

1 Christopher M. Martin, State Bar No. 186021  
2 THE CHANLER GROUP  
3 2560 Ninth Street  
4 Parker Plaza, Suite 214  
5 Berkeley, CA 94710-2565  
6 Telephone: (510) 848-8880  
7 Facsimile: (510) 848-8118

8 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
9 JOHN MOORE

FILED  
ALAMEDA COUNTY  
SEP 15 2011  
Clerk of the Court  
By [Signature]

10 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
11 FOR THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA  
12 UNLIMITED CIVIL JURISDICTION

13 JOHN MOORE, :  
14 Plaintiff,  
15 v.  
16 UMA ENTERPRISES, INC.; and DOES 1-  
17 150, inclusive.  
18 Defendants.

19 *R*  
20 11 - 595382  
21 Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

22 **COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES**  
23 **AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**  
24  
25 (Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 et seq.)

26 BY FAX

**NATURE OF THE ACTION**

1  
2           1.     This Complaint is a representative action brought by plaintiff John Moore, in the  
3 public interest of the citizens of the State of California, to enforce the People’s right to be  
4 informed of the presence of di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, a toxic chemical found in ottomans sold  
5 in California.

6           2.     By this Complaint, plaintiff seeks to remedy defendants’ continuing failures to  
7 warn California citizens about their exposure to di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate present in or on  
8 certain ottomans that defendants manufacture, distribute, and/or offer for sale to consumers  
9 throughout the State of California.

10          3.     High levels of di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate are commonly found in and on ottomans  
11 defendants manufacture, distribute, and/or offer for sale to consumers throughout the State of  
12 California.

13          4.     Under California’s Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986,  
14 California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 *et seq.* (“Proposition 65”), “No person in the course  
15 of doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known  
16 to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable  
17 warning to such individual. . . .” (*Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.*)

18          5.     On October 24, 2003, California identified and listed di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate as  
19 a chemical known to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm. Di(2-ethylhexyl)  
20 phthalate became subject to the warning requirement one year later and was therefore subject to  
21 the “clear and reasonable warning” requirements of Proposition 65, beginning on October 24,  
22 2004. (*27 CCR § 27001 (c); Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.8.*)

23          6.     Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate shall be referred to hereinafter as the “LISTED  
24 CHEMICAL.”

25          7.     Defendants manufacture, distribute, and/or sell ottomans containing excessive  
26 levels of the LISTED CHEMICAL including, but not limited to, the *Ottoman, Giraffe, Item*  
27 *#72030 (#7 58647 01652 5)*. All such ottomans containing the LISTED CHEMICAL shall  
28 hereinafter be referred to as the “PRODUCTS.”





1 in the State of California, or otherwise purposefully avail themselves of the California market.  
2 DEFENDANTS' purposeful availment renders the exercise of personal jurisdiction by  
3 California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

4 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

5 **(Violation of Proposition 65 - Against All Defendants)**

6 25. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein,  
7 Paragraphs 1 through 24, inclusive.

8 26. The citizens of the State of California have expressly stated in the Safe Drinking  
9 Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, *et seq.*  
10 (Proposition 65) that they must be informed "about exposures to chemicals that cause cancer,  
11 birth defects and other reproductive harm." (*Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.*)

12 27. Proposition 65 states, "No person in the course of doing business shall knowingly  
13 and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or  
14 reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual...."  
15 (*Id.*)

16 28. On June 29, 2011, a sixty-day notice of violation, together with the requisite  
17 certificate of merit, was provided to UMA and various public enforcement agencies stating that  
18 as a result of the DEFENDANTS' sales of the PRODUCTS, purchasers and users in the State of  
19 California were being exposed to DEHP resulting from the reasonably foreseeable uses of the  
20 PRODUCTS, without the individual purchasers and users first having been provided with a  
21 "clear and reasonable warning" regarding such toxic exposures.

22 29. DEFENDANTS have engaged in the manufacture, distribution and/or offering of  
23 the PRODUCTS for sale or use in violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 and  
24 DEFENDANTS' manufacture, distribution and/or offering of the PRODUCTS for sale or use in  
25 violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 has continued to occur beyond  
26 DEFENDANTS' receipt of plaintiff's sixty-day notice of violation. Plaintiff further alleges and  
27 believes that such violations will continue to occur into the future.

28 ////

1           30. After receipt of the claims asserted in the sixty-day notice of violation, the  
2 appropriate public enforcement agencies have failed to commence and diligently prosecute a  
3 cause of action against DEFENDANTS under Proposition 65.

4           31. The PRODUCTS manufactured, distributed, and/or offered for sale or use in  
5 California by DEFENDANTS contained the LISTED CHEMICAL above the allowable state  
6 limits.

7           32. DEFENDANTS knew or should have known that the PRODUCTS manufactured,  
8 distributed, and/or offered for sale or use by DEFENDANTS in California contained the  
9 LISTED CHEMICAL.

10          33. The LISTED CHEMICAL was present in or on the PRODUCTS in such a way as  
11 to expose individuals to the LISTED CHEMICAL through dermal contact and/or ingestion  
12 and/or inhalation during the reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS.

13          34. The normal and reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS has caused and  
14 continues to cause consumer exposures to the LISTED CHEMICAL, as such exposure is  
15 defined by 27 CCR § 25602(b).

16          35. DEFENDANTS had knowledge that the normal and reasonably foreseeable use of  
17 the PRODUCTS would expose individuals to the LISTED CHEMICAL through dermal contact  
18 and/or ingestion and/or inhalation.

19          36. DEFENDANTS intended that such exposures to the LISTED CHEMICAL from  
20 the reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS would occur by their deliberate, non-  
21 accidental participation in the manufacture, distribution and/or offer for sale or use of  
22 PRODUCTS to individuals in the State of California.

23          37. DEFENDANTS failed to provide a “clear and reasonable warning” to those  
24 consumers and/or other individuals in the State of California who were or who could become  
25 exposed to the LISTED CHEMICAL through dermal contact and/or ingestion during the  
26 reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS.

27          38. Contrary to the express policy and statutory prohibition of Proposition 65, enacted  
28 directly by California voters, individuals exposed to the LISTED CHEMICAL through dermal

1 contact and/or ingestion and/or inhalation resulting from the reasonably foreseeable use of the  
2 PRODUCTS, sold by DEFENDANTS without a "clear and reasonable warning," have suffered,  
3 and continue to suffer, irreparable harm, for which harm they have no plain, speedy or adequate  
4 remedy at law.

5 39. As a consequence of the above-described acts, DEFENDANTS are liable for a  
6 maximum civil penalty of \$2,500 per day for each violation pursuant to California Health &  
7 Safety Code § 25249.7(b).

8 40. As a consequence of the above-described acts, California Health & Safety Code  
9 § 25249.7(a) also specifically authorizes the Court to grant injunctive relief against  
10 DEFENDANTS.

11 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

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

13 1. That the Court, pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b), assess  
14 civil penalties against DEFENDANTS in the amount of \$2,500 per day for each violation  
15 alleged herein;

16 2. That the Court, pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(a),  
17 preliminarily and permanently enjoin DEFENDANTS from manufacturing, distributing or  
18 offering the PRODUCTS for sale or use in California, without providing "clear and reasonable  
19 warnings" as defined by 27 CCR § 25601, as to the harms associated with exposures the  
20 LISTED CHEMICAL;

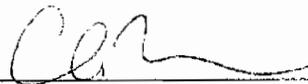
21 3. That the Court grant plaintiff his reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit; and

22 4. That the Court grant such other and further relief as may be just and proper

23 Respectfully Submitted,

24 Dated: September 17, 2011

THE CHANLER GROUP

25  
26 By:   
27 Christopher Martin  
28 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
JOHN MOORE