELL BRIMER  
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