1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	David R. Bush, State Bar No. 154511 LAW OFFICE OF DAVID R. BUSH 321 South Main Street #502 Sebastopol CA 95472 Telephone: (707) 321-5028 Jeremy Fietz, State Bar No. 200396 LAW OFFICES OF JEREMY FIETZ 4241 Montgomery Drive, #123 Santa Rosa, CA 95405 Telephone: (707) 236-0088 Attorneys for Plaintiff MICHAEL DIPIRRO	ELECTRONICALLY FILED Superior Court of California, County of Alameda 11/15/2023 at 09:40:51 AM By: Milagros Cortez, Deputy Clerk
9	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
10 11	COUNTY OF ALAMEDA	
11	UNLIMITED CIVIL JURISDICTION	
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13	MICHAEL DIPIRRO,	Case No. 230V051438
15	Plaintiff,	200.00.00
16	V.	COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF
17		(Health & Safety Code. § 25249.6 et seq.)
18	SWORD OF THE LORD FOUNDATION; and DOES 1-150,	
19	Defendants.	
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	COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF	

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NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This Complaint is a representative action brought by plaintiff MICHAEL DIPIRRO 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 Diethylhexyl phthalate ("DINP"), a toxic chemical, for exposures created by the use of Tract Wallets sold in California (hereafter referred to as PRODUCTS).

2. By this Complaint, plaintiff seeks to remedy defendants' continuing failure to warn California citizens about the risk of exposure to DINP from the use of the PRODUCTS that are manufactured, distributed, and/or offered for sale or use to consumers throughout the State of California without the requisite health hazard warnings.

Exposure to high levels of DINP are commonly produced through the normal and
 foreseeable use of PRODUCTS that defendants manufacture, distribute, and/or offer for sale to
 consumers throughout the State of California without requisite health hazard warnings.

4. Under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, codified at
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.

Pursuant to Proposition 65, on December 20, 2013, California identified and listed
 DINP as a chemical known to cause cancer. DINP became subject to the "clear and reasonable
 warning" requirements of the act one year later on December 20, 2014, for cancer. Cal. Code
 Regs. tit. 27, § 27001(c); Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.8 & 25249.10(b). DINP is referred to
 hereinafter as the "LISTED CHEMICAL."

6. Defendants manufacture or otherwise process for sale, distribute, and sell Tract
Wallets, the normal and foreseeable use of which results in exposure to DINP at levels that
require health hazard warnings under Proposition 65.

7. 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).

8. 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).

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

PARTIES

10. Plaintiff MICHAEL DIPIRRO 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 section 25249.7(d).

17 11. Defendant SWORD OF THE LORD FOUNDATION ("SWORD") is a person in
18 the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code section 25249.11.

12. SWORD manufactures (or otherwise processes for sale), distributes, and/or offers
the PRODUCTS for sale or use in the State of California, or implies by its conduct that it
manufactures, distributes, and/or offers the PRODUCTS for sale or use in the State of California.

13. Defendants DOES 1-50 ("MANUFACTURER DEFENDANTS") are each a
person in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code section
25249.11.

MANUFACTURER DEFENDANTS research, test, design, assemble, fabricate,
cultivate, harvest and/or manufacture, or imply by their conduct that they research, test, design,

assemble, fabricate, cultivate, harvest and/or manufacture one or more of the PRODUCTS offered for sale or use in the State of California.

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

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

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

10 18. RETAILER DEFENDANTS offer the PRODUCTS for sale to individuals in the
11 State of California.

12 19. At this time, the true names of defendants DOES 1 through 150, inclusive, are
13 unknown to plaintiff, who, therefore, sues said defendants by their fictitious names pursuant to
14 Code of Civil Procedure section 474. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis
15 alleges, that each of the fictitiously named defendants is responsible for the acts and occurrences
16 alleged herein. When ascertained, their true names shall be reflected in an amended complaint.
17 Specifically named defendants and all "Doe" Defendants are hereinafter collectively referred to
18 as "DEFENDANTS".

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VENUE AND JURISDICTION

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

26 21. The California Superior Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to
27 California Constitution Article VI, section 10, which grants the Superior Court "original

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1 jurisdiction in all causes except those given by statute to other trial courts." The statute under 2 which this action is brought does not specify any other basis of subject matter jurisdiction. 3 22. The California Superior Court has jurisdiction over DEFENDANTS based on 4 plaintiff's information and good faith belief that each defendant is a person, firm, corporation or 5 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. 6 7 DEFENDANTS' purposeful availment renders the exercise of personal jurisdiction by 8 California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice. 9 FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION 10 (Violation of Proposition 65 - Against All Defendants) 11 23. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein, 12 Paragraphs 1 through 22, inclusive. 13 24. In enacting Proposition 65, in the preamble to the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic 14 Enforcement Act of 1986, the People of California expressly declare their right "[t]o be 15 informed about exposures to chemicals that cause cancer, birth defects, or other reproductive harm." 16 17 25. Proposition 65 states, "[n]o person in the course of doing business shall 18 knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a chemical known to the state to cause 19 cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and reasonable warning to such 20 individual" Health & Safety Code § 25249.6. 21 On July 31, 2023, plaintiff's 60-Day Notice of Violation, together with the 26. 22 requisite certificate of merit, was provided to SWORD and certain public enforcement agencies 23 stating that, as a result of DEFENDANTS' sales of the PRODUCTS containing the LISTED 24 CHEMICAL, purchasers and users in the State of California were being exposed to the LISTED 25 CHEMICAL resulting from the reasonably foreseeable uses of the PRODUCTS, without the 26 individual purchasers and users first having been provided with a "clear and reasonable 27 warning" regarding such toxic exposures, as required by Proposition 65. 28

1 27. DEFENDANTS have engaged in the manufacture, distribution, and/or offering of 2 the PRODUCTS for sale or use in violation of Health and Safety Code section 25249.6, and 3 such violations have continued to occur beyond DEFENDANTS' receipt of plaintiff's 60-Day 4 Notices of Violation. As such, DEFENDANTS' violations are ongoing and continuous in 5 nature, and will continue to occur in the future. After receiving the claims asserted in the 60-day Notices of Violation, the 6 28. 7 appropriate public enforcement agencies have failed to commence and diligently prosecute a 8 cause of action against DEFENDANTS under Proposition 65. 9 29. The PRODUCTS manufactured, distributed, and offered for sale or use in California by DEFENDANTS contain the LISTED CHEMICAL in amounts above the 10 11 allowable state limits, such that they require a "clear and reasonable" warning under Proposition 12 65. 13 30. DEFENDANTS knew or should have known that the PRODUCTS they 14 manufacture, distribute, and offer for sale or use in California contain the LISTED 15 CHEMICAL. 16 31. The exposures to the LISTED CHEMICAL result from the normal use of the 17 PRODUCTS in such a way as to expose individuals through dermal contact during reasonably 18 foreseeable use. 19 32. The normal and reasonably foreseeable uses of the PRODUCTS have caused, and 20 continue to cause, consumer exposures to the LISTED CHEMICAL, as such exposures are 21 defined by California Code of Regulations title 27, section 25602(b). 22 33. DEFENDANTS had knowledge that the normal and reasonably foreseeable uses 23 of the PRODUCTS expose individuals to the LISTED CHEMICAL through dermal contact. 24 34. DEFENDANTS intended that such exposures to the LISTED CHEMICAL from 25 the reasonably foreseeable uses of the PRODUCTS would occur by their deliberate, non-26 accidental participation in the manufacture, distribution, and/or offering of the PRODUCTS for 27 sale or use to individuals in the State of California. 28 COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

35. 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 during the reasonably foreseeable uses of the PRODUCTS.

36. 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 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.

37. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 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.

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

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, plaintiff prays for judgment against DEFENDANTS as follows: 17 18 1. That the Court, pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(b), assess 19 civil penalties against DEFENDANTS in the amount of \$2,500 per day for each violation; 20 2. That the Court, pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(a), 21 preliminarily and permanently enjoin DEFENDANTS from manufacturing, distributing, or 22 offering the PRODUCTS for sale or use in California without first providing a "clear and 23 reasonable warning" as defined by California Code of Regulations title 27, section 25601 et 24 seq., as to the harms associated with exposures to the LISTED CHEMICAL; 25 3. That the Court grant plaintiff his reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit; and

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

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2	Dated: November 15, 2023	Respectfully Submitted,
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4		By: Jeceny tup
5		David Bush Jeremy Fietz Attorneys for Plaintiff MICHAEL DIPIRRO
6		Attorneys for Plaintiff MICHAEL DIPIRRO
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