

CM-010

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address): Reuben Yeroushalmi (SBN-193981) Yeroushalmi & Yeroushalmi 9100 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 240W Beverly Hills, CA 90212 TELEPHONE NO.: 310.623.1926 FAX NO.: 310.623.1930 ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc.		FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF Los Angeles STREET ADDRESS: 111 Hill Street MAILING ADDRESS: 111 Hill Street CITY AND ZIP CODE: Los Angeles 90012 BRANCH NAME: Stanley Mosk Courthouse		
CASE NAME: Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc. v. Gelson's Markets, et al.		
CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unlimited (Amount demanded exceeds \$25,000)	<input type="checkbox"/> Limited (Amount demanded is \$25,000 or less)	Complex Case Designation <input type="checkbox"/> Counter <input type="checkbox"/> Joinder Filed with first appearance by defendant (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.402)
		CASE NUMBER: 19STCV15589 JUDGE: DEPT:

Items 1–6 below must be completed (see instructions on page 2).

1. Check one box below for the case type that best describes this case:

Auto Tort	Contract	Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation (Cal. Rules of Court, rules 3.400–3.403)
<input type="checkbox"/> Auto (22)	<input type="checkbox"/> Breach of contract/warranty (06)	<input type="checkbox"/> Antitrust/Trade regulation (03)
<input type="checkbox"/> Uninsured motorist (46)	<input type="checkbox"/> Rule 3.740 collections (09)	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction defect (10)
Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death) Tort	<input type="checkbox"/> Other collections (09)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mass tort (40)
<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos (04)	<input type="checkbox"/> Insurance coverage (18)	<input type="checkbox"/> Securities litigation (28)
<input type="checkbox"/> Product liability (24)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other contract (37)	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental/Toxic tort (30)
<input type="checkbox"/> Medical malpractice (45)	Real Property	<input type="checkbox"/> Insurance coverage claims arising from the above listed provisionally complex case types (41)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other PI/PD/WD (23)	<input type="checkbox"/> Eminent domain/Inverse condemnation (14)	
Non-PI/PD/WD (Other) Tort	<input type="checkbox"/> Wrongful eviction (33)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Business tort/unfair business practice (07)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other real property (26)	Enforcement of Judgment
<input type="checkbox"/> Civil rights (08)	Unlawful Detainer	<input type="checkbox"/> Enforcement of judgment (20)
<input type="checkbox"/> Defamation (13)	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial (31)	Miscellaneous Civil Complaint
<input type="checkbox"/> Fraud (16)	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential (32)	<input type="checkbox"/> RICO (27)
<input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual property (19)	<input type="checkbox"/> Drugs (38)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other complaint (<i>not specified above</i>) (42)
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional negligence (25)	Judicial Review	Miscellaneous Civil Petition
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other non-PI/PD/WD tort (35)	<input type="checkbox"/> Asset forfeiture (05)	<input type="checkbox"/> Partnership and corporate governance (21)
Employment	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition re: arbitration award (11)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other petition (<i>not specified above</i>) (43)
<input type="checkbox"/> Wrongful termination (36)	<input type="checkbox"/> Writ of mandate (02)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other employment (15)	<input type="checkbox"/> Other judicial review (39)	

2. This case ☐ is ☒ is not complex under rule 3.400 of the California Rules of Court. If the case is complex, mark the factors requiring exceptional judicial management:
- a. ☐ Large number of separately represented parties d. ☐ Large number of witnesses
- b. ☐ Extensive motion practice raising difficult or novel issues that will be time-consuming to resolve e. ☐ Coordination with related actions pending in one or more courts in other counties, states, or countries, or in a federal court
- c. ☐ Substantial amount of documentary evidence f. ☐ Substantial postjudgment judicial supervision
3. Remedies sought (check all that apply): a. ☒ monetary b. ☒ nonmonetary; declaratory or injunctive relief c. ☒ punitive
4. Number of causes of action (specify): 1
5. This case ☐ is ☒ is not a class action suit.
6. If there are any known related cases, file and serve a notice of related case. (You may use form CM-015.)

Date: 05/03/2019
Reuben Yeroushalmi

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF PARTY OR ATTORNEY FOR PARTY)

NOTICE

- Plaintiff must file this cover sheet with the first paper filed in the action or proceeding (except small claims cases or cases filed under the Probate Code, Family Code, or Welfare and Institutions Code). (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.220.) Failure to file may result in sanctions.
- File this cover sheet in addition to any cover sheet required by local court rule.
- If this case is complex under rule 3.400 et seq. of the California Rules of Court, you must serve a copy of this cover sheet on all other parties to the action or proceeding.
- Unless this is a collections case under rule 3.740 or a complex case, this cover sheet will be used for statistical purposes only.

Page 1 of 2

INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO COMPLETE THE COVER SHEET

To Plaintiffs and Others Filing First Papers. If you are filing a first paper (for example, a complaint) in a civil case, you **must** complete and file, along with your first paper, the *Civil Case Cover Sheet* contained on page 1. This information will be used to compile statistics about the types and numbers of cases filed. You must complete items 1 through 6 on the sheet. In item 1, you must check **one** box for the case type that best describes the case. If the case fits both a general and a more specific type of case listed in item 1, check the more specific one. If the case has multiple causes of action, check the box that best indicates the **primary** cause of action. To assist you in completing the sheet, examples of the cases that belong under each case type in item 1 are provided below. A cover sheet must be filed only with your initial paper. Failure to file a cover sheet with the first paper filed in a civil case may subject a party, its counsel, or both to sanctions under rules 2.30 and 3.220 of the California Rules of Court.

To Parties in Rule 3.740 Collections Cases. A "collections case" under rule 3.740 is defined as an action for recovery of money owed in a sum stated to be certain that is not more than \$25,000, exclusive of interest and attorney's fees, arising from a transaction in which property, services, or money was acquired on credit. A collections case does not include an action seeking the following: (1) tort damages, (2) punitive damages, (3) recovery of real property, (4) recovery of personal property, or (5) a prejudgment writ of attachment. The identification of a case as a rule 3.740 collections case on this form means that it will be exempt from the general time-for-service requirements and case management rules, unless a defendant files a responsive pleading. A rule 3.740 collections case will be subject to the requirements for service and obtaining a judgment in rule 3.740.

To Parties in Complex Cases. In complex cases only, parties must also use the *Civil Case Cover Sheet* to designate whether the case is complex. If a plaintiff believes the case is complex under rule 3.400 of the California Rules of Court, this must be indicated by completing the appropriate boxes in items 1 and 2. If a plaintiff designates a case as complex, the cover sheet must be served with the complaint on all parties to the action. A defendant may file and serve no later than the time of its first appearance a joinder in the plaintiff's designation, a counter-designation that the case is not complex, or, if the plaintiff has made no designation, a designation that the case is complex.

CASE TYPES AND EXAMPLES

Auto Tort

Auto (22)—Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death
Uninsured Motorist (46) (*if the case involves an uninsured motorist claim subject to arbitration, check this item instead of Auto*)

Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death) Tort

Asbestos (04)
Asbestos Property Damage
Asbestos Personal Injury/Wrongful Death
Product Liability (*not asbestos or toxic/environmental*) (24)
Medical Malpractice (45)
Medical Malpractice—Physicians & Surgeons
Other Professional Health Care Malpractice
Other PI/PD/WD (23)
Premises Liability (e.g., slip and fall)
Intentional Bodily Injury/PD/WD (e.g., assault, vandalism)
Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress
Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress
Other PI/PD/WD

Non-PI/PD/WD (Other) Tort

Business Tort/Unfair Business Practice (07)
Civil Rights (e.g., discrimination, false arrest) (*not civil harassment*) (08)
Defamation (e.g., slander, libel) (13)
Fraud (16)
Intellectual Property (19)
Professional Negligence (25)
Legal Malpractice
Other Professional Malpractice (*not medical or legal*)
Other Non-PI/PD/WD Tort (35)

Employment

Wrongful Termination (36)
Other Employment (15)

Contract

Breach of Contract/Warranty (06)
Breach of Rental/Lease Contract (*not unlawful detainer or wrongful eviction*)
Contract/Warranty Breach—Seller Plaintiff (*not fraud or negligence*)
Negligent Breach of Contract/Warranty
Other Breach of Contract/Warranty
Collections (e.g., money owed, open book accounts) (09)
Collection Case—Seller Plaintiff
Other Promissory Note/Collections Case
Insurance Coverage (*not provisionally complex*) (18)
Auto Subrogation
Other Coverage
Other Contract (37)
Contractual Fraud
Other Contract Dispute

Real Property

Eminent Domain/Inverse Condemnation (14)
Wrongful Eviction (33)
Other Real Property (e.g., quiet title) (26)
Writ of Possession of Real Property
Mortgage Foreclosure
Quiet Title
Other Real Property (*not eminent domain, landlord/tenant, or foreclosure*)

Unlawful Detainer

Commercial (31)
Residential (32)
Drugs (38) (*if the case involves illegal drugs, check this item; otherwise, report as Commercial or Residential*)

Judicial Review

Asset Forfeiture (05)
Petition Re: Arbitration Award (11)
Writ of Mandate (02)
Writ—Administrative Mandamus
Writ—Mandamus on Limited Court Case Matter
Writ—Other Limited Court Case Review
Other Judicial Review (39)
Review of Health Officer Order
Notice of Appeal—Labor Commissioner Appeals

Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation (Cal. Rules of Court Rules 3.400–3.403)

Antitrust/Trade Regulation (03)
Construction Defect (10)
Claims Involving Mass Tort (40)
Securities Litigation (28)
Environmental/Toxic Tort (30)
Insurance Coverage Claims (*arising from provisionally complex case type listed above*) (41)

Enforcement of Judgment

Enforcement of Judgment (20)
Abstract of Judgment (Out of County)
Confession of Judgment (*non-domestic relations*)
Sister State Judgment
Administrative Agency Award (*not unpaid taxes*)
Petition/Certification of Entry of Judgment on Unpaid Taxes
Other Enforcement of Judgment Case

Miscellaneous Civil Complaint

RICO (27)
Other Complaint (*not specified above*) (42)
Declaratory Relief Only
Injunctive Relief Only (*non-harassment*)
Mechanics Lien
Other Commercial Complaint Case (*non-tort/non-complex*)
Other Civil Complaint (*non-tort/non-complex*)

Miscellaneous Civil Petition

Partnership and Corporate Governance (21)
Other Petition (*not specified above*) (43)
Civil Harassment
Workplace Violence
Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse
Election Contest
Petition for Name Change
Petition for Relief From Late Claim
Other Civil Petition

SHORT TITLE:

Consumer Advocacy Group v. Gelson's Markets, et. al

CASE NUMBER

**CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET ADDENDUM AND STATEMENT OF LOCATION
(CERTIFICATE OF GROUNDS FOR ASSIGNMENT TO COURTHOUSE LOCATION)**

This form is required pursuant to LASC Local Rule 2.0 in all new civil case filings in the Los Angeles Superior Court.

Item I. Check the types of hearing and fill in the estimated length of hearing expected for this case:

JURY TRIAL? ☐ YES CLASS ACTION? ☐ YES LIMITED CASE? ☐ YES TIME ESTIMATED FOR TRIAL⁵⁻⁷ ☐ HOURS/ ☒ DAYS

Item II. Select the correct district and courthouse location (4 steps – If you checked "Limited Case", skip to Item III, Pg. 4):

Step 1: After first completing the Civil Case Cover Sheet Form, find the main civil case cover sheet heading for your case in the left margin below, and, to the right in Column **A**, the Civil Case Cover Sheet case type you selected.

Step 2: Check one Superior Court type of action in Column **B** below which best describes the nature of this case.

Step 3: In Column **C**, circle the reason for the court location choice that applies to the type of action you have checked. For any exception to the court location, see Los Angeles Superior Court Local Rule 2.0.

Applicable Reasons for Choosing Courthouse Location (see Column C below)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Class Actions must be filed in the County Courthouse, Central District. | 6. Location of property or permanently garaged vehicle. |
| 2. May be filed in Central (Other county, or no Bodily Injury/Property Damage). | 7. Location where petitioner resides. |
| 3. Location where cause of action arose. | 8. Location wherein defendant/respondent functions wholly. |
| 4. Location where bodily injury, death or damage occurred. | 9. Location where one or more of the parties reside. |
| 5. Location where performance required or defendant resides. | 10. Location of Labor Commissioner Office. |

Step 4: Fill in the information requested on page 4 in Item III; complete Item IV. Sign the declaration.

	A Civil Case Cover Sheet Category No.	B Type of Action (Check only one)	C Applicable Reasons - See Step 3 Above
Auto Tort	Auto (22)	<input type="checkbox"/> A7100 Motor Vehicle - Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death	1., 2., 4.
	Uninsured Motorist (46)	<input type="checkbox"/> A7110 Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death – Uninsured Motorist	1., 2., 4.
Other Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death Tort	Asbestos (04)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6070 Asbestos Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> A7221 Asbestos - Personal Injury/Wrongful Death	2. 2.
	Product Liability (24)	<input type="checkbox"/> A7260 Product Liability (not asbestos or toxic/environmental)	1., 2., 3., 4., 8.
	Medical Malpractice (45)	<input type="checkbox"/> A7210 Medical Malpractice - Physicians & Surgeons	1., 2., 4.
		<input type="checkbox"/> A7240 Other Professional Health Care Malpractice	1., 2., 4.
	Other Personal Injury Property Damage Wrongful Death (23)	<input type="checkbox"/> A7250 Premises Liability (e.g., slip and fall)	1., 2., 4.
<input type="checkbox"/> A7230 Intentional Bodily Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death (e.g., assault, vandalism, etc.)		1., 2., 4.	
<input type="checkbox"/> A7270 Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress		1., 2., 3.	
<input type="checkbox"/> A7220 Other Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death		1., 2., 4.	
Non-Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death Tort	Business Tort (07)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6029 Other Commercial/Business Tort (not fraud/breach of contract)	1., 2., 3.
	Civil Rights (08)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6005 Civil Rights/Discrimination	1., 2., 3.
	Defamation (13)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6010 Defamation (slander/libel)	1., 2., 3.
	Fraud (16)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6013 Fraud (no contract)	1., 2., 3.

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A Civil Case Cover Sheet Category No.	B Type of Action (Check only one)	C Applicable Reasons -See Step 3 Above
Professional Negligence (25)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6017 Legal Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> A6050 Other Professional Malpractice (not medical or legal)	1., 2., 3. 1., 2., 3.
Other (35)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A6025 Other Non-Personal Injury/Property Damage tort	2., 3.
Wrongful Termination (36)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6037 Wrongful Termination	1., 2., 3.
Other Employment (15)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6024 Other Employment Complaint Case <input type="checkbox"/> A6109 Labor Commissioner Appeals	1., 2., 3. 10.
Breach of Contract/ Warranty (06) (not insurance)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6004 Breach of Rental/Lease Contract (not Unlawful Detainer or wrongful eviction) <input type="checkbox"/> A6008 Contract/Warranty Breach -Seller Plaintiff (no fraud/negligence) <input type="checkbox"/> A6019 Negligent Breach of Contract/Warranty (no fraud) <input type="checkbox"/> A6028 Other Breach of Contract/Warranty (not fraud or negligence)	2., 5. 2., 5. 1., 2., 5. 1., 2., 5.
Collections (09)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6002 Collections Case-Seller Plaintiff <input type="checkbox"/> A6012 Other Promissory Note/Collections Case	2., 5., 6. 2., 5.
Insurance Coverage (18)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6015 Insurance Coverage (not complex)	1., 2., 5., 8.
Other Contract (37)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6009 Contractual Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> A6031 Tortious Interference <input type="checkbox"/> A6027 Other Contract Dispute(not breach/insurance/fraud/negligence)	1., 2., 3., 5. 1., 2., 3., 5. 1., 2., 3., 8.
Eminent Domain/Inverse Condemnation (14)	<input type="checkbox"/> A7300 Eminent Domain/Condemnation Number of parcels_____	2.
Wrongful Eviction (33)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6023 Wrongful Eviction Case	2., 6.
Other Real Property (26)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6018 Mortgage Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> A6032 Quiet Title <input type="checkbox"/> A6060 Other Real Property (not eminent domain, landlord/tenant, foreclosure)	2., 6. 2., 6. 2., 6.
Unlawful Detainer- Commercial (31)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6021 Unlawful Detainer-Commercial (not drugs or wrongful eviction)	2., 6.
Unlawful Detainer- Residential (32)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6020 Unlawful Detainer-Residential (not drugs or wrongful eviction)	2., 6.
Unlawful Detainer- Drugs (38)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6022 Unlawful Detainer-Drugs	2., 6.
Asset Forfeiture (05)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6108 Asset Forfeiture Case	2., 6.
Petition re Arbitration (11)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6115 Petition to Compel/Confirm/Vacate Arbitration	2., 5.

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Judicial Review (Cont'd.)

Provisionally Complex Litigation

Enforcement of Judgment

Miscellaneous Civil Complaints

Miscellaneous Civil Petitions

A Civil Case Cover Sheet Category No.	B Type of Action (Check only one)	C Applicable Reasons - See Step 3 Above
Writ of Mandate (02)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6151 Writ - Administrative Mandamus <input type="checkbox"/> A6152 Writ - Mandamus on Limited Court Case Matter <input type="checkbox"/> A6153 Writ - Other Limited Court Case Review	2., 8. 2. 2.
Other Judicial Review (39)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6150 Other Writ /Judicial Review	2., 8.
Antitrust/Trade Regulation (03)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6003 Antitrust/Trade Regulation	1., 2., 8.
Construction Defect (10)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6007 Construction defect	1., 2., 3.
Claims Involving Mass Tort (40)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6006 Claims Involving Mass Tort	1., 2., 8.
Securities Litigation (28)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6035 Securities Litigation Case	1., 2., 8.
Toxic Tort Environmental (30)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6036 Toxic Tort/Environmental	1., 2., 3., 8.
Insurance Coverage Claims from Complex Case (41)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6014 Insurance Coverage/Subrogation (complex case only)	1., 2., 5., 8.
Enforcement of Judgment (20)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6141 Sister State Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> A6160 Abstract of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> A6107 Confession of Judgment (non-domestic relations) <input type="checkbox"/> A6140 Administrative Agency Award (not unpaid taxes) <input type="checkbox"/> A6114 Petition/Certificate for Entry of Judgment on Unpaid Tax <input type="checkbox"/> A6112 Other Enforcement of Judgment Case	2., 9. 2., 6. 2., 9. 2., 8. 2., 8. 2., 8., 9.
RICO (27)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6033 Racketeering (RICO) Case	1., 2., 8.
Other Complaints (Not Specified Above) (42)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6030 Declaratory Relief Only <input type="checkbox"/> A6040 Injunctive Relief Only (not domestic/harassment) <input type="checkbox"/> A6011 Other Commercial Complaint Case (non-tort/non-complex) <input type="checkbox"/> A6000 Other Civil Complaint (non-tort/non-complex)	1., 2., 8. 2., 8. 1., 2., 8. 1., 2., 8.
Partnership Corporation Governance(21)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6113 Partnership and Corporate Governance Case	2., 8.
Other Petitions (Not Specified Above) (43)	<input type="checkbox"/> A6121 Civil Harassment <input type="checkbox"/> A6123 Workplace Harassment <input type="checkbox"/> A6124 Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse Case <input type="checkbox"/> A6190 Election Contest <input type="checkbox"/> A6110 Petition for Change of Name <input type="checkbox"/> A6170 Petition for Relief from Late Claim Law <input type="checkbox"/> A6100 Other Civil Petition	2., 3., 9. 2., 3., 9. 2., 3., 9. 2. 2., 7. 2., 3., 4., 8. 2., 9.

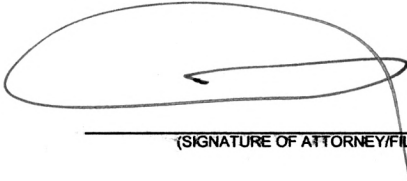
SHORT TITLE: Consumer Advocacy Group v. Gelson's Markets, et. al	CASE NUMBER
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Item III. Statement of Location: Enter the address of the accident, party's residence or place of business, performance, or other circumstance indicated in Item II., Step 3 on Page 1, as the proper reason for filing in the court location you selected.

REASON: CHECK THE NUMBER UNDER COLUMN C WHICH APPLIES IN THIS CASE <input type="checkbox"/> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3. <input type="checkbox"/> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> 6. <input type="checkbox"/> 7. <input type="checkbox"/> 8. <input type="checkbox"/> 9. <input type="checkbox"/> 10.		ADDRESS: 9100 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 240W	
CITY: Beverly Hills	STATE: CA	ZIP CODE: 90212	

Item IV. *Declaration of Assignment*: I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct and that the above-entitled matter is properly filed for assignment to the Stanley Mosk courthouse in the Central District of the Los Angeles Superior Court (Code Civ. Proc., § 392 et seq., and LASC Local Rule 2.0, subds. (b), (c) and (d)).

Dated: May 3, 2019


(SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY/FILING PARTY)

PLEASE HAVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS COMPLETED AND READY TO BE FILED IN ORDER TO PROPERLY COMMENCE YOUR NEW COURT CASE:

1. Original Complaint or Petition.
2. If filing a Complaint, a completed Summons form for issuance by the Clerk.
3. Civil Case Cover Sheet form CM-010.
4. Complete Addendum to Civil Case Cover Sheet form LACIV 109 (Rev. 01/07), LASC Approved 03-04.
5. Payment in full of the filing fee, unless fees have been waived.
6. Signed order appointing the Guardian ad Litem, JC form FL-935, if the plaintiff or petitioner is a minor under 18 years of age, or if required by Court.
7. Additional copies of documents to be conformed by the Clerk. Copies of the cover sheet and this addendum must be served along with the summons and complaint, or other initiating pleading in the case.

Assigned for all purposes to: Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Judicial Officer: Malcolm Mackey

Reuben Yeroushalmi (SBN 193981)
Peter T. Sato (SBN 238486)
Shannon E. Royster (SBN 314126)
Tiffine E. Malamphy (SBN 312239)
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Attorneys for Plaintiff,
Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc.

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC.,
in the public interest,

Plaintiff,

v.

GELSON'S MARKETS, a California
Corporation;
DW GLOBAL, INC., a California
Corporation;
and DOES 1-10.

Defendants.

CASE NO. 19STCV15569

COMPLAINT FOR PENALTY AND
INJUNCTION

Violation of Proposition 65, the Safe
Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement
Act of 1986 (*Health & Safety Code*, §
25249.5, *et seq.*)

ACTION IS AN UNLIMITED CIVIL
CASE (exceeds \$25,000)

Plaintiff-CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC. alleges a cause of action against
defendants GELSON'S MARKETS, DW GLOBAL, INC., and DOES 1-10 as follows:

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///

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THE PARTIES

1. Plaintiff CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC. ("Plaintiff" or "CAG") is an organization qualified to do business in the State of California. CAG is a person within the meaning of Health and Safety Code section 25249.11, subdivision (a). CAG, acting as a private attorney general, brings this action in the public interest as defined under Health and Safety Code section 25249.7, subdivision (d).
2. Defendant GELSON'S MARKETS ("GELSON'S") is a California corporation, qualified to do business and doing business in the State of California at all relevant times herein.
3. Defendant DW GLOBAL, INC. ("DW") is a California corporation, qualified to do business and doing business in the State of California at all relevant times herein.
4. Plaintiff is presently unaware of the true names and capacities of defendants DOES 1-10, and therefore sues these defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will amend this complaint to allege their true names and capacities when ascertained. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that each fictitiously named defendant is responsible in some manner for the occurrences herein alleged and the damages caused thereby.
5. At all times mentioned herein, the term "Defendants" includes GELSON'S, DW, and DOES 1-10.
6. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that each of the Defendants at all times mentioned herein have conducted business within the State of California.
7. Upon information and belief, at all times relevant to this action, each of the Defendants, including DOES 1-10, was an agent, servant, or employee of each of the other Defendants. In conducting the activities alleged in this Complaint, each of the Defendants was acting within the course and scope of this agency, service, or employment, and was acting with the consent, permission, and authorization of each of the other Defendants. All actions of each of the Defendants alleged in this Complaint were ratified and approved by every other Defendant or their officers or managing agents.

1 Alternatively, each of the Defendants aided, conspired with and/or facilitated the alleged
2 wrongful conduct of each of the other Defendants.

- 3 8. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that at all relevant times, each of the
4 Defendants was a person doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code
5 section 25249.11, subdivision (b), and that each of the Defendants had ten (10) or more
6 employees at all relevant times.

7 **JURISDICTION**

- 8 9. The Court has jurisdiction over this lawsuit pursuant to California Constitution Article
9 VI, Section 10, which grants the Superior Court original jurisdiction in all causes except
10 those given by statute to other trial courts. This Court has jurisdiction over this action
11 pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7, which allows enforcement of
12 violations of Proposition 65 in any Court of competent jurisdiction.
- 13 10. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendants named herein because Defendants either
14 reside or are located in this State or are foreign corporations authorized to do business in
15 California, are registered with the California Secretary of State, or who do sufficient
16 business in California, have sufficient minimum contacts with California, or otherwise
17 intentionally avail themselves of the markets within California through their manufacture,
18 distribution, promotion, marketing, or sale of their products within California to render
19 the exercise of jurisdiction by the California courts permissible under traditional notions
20 of fair play and substantial justice.
- 21 11. Venue is proper in the County of Los Angeles because one or more of the instances of
22 wrongful conduct occurred, and continues to occur, in the County of Los Angeles and/or
23 because Defendants conducted, and continue to conduct, business in the County of Los
24 Angeles with respect to the consumer product that is the subject of this action.

25 **BACKGROUND AND PRELIMINARY FACTS**

- 26 12. In 1986, California voters approved an initiative to address growing concerns about
27 exposure to toxic chemicals and declared their right "[t]o be informed about exposures to
28

chemicals that cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm." Ballot Pamp., Proposed Law, Gen. Elec. (Nov. 4, 1986) at p. 3. The initiative, The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, codified at Health and Safety Code sections 25249.5, *et seq.* ("Proposition 65"), helps to protect California's drinking water sources from contamination, to allow consumers to make informed choices about the products they buy, and to enable persons to protect themselves from toxic chemicals as they see fit.

13. Proposition 65 requires the Governor of California to publish a list of chemicals known to the state to cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm. *Health & Safety Code* § 25249.8. The list, which the Governor updates at least once a year, contains over 700 chemicals and chemical families. Proposition 65 imposes warning requirements and other controls that apply to Proposition 65-listed chemicals.

14. All businesses with ten (10) or more employees that operate or sell products in California must comply with Proposition 65. Under Proposition 65, businesses are: (1) prohibited from knowingly discharging Proposition 65-listed chemicals into sources of drinking water (*Health & Safety Code* § 25249.5), and (2) required to provide "clear and reasonable" warnings before exposing a person, knowingly and intentionally, to a Proposition 65-listed chemical (*Health & Safety Code* § 25249.6).

15. Proposition 65 provides that any person "violating or threatening to violate" the statute may be enjoined in any court of competent jurisdiction. *Health & Safety Code* § 25249.7. "Threaten to violate" means "to create a condition in which there is a substantial probability that a violation will occur." *Health & Safety Code* § 25249.11(e).

Defendants are also liable for civil penalties of up to \$2,500.00 per day per violation, recoverable in a civil action. *Health & Safety Code* § 25249.7(b).

16. Plaintiff identified certain practices of manufacturers and distributors of products bearing Cadmium and Cadmium Compounds of exposing, knowingly and intentionally, persons in California to the Proposition 65-listed chemicals of such products without first

1 providing clear and reasonable warnings of such to the exposed persons prior to the time
2 of exposure. Plaintiff later discerned that Defendants engaged in such practice.

3 17. On October 1, 1987, the Governor of California added Cadmium and Cadmium
4 Compounds (“Cadmium”) to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause cancer
5 (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 27, § 27001(b)). Cadmium is known to the State to cause cancer
6 and developmental, male reproductive toxicity. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code
7 sections 25249.9 and 25249.10, twenty (20) months after addition of Cadmium to the list
8 of chemicals known to the State to cause cancer, Cadmium became fully subject to
9 Proposition 65 warning requirements and discharge prohibitions.

10 18. On May 1, 1997, the Governor of California added Cadmium to the list of chemicals
11 known to the State to cause reproductive toxicity (Cal. Code Regs. tit. 27, § 27001(c)).
12 Cadmium is known to the State to cause developmental, and male reproductive toxicity.
13 Pursuant to Health and Safety Code sections 25249.9 and 25249.10, twenty (20) months
14 after addition of Cadmium to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause
15 reproductive toxicity, Cadmium became fully subject to Proposition 65 warning
16 requirements and discharge prohibitions.

17 **SATISFACTION OF PRIOR NOTICE**

18 19. On or about Aug. 29, 2018, Plaintiff gave notice of alleged violations of Health and
19 Safety Code section 25249.6, concerning consumer products exposures and occupational
20 exposures, subject to a private action to GELSON’S, DW, and to the California Attorney
21 General, County District Attorneys, and City Attorneys for each city containing a
22 population of at least 750,000 people in whose jurisdictions the violations allegedly
23 occurred, concerning the Seaweed Snack containing Cadmium and Cadmium
24 Compounds.

25 20. Before sending the notices of alleged violation, Plaintiff investigated the consumer
26 products involved, the likelihood that such products would cause users to suffer
27

significant exposures to Cadmium and Cadmium Compounds, and the corporate structure of each of the Defendants.

21. Plaintiff's notice of alleged violation included a Certificate of Merit executed by the attorney for the noticing party, CAG. The Certificate of Merit stated that the attorney for Plaintiff who executed the certificate had consulted with at least one person with relevant and appropriate expertise who reviewed data regarding the exposures to Cadmium and Cadmium Compounds, the subject Proposition 65-listed chemical of this action. Based on that information, the attorney for Plaintiff who executed the Certificate of Merit believed there was a reasonable and meritorious case for this private action. The attorney for Plaintiff attached to the Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General the confidential factual information sufficient to establish the basis of the Certificate of Merit.

22. Plaintiff's notices of alleged violations also included a Certificate of Service and a document entitled "The Safe Drinking Water & Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65) A Summary." *Health & Safety Code* § 25249.7(d).

23. Plaintiff is commencing this action more than sixty (60) days from the dates that Plaintiff gave notices of the alleged violations to GELSON'S MARKETS, DW, and the public prosecutors referenced in Paragraph 19.

24. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that neither the Attorney General, nor any applicable district attorney or city attorney has commenced and is diligently prosecuting an action against the Defendants.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(By CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC. and against GELSON'S, DW, and DOES 1-10 for Violations of Proposition 65, The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (*Health & Safety Code*, §§ 25249.5, *et seq.*))

Seaweed Products

25. Plaintiff CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC. repeats and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 24 of this complaint as though fully set forth herein.

Each of the Defendants is, and at all times mentioned herein was, a manufacturer, distributor, promoter, or retailer of Seaweed Snack ("Seaweed"), including but not limited to "YANGBAN;" "SEA VEGGIES;" "BLESSING OF THE SEA;" "HEALTHY SEAWEED SNACK;" "NET WT. 0.21OZ (6G) 12 SHEETS;" "PRODUCT OF KOREA;" "DISTRIBUTED BY DW GLOBAL INC.;" "8 83298 61958 7".

26. Seaweed contains Cadmium and Cadmium Compounds.

27. Defendants knew or should have known that Cadmium and Cadmium Compounds have been identified by the State of California as a chemical known to cause cancer and reproductive toxicity and therefore was subject to Proposition 65 warning requirements. Defendants were also informed of the presence of Cadmium and Cadmium Compounds in Seaweed within Plaintiff's notice of alleged violations further discussed above at Paragraph 19.

28. Plaintiff's allegations regarding Seaweed concerns "[c]onsumer products exposure[s]," which "is an exposure that results from a person's acquisition, purchase, storage, consumption, or other reasonably foreseeable use of a consumer good, or any exposure that results from receiving a consumer service." *Cal. Code Regs.* tit. 27, § 25602(b). Seaweed are consumer products, and, as mentioned herein, exposures to lead took place as a result of such normal and foreseeable consumption and use.

29. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that between Aug. 29, 2015 and the present, each of the Defendants knowingly and intentionally exposed California consumers and users of Seaweed, which Defendants manufactured, distributed, or sold as mentioned above, to Cadmium and Cadmium Compounds, without first providing any type of clear and reasonable warning of such to the exposed persons before the time of exposure. Defendants have distributed and sold Seaweed in California. Defendants know and intend that California consumers will use and consume Seaweed, thereby exposing them to Cadmium and Cadmium Compounds. Defendants thereby violated Proposition 65.

30. The principal routes of exposure with regard to Seaweed are and were through ingestion, including hand to mouth pathways, inhalation, and trans-dermal absorption. Persons sustain exposures by eating and consuming Seaweed, handling Seaweed without wearing

1 gloves or any other personal protective equipment, or by touching bare skin or mucous
2 membranes with gloves after handling Seaweed as well as through direct and indirect
3 hand to mouth contact, hand to mucous membrane, or breathing in particulate matter
4 dispersed from Seaweed.

5 31. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that each of Defendants' violations of
6 Proposition 65 as to Seaweed have been ongoing and continuous, as Defendants engaged
7 and continue to engage in conduct which violates Health and Safety Code section
8 25249.6, including the manufacture, distribution, promotion, and sale of Seaweed, so that
9 a separate and distinct violation of Proposition 65 occurred each and every time a person
10 was exposed to lead by Seaweed as mentioned herein.

11 32. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges that each violation of Proposition 65
12 mentioned herein is ever continuing. Plaintiff further alleges and believes that the
13 violations alleged herein will continue to occur into the future.

14 33. Based on the allegations herein, Defendants are liable for civil penalties of up to
15 \$2,500.00 per day per individual exposure to Cadmium and Cadmium Compounds from
16 Seaweed, pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(b).

17 34. Plaintiff has engaged in good faith efforts to resolve the claims alleged herein prior to
18 filing this Complaint.

19 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

20 Plaintiff demands against each of the Defendants as follows:

- 21 1. A permanent injunction mandating Proposition 65-compliant warnings;
 - 22 2. Penalties pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7, subdivision (b);
 - 23 3. Costs of suit;
 - 24 4. Reasonable attorney fees and costs; and
 - 25 5. Any further relief that the court may deem just and equitable.
- 26
27
28

1 Dated: 5-3- 2019

YEROUSHALMI & YEROUSHALMI

2
3 

4 BY: _____
5 Reuben Yeroushalmi
6 Attorneys for Plaintiff,
7 Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc.
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SUM-100

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)

FOR COURT USE ONLY
(SOLO PARA USO DE LA CORTE)

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

GELSON'S MARKETS, a California Corporation; Additional Parties
Attachment Form is Attached.

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:

(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC., in the public interest.

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case. **¡AVISO!** Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.

Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.

Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. **AVISO:** Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is:

(El nombre y dirección de la corte es): Stanley Mosk Courthouse

111 North Hill Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

CASE NUMBER:
(Número del Caso):

19STCV15569

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:

(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):

Yeroushalmi & Yeroushalmi, 9100 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 240W, Beverly Hills, CA 90212, 310.623.1926

Sherri R. Carter Executive Officer / Clerk of Court

DATE: 05/03/2019

(Fecha)

Clerk, by

(Secretario)

Ricardo Perez

, Deputy

(Adjunto)

(For proof of service of this summons, use Proof of Service of Summons (form POS-010).)

(Para prueba de entrega de esta citación use el formulario Proof of Service of Summons, (POS-010)).

NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served

1. ☐ as an individual defendant.
2. ☐ as the person sued under the fictitious name of (specify):

3. ☒ on behalf of (specify):

under: ☐ CCP 416.10 (corporation) ☐ CCP 416.60 (minor)
☐ CCP 416.20 (defunct corporation) ☐ CCP 416.70 (conservatee)
☐ CCP 416.40 (association or partnership) ☐ CCP 416.90 (authorized person)
☐ other (specify):

4. ☐ by personal delivery on (date):



SHORT TITLE:

Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc. v. Gelson's Markets, et al.

CASE NUMBER:

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE

- ➔ This form may be used as an attachment to any summons if space does not permit the listing of all parties on the summons.
- ➔ If this attachment is used, insert the following statement in the plaintiff or defendant box on the summons: "Additional Parties Attachment form is attached."

List additional parties (Check only one box. Use a separate page for each type of party.):

☐

Plaintiff

☒

Defendant

☐

Cross-Complainant

☐

Cross-Defendant

DW GLOBAL, INC., a California Corporation;
and DOES 1-10.