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Attorneys for Plaintiff
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Per local Rule, This case is assigned to
Judge Treat, Charles S, for all purposes.

SUMMONS ISSUED

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATES,
INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

BOBBI BROWN PROFESSIONAL
COSMETICS, INC., a Delaware corporation;
and DOES 1 through 100, inclusive,

Defendants.

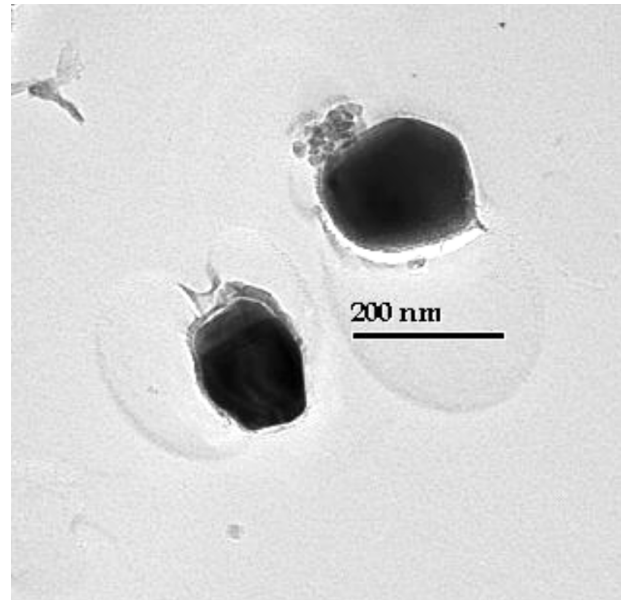
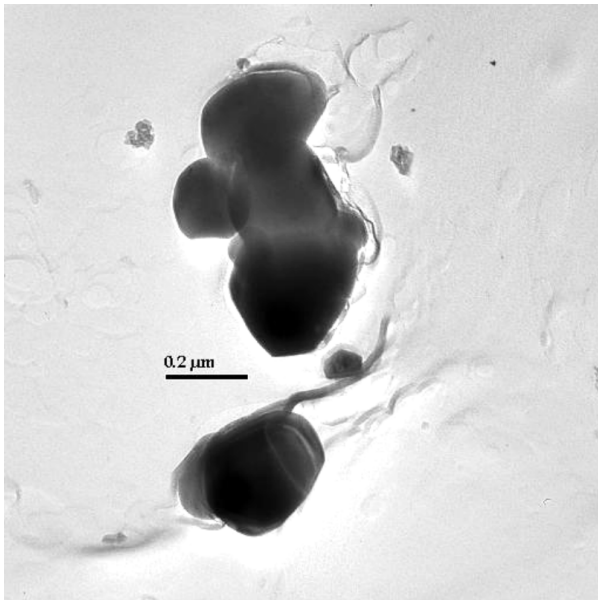
Case No.: C23-01528

**COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES
AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

(Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 et seq.)

I.
INTRODUCTION

1. This Complaint is a representative action brought by Environmental Health Advocates, Inc. (“Plaintiff”) in the public interest of the citizens of the State of California (“the People”). Plaintiff seeks to remedy Defendant's failure to inform the People of exposure to Titanium Dioxide (airborne, unbound particles of respirable size) (“TiO₂”), a known carcinogen. Defendant exposes consumers to TiO₂ by manufacturing, importing, selling, and/or distributing powdered face makeup including, but not limited to, Bobbi Brown Sheer Finish Loose Powder – Soft Porcelain (“Products”). Defendant knows and intends that customers will use Products containing TiO₂. Below are pictures of TiO₂ particles found in an exemplar of Defendant's Products:



2. Under California’s Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health and Safety Code, section 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.)

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3. California identified and listed Titanium Dioxide (airborne, unbound particles of respirable size) (“TiO₂”) as a chemical known to cause cancer as early as September 2, 2011.

4. Defendant failed to sufficiently warn consumers and individuals in California about potential exposure to TiO₂ in connection with Defendant's manufacture, import, sale, or distribution of Products. This is a violation of Proposition 65.

5. Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief compelling Defendant to sufficiently warn consumers in California before exposing them to TiO₂ in Products. (Health & Safety Code, § 25249.7(a).) Plaintiff also seeks civil penalties against Defendant for its violations of Proposition 65 along with attorney's fees and costs. (Health & Safety Code, § 25249.7(b).)

II. PARTIES

6. Plaintiff ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ADVOCATES, INC. (“Plaintiff”) is a corporation in the State of California dedicated to protecting the health of California citizens through the elimination or reduction of toxic exposure from consumer products. It brings this action in the public interest pursuant to Health and Safety Code, section 25249.7.

7. Defendant BOBBI BROWN PROFESSIONAL COSMETICS, INC. ("Bobbi Brown") is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Delaware. Bobbi Brown is registered to do business in California, and does business in the County of Contra Costa, within the meaning of Health and Safety Code, section 25249.11. Bobbi Brown manufactures, imports, sells, or distributes the Products in California and Contra Costa County.

8. Plaintiff does not know the true names and/or capacities, whether individual, partners, or corporate, of the defendants sued herein as DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, and for that reason sues said defendants under fictitious names. Plaintiff will seek leave to amend this Complaint when the true names and capacities of these defendants have been ascertained. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereon alleges that these defendants are responsible in whole or in part for the remedies and penalties sought herein.

9. At all times mentioned, Defendants were the agents, alter egos, servants, joint venturers, joint employers, or employees for each other. Defendants acted with the consent of the other Co-

1 Defendants and acted within the course, purpose, and scope of their agency, service, or employment.
2 All conduct was ratified by Defendants, and each of them.

3 **III.**
4 **VENUE AND JURISDICTION**

5 10. California Constitution Article VI, Section 10 grants the Superior Court original
6 jurisdiction in all cases except those given by statute to other trial courts. The Health and Safety Code
7 statute upon which this action is based does not give jurisdiction to any other court. As such, this Court
8 has jurisdiction.

9 11. Venue is proper in Contra Costa County Superior Court pursuant to Code of
10 Civil Procedure, sections 394, 395, and 395.5. Wrongful conduct occurred and continues to occur in
11 this County. Defendant conducted and continues to conduct business in this County as it relates to
12 Products.

13 12. Defendant has sufficient minimum contacts in the State of California or otherwise
14 purposefully avails itself of the California market. Exercising jurisdiction over Defendant would be
15 consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

16 **IV.**
17 **CAUSES OF ACTION**

18 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**
19 **(Violation of Proposition 65 – Against all Defendants)**

20 13. Plaintiff incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained above.

21 14. Proposition 65 mandates that citizens be informed about exposures to chemicals that
22 cause cancer, birth defects, and other reproductive harm.

23 15. Defendant manufactured, imported, sold, and/or distributed Products containing TiO₂
24 in violation of Health and Safety Code, section 25249.6 et seq. Plaintiff is informed and believes such
25 violations have continued after receipt of the Notice (defined *infra*) and will continue to occur into the
26 future.

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1 16. In manufacturing, importing, selling, and/or distributing Products, Defendant failed to
2 provide a clear and reasonable warning to consumers and individuals in California who may be exposed
3 to TiO₂ through reasonably foreseeable use of the Products.

4 17. Products expose individuals to TiO₂ through direct inhalation. This exposure is a natural
5 and foreseeable consequence of Defendant placing Products into the stream of commerce. As such,
6 Defendant intends that consumers will use Products, exposing them to TiO₂.

7 18. Defendant knew or should have known that the Products contained TiO₂ and exposed
8 individuals to TiO₂ in the ways provided above. The Notice informed Defendant of the presence of
9 TiO₂ in the Products. Likewise, media coverage concerning TiO₂ and related chemicals in consumer
10 products provided constructive notice to Defendant.

11 19. Defendant's actions in this regard were deliberate and not accidental.

12 20. More than sixty days prior to naming each defendant in this lawsuit, Plaintiff issued a
13 60-Day Notice of Violation ("Notice") as required by and in compliance with Proposition 65. Plaintiff
14 provided the Notice to the various required public enforcement agencies along with a certificate of merit.
15 The Notice alleged that Defendant violated Proposition 65 by failing to sufficiently warn consumers in
16 California of the health hazards associated with exposures to TiO₂ contained in the Products.

17 21. The appropriate public enforcement agencies provided with the Notice failed to
18 commence and diligently prosecute a cause of action against Defendant.

19 22. Individuals exposed to TiO₂ contained in Products through direct inhalation resulting
20 from reasonably foreseeable use of the Products have suffered and continue to suffer irreparable harm.
21 There is no other plain, speedy, or adequate remedy at law.

22 23. Defendant is liable for a maximum civil penalty of \$2,500 per day for each violation of
23 Proposition 65 pursuant to Health and Safety Code, section 252497(b). Injunctive relief is also
24 appropriate pursuant to Health and Safety Code, section 25249.7(a).

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1 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

2 Wherefore, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendant as follows:

3 1. Civil penalties in the amount of \$2,500 per day for each violation. Plaintiff alleges that
4 damages total a minimum of \$1,000,000;

5 2. A preliminary and permanent injunction against Defendant from manufacturing,
6 importing, selling, and/or distributing Products in California without providing a clear and reasonable
7 warning as required by Proposition 65 and related Regulations;

8 3. Reasonable attorney's fees and costs of suit; and

9 4. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

10 Respectfully submitted:

11 Dated: June 21, 2023

ENTORNO LAW, LLP

12 By: 
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14 Jake W. Schulte
15 Craig M. Nicholas
16 Janani Natarajan

17 Attorneys for Plaintiff
18 Environmental Health Advocates, Inc.
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