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ENDORSED  
FILED  
ALAMEDA COUNTY

APR 21 2017

CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
By: D. OLIVER, Deputy

10 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

11 COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

12 UNLIMITED CIVIL JURISDICTION

13 MICHAEL DIPIRRO,

14 Plaintiff,

15 v.

16 BSE; and DOES 1-150,

17 Defendants.

18 Case No. RB17857553

19 **COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES  
20 AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

21 (Health & Safety Code. § 25249.6 *et seq.*)

1 **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

2 1. This Complaint is a representative action brought by plaintiff MICHAEL  
3 DIPIRRO in the public interest of the citizens of the State of California to enforce the People’s  
4 right to be informed of the presence of marijuana smoke, a toxic chemical created by the use of  
5 marijuana intended for smoking and paraphernalia for smoking marijuana sold in California.

6 2. By this Complaint, plaintiff seeks to remedy defendants’ continuing failure to  
7 warn California citizens about the risk of exposure to marijuana smoke from the use of  
8 marijuana intended for smoking, and paraphernalia for smoking marijuana, manufactured,  
9 distributed, and offered for sale or use to consumers throughout the state of California.

10 3. High levels of marijuana smoke are commonly produced and consumed through  
11 the use of marijuana intended for smoking, and paraphernalia for smoking marijuana, that  
12 defendants manufacture, distribute, and offer for sale to consumers throughout the state of  
13 California.

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

19 5. Pursuant to Proposition 65, on June 19, 2009, California identified and listed  
20 marijuana smoke as a chemical known to cause cancer. Marijuana smoke became subject to the  
21 “clear and reasonable warning” requirements of the act one year later on June 19, 2010. Cal.  
22 Code Regs. tit. 27, § 27001(c); Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.8 & 25249.10(b). Marijuana  
23 smoke is referred to hereinafter as the “LISTED CHEMICAL.”

24 6. Defendants manufacture or otherwise process for sale, distribute, and sell  
25 marijuana intended for smoking, and paraphernalia for smoking marijuana, including, but not  
26 limited to, unprocessed marijuana intended to be heated until combustion, then inhaled  
27 (specifically, flowers, leaves, and other organic parts of marijuana plants such as kief), and  
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1 paraphernalia for smoking marijuana, including, but not limited to, water bongs, smoking pipes,  
2 rolling papers, and blunts, the consumption and use of which result in marijuana smoke in levels  
3 that require a warning under Proposition 65. All such marijuana intended for smoking and  
4 paraphernalia for smoking marijuana, the consumption and use of which results in marijuana  
5 smoke, are referred to collectively hereinafter as “PRODUCTS.”

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

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

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

17 **PARTIES**

18 10. Plaintiff MICHAEL DIPIRRO is a citizen of the state of California who is  
19 dedicated to protecting the health of California citizens through the elimination or reduction of  
20 toxic exposures from consumer products; and he brings this action in the public interest  
21 pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(d).

22 11. Defendant BSE (“BSE”) is a person in the course of doing business within the  
23 meaning of Health and Safety Code section 25249.11.

24 12. BSE manufactures (or otherwise processes for sale), distributes, and/or offers the  
25 PRODUCTS for sale or use in the state of California, or implies by its conduct that it  
26 manufactures, distributes, and/or offers the PRODUCTS for sale or use in the state of California.  
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1 13. Defendants DOES 1-50 (“MANUFACTURER DEFENDANTS”) are each a  
2 person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code section  
3 25249.11.

4 14. MANUFACTURER DEFENDANTS research, test, design, assemble, fabricate,  
5 cultivate, harvest and/or manufacture, or imply by their conduct that they research, test, design,  
6 assemble, fabricate, cultivate, harvest and/or manufacture one or more of the PRODUCTS  
7 offered for sale or use in the state of California.

8 15. Defendants DOES 51-100 (“DISTRIBUTOR DEFENDANTS”) are each a person  
9 in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code section 25249.11.

10 16. DISTRIBUTOR DEFENDANTS distribute, exchange, transfer, process, and/or  
11 transport one or more of the PRODUCTS to individuals, businesses, or retailers for sale or use  
12 in the state of California.

13 17. Defendants DOES 101-150 (“RETAILER DEFENDANTS”) are each a person in  
14 the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code section 25249.11.

15 18. RETAILER DEFENDANTS offer the PRODUCTS for sale to individuals in the  
16 state of California.

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

22 20. BSE, MANUFACTURER DEFENDANTS, DISTRIBUTOR DEFENDANTS,  
23 and RETAILER DEFENDANTS shall, where appropriate, collectively be referred to as  
24 “DEFENDANTS.”

25 **VENUE AND JURISDICTION**

26 21. Venue is proper in the Alameda County Superior Court, pursuant to Code of Civil  
27 Procedure sections 393, 395, and 395.5, because this Court is a court of competent jurisdiction,  
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1 because one or more instances of wrongful conduct occurred, and continue to occur, in Alameda  
2 County, and/or because DEFENDANTS conducted, and continue to conduct, business in this  
3 county with respect to the PRODUCTS.

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

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

14 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

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

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

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

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

26 27. On December 9, 2016, plaintiff’s sixty-day notice of violation, together with the  
27 requisite certificate of merit, was provided to BSE and certain public enforcement agencies  
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1 stating that, as a result of DEFENDANTS’ sales of the PRODUCTS containing the LISTED  
2 CHEMICAL, purchasers and users in the state of California were being exposed to the LISTED  
3 CHEMICAL resulting from the reasonably foreseeable uses of the PRODUCTS, without the  
4 individual purchasers and users first having been provided with a “clear and reasonable  
5 warning” regarding such toxic exposures, as required by Proposition 65.

6 28. DEFENDANTS have engaged in the manufacture, distribution, and/or offering of  
7 the PRODUCTS for sale or use in violation of Health and Safety Code section 25249.6, and  
8 such violations have continued to occur beyond DEFENDANTS’ receipt of plaintiff’s sixty-day  
9 notice of violation. As such, DEFENDANTS’ violations are ongoing and continuous in nature,  
10 and will continue to occur in the future.

11 29. After receiving the claims asserted in the sixty-day notice of violation, the  
12 appropriate public enforcement agencies have failed to commence and diligently prosecute a  
13 cause of action against DEFENDANTS under Proposition 65.

14 30. The PRODUCTS manufactured, distributed, and offered for sale or use in  
15 California by DEFENDANTS contain the LISTED CHEMICAL in amounts above the  
16 allowable state limits, such that they require a “clear and reasonable warning” under Proposition  
17 65.

18 31. DEFENDANTS knew or should have known that the PRODUCTS they  
19 manufacture, distribute, and offer for sale or use in California contain the LISTED  
20 CHEMICAL.

21 32. The LISTED CHEMICAL results from the use and consumption of the  
22 PRODUCTS in such a way as to expose individuals through dermal contact and/or ingestion  
23 during reasonably foreseeable use.

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

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

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

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

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9 Dated: April 20, 2017

Respectfully Submitted,  
BUSH & HENRY

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11 By:  \_\_\_\_\_

Jennifer Henry  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
MICHAEL DIPIRRO