

1 Brian Johnson, State Bar No. 235965
2 Kimberly Gates, State Bar No. 282369
3 THE CHANLER GROUP
4 2560 Ninth Street
5 Parker Plaza, Suite 214
6 Berkeley, CA 94710-2565
7 Telephone: (510) 848-8880
8 Facsimile: (510) 848-8118
9 E-mail: Brian@chanler.com
10 E-mail: Kimberly@chanler.com

ENDORSED
FILED
Superior Court of California
County of San Francisco

APR 05 2016

CLERK OF THE COURT
BY: GARY FELICIANO
Deputy Clerk

11 Attorneys for Plaintiff
12 JOHN MOORE

13 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
14 SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY
15 UNLIMITED CIVIL JURISDICTION

16 JOHN MOORE,

17 Plaintiff,

18 v.

19 MAVERICK APPAREL LLC; ROSS
20 STORES, INC.; and DOES 1 – 150, inclusive,

21 Defendants.

Case No. CGC 16-551288SM

**COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES
AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

(Health & Safety Code § 25249.5 *et seq.*)

1 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

2 1. This Complaint is a representative action brought by plaintiff JOHN MOORE in
3 the public interest of the citizens of the State of California to enforce the People’s right to be
4 informed of the health hazards caused by exposures to di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (“DEHP”), a
5 toxic chemical found in and on the vinyl/PVC jackets sold by defendants in California.

6 2. By this Complaint, plaintiff seeks to remedy defendants’ continuing failure to
7 warn individuals not covered by California’s Occupational Safety Health Act, Labor Code §
8 6300 *et seq.*, who purchase, use, or handle defendants’ products, about the risks of exposures to
9 DEHP present in and on vinyl/PVC jackets that defendants manufacture, distribute, and offer
10 for sale or use throughout the State of California. Individuals not covered by California’s
11 Occupational Safety Health Act, Labor Code § 6300 *et seq.*, who purchase, use or handle
12 defendants’ products, are referred to hereinafter as “consumers.”

13 3. Detectable levels of DEHP are found in and on the vinyl/PVC jackets that
14 defendants manufacture, distribute, and offer for sale to consumers throughout the State of
15 California.

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

21 5. Pursuant to Proposition 65, on October 24, 2003, California listed DEHP as a
22 chemical known to cause birth defects or reproductive harm. DEHP became subject to the
23 “clear and reasonable warning” requirements of the act one year later on October 24, 2004. Cal.
24 Code Regs. tit. 27, § 27001(c); Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.8 & 25249.10(b).

25 6. Defendants manufacture, distribute, import, sell, and/or offer for sale, in
26 California, without health hazard warnings, vinyl/PVC jackets containing DEHP, including, but
27 not limited to, the *Miss London Jacket*, RN #115366, #400118913245. All such vinyl/PVC
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1 jackets containing DEHP are referred to collectively hereinafter as “PRODUCTS.”

2 7. Defendants’ failure to warn consumers in the State of California of the health
3 hazards associated with exposures to DEHP in conjunction with defendants’ sales of the
4 PRODUCTS are violations of Proposition 65, and subject defendants, and each of them, to
5 enjoinder of such conduct as well as civil penalties for each violation. Health & Safety Code
6 §§ 25249.7(a) & (b)(1).

7 8. For defendants’ violations of Proposition 65, plaintiff seeks preliminary and
8 permanent injunctive relief to compel defendants to provide consumers of the PRODUCTS with
9 the required warning regarding the health hazards associated with exposures to DEHP. Health
10 & Safety Code § 25249.7(a).

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

13 **PARTIES**

14 1. Plaintiff JOHN MOORE is a citizen of the State of California who is dedicated to
15 protecting the health of California citizens through the elimination or reduction of toxic
16 exposures from consumer products, and he brings this action in the public interest pursuant to
17 Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(d).

18 2. Defendant MAVERICK APPAREL LLC (“MAVERICK APPAREL”) is a person
19 in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code §§ 25249.6 and
20 25249.11.

21 3. MAVERICK APPAREL manufactures, imports, distributes, sells, and/or offers the
22 PRODUCTS for sale or use in the State of California, or implies by its conduct that it
23 manufactures, imports, distributes, sells, and/or offers the PRODUCTS for sale or use in the
24 State of California.

25 4. Defendant ROSS STORES, INC. (“ROSS” or “ROSS STORES”) is a person in
26 the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code §§ 25249.6 and
27 25249.11.

1 5. ROSS manufactures, imports, distributes, sells, and/or offers the PRODUCTS for
2 sale or use in the State of California, or implies by its conduct that it manufactures, imports,
3 distributes, sells, and/or offers the PRODUCTS for sale or use in the State of California.

4 6. Defendants DOES 1-50 (“MANUFACTURER DEFENDANTS”) are each a
5 person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code § 25249.6
6 and § 25249.11.

7 7. MANUFACTURER DEFENDANTS, and each of them, research, test, design,
8 assemble, fabricate, and manufacture, or each implies by its conduct that it researches, tests,
9 designs, assembles, fabricates, and manufactures one or more of the PRODUCTS offered for
10 sale or use in California.

11 8. Defendants DOES 51-100 (the “DISTRIBUTOR DEFENDANTS”) are each a
12 person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code § 25249.6
13 and § 25249.11.

14 9. DISTRIBUTOR DEFENDANTS, and each of them, distribute, exchange,
15 transfer, process, and transport one or more of the PRODUCTS to individuals, businesses, or
16 retailers for sale or use in the State of California, or each implies by its conduct that it
17 distributes, exchanges, transfers, processes, and transports one or more of the PRODUCTS to
18 individuals, businesses, or retailers for sale or use in the State of California.

19 10. Defendants DOES 101-150 (the “RETAILER DEFENDANTS”) are each a
20 person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code § 25249.6
21 and § 25249.11.

22 11. RETAILER DEFENDANTS, and each of them, offer the PRODUCTS for sale to
23 individuals in the State of California.

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

2 13. MAVERICK APPAREL, ROSS STORES, MANUFACTURER DEFENDANTS,
3 DISTRIBUTOR DEFENDANTS, and RETAILER DEFENDANTS shall hereinafter be referred
4 to collectively as the “DEFENDANTS.”

5 **VENUE AND JURISDICTION**

6 14. Venue is proper in the Superior Court for the County of San Francisco, pursuant
7 to Code of Civil Procedure §§ 393, 395, and 395.5, because this Court is a court of competent
8 jurisdiction, because plaintiff seeks civil penalties against DEFENDANTS, because one or more
9 instances of wrongful conduct occurred, and continue to occur, in this county, and/or because
10 DEFENDANTS conducted, and continue to conduct, business in San Fransisco County with
11 respect to the PRODUCTS.

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

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

22 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

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

24 17. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein,
25 Paragraphs 1 through 16, inclusive.

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

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

7 20. On October 21, 2015, plaintiff served a sixty-day notice of violation, together
8 with the accompanying certificate of merit, on MAVERICK APPAREL, ROSS STORES, the
9 California Attorney General, and all other requisite public enforcers alleging that, as a result of
10 DEFENDANTS’ sales of the PRODUCTS, consumers in the State of California are being
11 exposed to DEHP resulting from their reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS, without
12 the consumers first receiving a “clear and reasonable warning” regarding the harms associated
13 with exposures to DEHP, as required by Proposition 65.

14 21. DEFENDANTS manufacture, import, distribute, sell, and offer the PRODUCTS
15 for sale or use in violation of Health and Safety Code § 25249.6, and DEFENDANTS’
16 violations have continued beyond their receipt of plaintiff’s sixty-day notice of violation. As
17 such, DEFENDANTS’ violations are ongoing and continuous and, unless enjoined, will
18 continue in the future.

19 22. After receiving plaintiff’s sixty-day notice of violation, no public enforcement
20 agency has commenced and diligently prosecuted a cause of action against DEFENDANTS
21 under Proposition 65 to enforce the alleged violations that are the subject of plaintiff’s notice of
22 violation.

23 23. The PRODUCTS that DEFENDANTS manufacture, import, distribute, sell, and
24 offer for sale or use in California cause exposures to DEHP as a result of the reasonably
25 foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS. Such exposures caused by DEFENDANTS and endured by
26 consumers in California are not exempt from the “clear and reasonable” warning requirements of
27 Proposition 65, yet DEFENDANTS provide no warning. DEFENDANTS’ violations of
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1 Proposition 65, resulting from their failure to provide warnings to consumers exposed to DEHP
2 from the PRODUCTS have continued since as far back as October 21, 2012.

3 24. DEFENDANTS know or should know that the PRODUCTS they manufacture,
4 import, distribute, sell, and offer for sale in California contain DEHP.

5 25. DEHP is present in or on the PRODUCTS in such a way as to expose consumers
6 through dermal contact and/or ingestion during reasonably foreseeable use.

7 26. The normal and reasonably foreseeable use of the PRODUCTS has caused, and
8 continues to cause, consumer exposures to DEHP, as defined by Title 27 of the California Code
9 of Regulations, § 25602(b).

10 27. DEFENDANTS know that the normal and reasonably foreseeable use of the
11 PRODUCTS exposes individuals to DEHP through dermal contact and/or ingestion.

12 28. DEFENDANTS intend that exposures to DEHP from the reasonably foreseeable
13 use of the PRODUCTS will occur by their deliberate, non-accidental participation in the
14 manufacture, importation, distribution, sale, and offering of the PRODUCTS for sale or use to
15 consumers in California.

16 29. DEFENDANTS failed to provide a “clear and reasonable warning” to those
17 consumers in California who have been or will be exposed to DEHP through dermal contact
18 and/or ingestion resulting from their use of the PRODUCTS.

19 30. Contrary to the express policy and statutory prohibition of Proposition 65 enacted
20 directly by California voters, consumers exposed to DEHP through dermal contact and/or
21 ingestion as a result of their use of the PRODUCTS that DEFENDANTS sell without a “clear
22 and reasonable” health hazard warning have suffered, and continue to suffer, irreparable harm
23 for which they have no plain, speedy, or adequate remedy at law.

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

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1 32. As a consequence of the above-described acts, Health and Safety Code
2 § 25249.7(a) also specifically authorizes the Court to grant injunctive relief against
3 DEFENDANTS.

4 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

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

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

9 2. That the Court, pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(a), preliminarily
10 and permanently enjoin DEFENDANTS from manufacturing, distributing, or offering the
11 PRODUCTS for sale or use in California without a “clear and reasonable warning” in
12 accordance with Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations § 25601 *et seq.*, regarding the
13 harms associated with exposures to DEHP;

14 3. That the Court, Pursuant to Health and Safety Code § 25249.7(a), issue
15 preliminary and permanent injunctions mandating that DEFENDANTS recall all PRODUCTS
16 currently in the chain of commerce in California without a “clear and reasonable warning” as
17 defined by California Code of Regulations title 27, § 25601 *et seq.*;

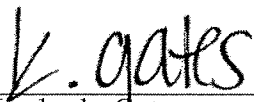
18 4. That the Court grant plaintiff his reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs of suit; and

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

20 Dated: April 4, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

21 THE CHANLER GROUP

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23 By: 
24 Kimberly Gates
25 Attorneys for Plaintiff
26 JOHN MOORE