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ENDORSED
FILED

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David H. Yamasaki, Clerk of the Superior Court
County of Santa Clara, California
By _____ Deputy Clerk D. Smith

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA

UNLIMITED CIVIL JURISDICTION

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| RUSSELL BRIMER,<br><br>Plaintiff,<br><br>v.<br><br>ALLURE EYEWEAR, LLC; THE TJX COMPANIES, INC.; and DOES 1-150, inclusive,<br><br>Defendants. | Case No. 114CV264575<br><br>**COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**<br><br>(Health & Safety Code. § 25249.6 *et seq.*) |

## NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This Complaint is a representative action brought by plaintiff Russell Brimer in the public interest of the citizens of the State of California to enforce the People's right to be informed of the presence of di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate ("DEHP"), a toxic chemical found in consumer products such as vinyl/PVC eyeglass cases sold in California.

2. By this Complaint, plaintiff seeks to remedy defendants' continuing failure to warn California citizens about the risk of exposure to DEHP present in and on vinyl/PVC eyeglass cases manufactured, distributed, and offered for sale or use to consumers throughout the State of California.

3. Detectable levels of DEHP are commonly found in and on vinyl/PVC eyeglass cases that defendants manufacture, sell, and distribute for sale to consumers throughout the State of California.

4. Under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, codified at Health and Safety Code § 25249.6 *et seq.* ("Proposition 65"), "[n]o person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual . . . ." Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.

5. Pursuant to Proposition 65, on October 24, 2003, California identified and listed DEHP as a chemical known to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm. DEHP became subject to the "clear and reasonable warning" requirements of the act one year later on October 24, 2004. Cal. Code Regs. tit. 27, § 27001(c); Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.8 & 25249.10(b). DEHP is referred to hereinafter as the "LISTED CHEMICAL."

6. Significant levels of the LISTED CHEMICAL have been discovered in or on the vinyl/PVC materials of eyeglass cases that are manufactured, imported, distributed, and/or sold by defendants.

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7. One example of eyeglass cases with vinyl/PVC materials containing the LISTED CHEMICAL that are manufactured, imported, distributed and/or sold by defendants is the *Oscar by Oscar De La Renta 2 Premium Reading Glasses & 2 Fashion Cases, OSR605APM, UPC #800414 361052.*

8. All such eyeglass cases identified in paragraphs 6 and 7 above, shall hereinafter be collectively referred to as the "PRODUCTS."

9. Defendants' failure to warn consumers and other individuals in the State of California about their exposure to the LISTED CHEMICAL in conjunction with defendants' sales of the PRODUCTS is a violation of Proposition 65, and subjects defendants to enjoinment of such conduct as well as civil penalties for each violation. Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(a) & (b)(1).

10. For defendants' violations of Proposition 65, plaintiff seeks preliminary and permanent injunctive relief to compel defendants to provide purchasers or users of the PRODUCTS with the required warning regarding the health hazards of the LISTED CHEMICAL. Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(a).

11. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(b), plaintiff also seeks civil penalties against defendants for their violations of Proposition 65.

## PARTIES

12. Plaintiff RUSSELL BRIMER is a citizen of the State of California who is dedicated to protecting the health of California citizens through the elimination or reduction of toxic exposures from consumer products; and he brings this action in the public interest pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(d).

13. Defendant ALLURE EYEWEAR, LLC ("ALLURE") is a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code § 25249.11.

14. ALLURE manufactures, imports, sells and/or distributes the PRODUCTS for sale or use in the State of California, or implies by its conduct that it manufactures, imports, sells and/or distributes the PRODUCTS for sale or use in the State of California.

15. Defendant THE TJX COMPANIES, INC. ("TJX") is a person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code § 25249.11.

16. TJX imports, sells and/or distributes the PRODUCTS for sale or use in the State of California, or implies by its conduct that it imports, sells and/or distributes the PRODUCTS for sale or use in the State of California.

17. Defendants DOES 1-150 are each persons in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code § 25249.11(b), who manufacture, distribute, sell, and/or offer the PRODUCTS for sale in the State of California. At this time, the true names and capacities of defendants DOES 1 through 150, inclusive, are unknown to plaintiffs, who, therefore, sue said defendants by their fictitious names pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure § 474. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that each of the fictitiously named defendants is responsible for the acts and occurrences alleged herein. When ascertained, their true names and capacities shall be reflected in an amended complaint.

18. ALLURE, TJX, and DOES 1 through 150 shall, where appropriate, collectively be referred to as "DEFENDANTS."

## VENUE AND JURISDICTION

19. Venue is proper in the Santa Clara County Superior Court, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure §§ 393, 395, and 395.5, because this Court is a court of competent jurisdiction, because plaintiff seeks civil penalties against DEFENDANTS, because one or more instances of wrongful conduct occurred, and continue to occur, in Santa Clara County, and/or because DEFENDANTS conducted, and continue to conduct, business in this county with respect to the PRODUCTS.

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

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21. The California Superior Court has jurisdiction over DEFENDANTS based on plaintiff's information and good faith belief that each defendant is a person, firm, corporation or association that is a citizen of the State of California, has sufficient minimum contacts in the State of California, and/or otherwise purposefully avails itself of the California market. DEFENDANTS' purposeful availment renders the exercise of personal jurisdiction by California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

## FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

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

22. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein, Paragraphs 1 through 21, inclusive.

23. In enacting Proposition 65, in the preamble to the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, the People of California expressly declared their right "[t]o be informed about exposures to chemicals that cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm."

24. Proposition 65 states, "[n]o person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such individual . . . ." Health & Safety Code § 25249.6.

25. On or about February 7, 2014, plaintiff's sixty-day notice of violation, together with the requisite certificate of merit, was provided to ALLURE, TJX and certain public enforcement agencies stating that, as a result of DEFENDANTS' sales of the PRODUCTS containing the LISTED CHEMICAL, purchasers and users in the State of California were being exposed to the LISTED CHEMICAL resulting from their reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS, without the individual purchasers and users first having been provided with a "clear and reasonable warning" regarding such toxic exposures, as required by Proposition 65.

26. DEFENDANTS have engaged in the manufacture, importation, distribution, sale, and/or offering of the PRODUCTS for sale or use in violation of Health and Safety Code § 25249.6, and DEFENDANTS' violations have continued to occur beyond their receipt of plaintiff's sixty-day notice of violation. As such, DEFENDANTS' violations are ongoing and continuous in nature, and

will continue to occur in the future.

27. After receiving plaintiff's sixty-day notice of violation, the appropriate public enforcement agencies have failed to commence and diligently prosecute a cause of action against DEFENDANTS under Proposition 65.

28. The PRODUCTS manufactured, imported, sold, and/or distributed for sale or use in California by DEFENDANTS contain the LISTED CHEMICAL such that they require a "clear and reasonable" warning under Proposition 65.

29. DEFENDANTS knew or should have known that the PRODUCTS they manufacture, import, distribute, sell, and/or offer for sale or use in California contain the LISTED CHEMICAL.

30. The LISTED CHEMICAL is present in or on the PRODUCTS in such a way as to expose individuals to the LISTED CHEMICAL through dermal contact and/or ingestion during reasonably foreseeable use.

31. The normal and reasonably foreseeable uses of the PRODUCTS have caused, and continue to cause, consumer exposures to the LISTED CHEMICAL, as such exposures are defined by title 27 of the California Code of Regulations, section 25602(b).

32. DEFENDANTS had knowledge that the normal and reasonably foreseeable uses of the PRODUCTS expose individuals to the LISTED CHEMICAL through dermal contact and/or ingestion.

33. DEFENDANTS intended that such exposures to the LISTED CHEMICAL from the reasonably foreseeable uses of the PRODUCTS would occur by their deliberate, non-accidental participation in the manufacture, importation, distribution, sale, and/or offering of the PRODUCTS for sale or use to individuals in the State of California.

34. DEFENDANTS failed to provide a "clear and reasonable warning" to those consumers and other individuals in the State of California who were or who would become exposed to the LISTED CHEMICAL through dermal contact and/or ingestion during the reasonably foreseeable uses of the PRODUCTS.

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

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

36. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(b), as a consequence of the above-described acts, DEFENDANTS are liable for a maximum civil penalty of $2,500 per day for each violation.

37. As a consequence of the above-described acts, Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(a) also specifically authorizes the Court to grant injunctive relief against DEFENDANTS.

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

Wherefore, plaintiff prays for judgment against DEFENDANTS as follows:

1. That the Court, pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(b), assess civil penalties against DEFENDANTS in the amount of $2,500 per day for each violation;

2. That the Court, pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(a), preliminarily and permanently enjoin DEFENDANTS from manufacturing, distributing, or offering the PRODUCTS for sale or use in California without first providing a "clear and reasonable warning" as defined by title 27 of the California Code of Regulations, section 25601 *et seq.*, as to the harms associated with exposures the LISTED CHEMICAL;

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

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

Dated: April 29, 2014

Respectfully Submitted,

THE CHANLER GROUP

By: _____
Laralei S. Paras
Attorneys for Plaintiff
RUSSELL BRIMER