

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)

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

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):

BUMKINS FINER BABY PRODUCTS, INC., an Arizona corporation; AMAZON.COM, INC., a Delaware corporation; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):

ECOLOGICAL ALLIANCE, LLC, a California limited liability company,

Electronically FILED by
Superior Court of California,
County of Los Angeles
3/15/2024 1:42 PM
David W. Slayton,
Executive Officer/Clerk of Court,
By R. Perez, Deputy Clerk

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): Los Angeles Superior Court
Stanley Mosk Branch
111 North Hill St., Los Angeles, CA 90012

CASE NUMBER: (Número del Caso):

24STCV06508

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):

Vineet Dubey, Esq., Custodio & Dubey LLP, 445 S. Figueroa St., Suite 2520, Los Angeles, CA 90071

DATE: 03/15/2024
(Fecha)

David W. Slayton, Executive Officer/Clerk of Court

Clerk, by
(Secretario)

R. 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)

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES	Reserved for Clerk's File Stamp
COURTHOUSE ADDRESS: Stanley Mosk Courthouse 111 North Hill Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012	FILED Superior Court of California County of Los Angeles 03/15/2024 David W. Slayton, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court By: <u> R. Perez </u> Deputy
NOTICE OF CASE ASSIGNMENT UNLIMITED CIVIL CASE	
Your case is assigned for all purposes to the judicial officer indicated below.	CASE NUMBER: 24STCV06508

THIS FORM IS TO BE SERVED WITH THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT

	ASSIGNED JUDGE	DEPT	ROOM		ASSIGNED JUDGE	DEPT	ROOM
✓	Gail Killefer	37					

Given to the Plaintiff/Cross-Complainant/Attorney of Record **David W. Slayton, Executive Officer / Clerk of Court**
on 03/15/2024 (Date) By R. Perez, Deputy Clerk

INSTRUCTIONS FOR HANDLING UNLIMITED CIVIL CASES

The following critical provisions of the California Rules of Court, Title 3, Division 7, as applicable in the Superior Court, are summarized for your assistance.

APPLICATION

The Division 7 Rules were effective January 1, 2007. They apply to all general civil cases.

PRIORITY OVER OTHER RULES

The Division 7 Rules shall have priority over all other Local Rules to the extent the others are inconsistent.

CHALLENGE TO ASSIGNED JUDGE

A challenge under Code of Civil Procedure Section 170.6 must be made within **15** days after notice of assignment for all purposes to a judge, or if a party has not yet appeared, within 15 days of the first appearance.

TIME STANDARDS

Cases assigned to the Independent Calendaring Courts will be subject to processing under the following time standards:

COMPLAINTS

All complaints shall be served within 60 days of filing and proof of service shall be filed within 90 days.

CROSS-COMPLAINTS

Without leave of court first being obtained, no cross-complaint may be filed by any party after their answer is filed. Cross-complaints shall be served within 30 days of the filing date and a proof of service filed within 60 days of the filing date.

STATUS CONFERENCE

A status conference will be scheduled by the assigned Independent Calendar Judge no later than 270 days after the filing of the complaint. Counsel must be fully prepared to discuss the following issues: alternative dispute resolution, bifurcation, settlement, trial date, and expert witnesses.

FINAL STATUS CONFERENCE

The Court will require the parties to attend a final status conference not more than 10 days before the scheduled trial date. All parties shall have motions in limine, bifurcation motions, statements of major evidentiary issues, dispositive motions, requested form jury instructions, special jury instructions, and special jury verdicts timely filed and served prior to the conference. These matters may be heard and resolved at this conference. At least five days before this conference, counsel must also have exchanged lists of exhibits and witnesses, and have submitted to the court a brief statement of the case to be read to the jury panel as required by Chapter Three of the Los Angeles Superior Court Rules.

SANCTIONS

The court will impose appropriate sanctions for the failure or refusal to comply with Chapter Three Rules, orders made by the Court, and time standards or deadlines established by the Court or by the Chapter Three Rules. Such sanctions may be on a party, or if appropriate, on counsel for a party.

This is not a complete delineation of the Division 7 or Chapter Three Rules, and adherence only to the above provisions is therefore not a guarantee against the imposition of sanctions under Trial Court Delay Reduction. Careful reading and compliance with the actual Chapter Rules is imperative.

Class Actions

Pursuant to Local Rule 2.3, all class actions shall be filed at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse and are randomly assigned to a complex judge at the designated complex courthouse. If the case is found not to be a class action it will be returned to an Independent Calendar Courtroom for all purposes.

*Provisionally Complex Cases

Cases filed as provisionally complex are initially assigned to the Supervising Judge of complex litigation for determination of complex status. If the case is deemed to be complex within the meaning of California Rules of Court 3.400 et seq., it will be randomly assigned to a complex judge at the designated complex courthouse. If the case is found not to be complex, it will be returned to an Independent Calendar Courtroom for all purposes.

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address):
Vineet Dubey (SBN#243208), Custodio & Dubey LLP
445 S. Figueroa St., Suite 2520
Los Angeles, CA 90071
TELEPHONE NO : 213-593-9095 FAX NO (Optional)
ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Ecological Alliance, LLC

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David W. Slayton,
Executive Officer/Clerk of Court,
By R. Perez, Deputy Clerk

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
STREET ADDRESS: 111 North Hill St.
MAILING ADDRESS: same
CITY AND ZIP CODE: Los Angeles 90012
BRANCH NAME: Stanley Mosk

CASE NAME:
Ecological Alliance, LLC vs. Bumkins Finer Baby Products, Inc., et al.

CIVIL CASE COVER SHEET
 Unlimited (Amount demanded exceeds \$25,000) **Limited** (Amount demanded is \$25,000)
Complex Case Designation
 Counter Joinder
Filed with first appearance by defendant (Cal. Rules of Court, rule 3.402)

CASE NUMBER:
24STCV06508
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
 Auto (22)
 Uninsured motorist (46)
Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death) Tort
 Asbestos (04)
 Product liability (24)
 Medical malpractice (45)
 Other PI/PD/WD (23)
Non-PI/PD/WD (Other) Tort
 Business tort/unfair business practice (07)
 Civil rights (08)
 Defamation (13)
 Fraud (16)
 Intellectual property (19)
 Professional negligence (25)
 Other non-PI/PD/WD tort (35)
Employment
 Wrongful termination (36)
 Other employment (15)
Contract
 Breach of contract/warranty (06)
 Rule 3.740 collections (09)
 Other collections (09)
 Insurance coverage (18)
 Other contract (37)
Real Property
 Eminent domain/Inverse condemnation (14)
 Wrongful eviction (33)
 Other real property (26)
Unlawful Detainer
 Commercial (31)
 Residential (32)
 Drugs (38)
Judicial Review
 Asset forfeiture (05)
 Petition re: arbitration award (11)
 Writ of mandate (02)
 Other judicial review (39)
Provisionally Complex Civil Litigation (Cal. Rules of Court, rules 3.400-3.403)
 Antitrust/Trade regulation (03)
 Construction defect (10)
 Mass tort (40)
 Securities litigation (28)
 Environmental/Toxic tort (30)
 Insurance coverage claims arising from the above listed provisionally complex case types (41)
Enforcement of Judgment
 Enforcement of judgment (20)
Miscellaneous Civil Complaint
 RICO (27)
 Other complaint (not specified above) (42)
Miscellaneous Civil Petition
 Partnership and corporate governance (21)
 Other petition (not specified above) (43)

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): One

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: March 15, 2024

Vineet Dubey, Esq. _____
(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.

INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO COMPLETE THE COVER SHEET

CM-010

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

<p>Auto Tort Auto (22)—Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death Uninsured Motorist (46) (<i>if the case involves an uninsured motorist claim subject to arbitration, check this item instead of Auto</i>)</p> <p>Other PI/PD/WD (Personal Injury/Property Damage/Wrongful Death) Tort Asbestos (04) Asbestos Property Damage Asbestos Personal Injury/Wrongful Death Product Liability (<i>not asbestos or toxic/environmental</i>) (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</p> <p>Non-PI/PD/WD (Other) Tort Business Tort/Unfair Business Practice (07) Civil Rights (e.g., discrimination, false arrest) (<i>not civil harassment</i>) (08) Defamation (e.g., slander, libel) (13) Fraud (16) Intellectual Property (19) Professional Negligence (25) Legal Malpractice Other Professional Malpractice (<i>not medical or legal</i>) Other Non-PI/PD/WD Tort (35)</p> <p>Employment Wrongful Termination (36) Other Employment (15)</p>	<p>Contract Breach of Contract/Warranty (06) Breach of Rental/Lease Contract (<i>not unlawful detainer or wrongful eviction</i>) Contract/Warranty Breach—Seller Plaintiff (<i>not fraud or negligence</i>) 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 (<i>not provisionally complex</i>) (18) Auto Subrogation Other Coverage Other Contract (37) Contractual Fraud Other Contract Dispute</p> <p>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 (<i>not eminent domain, landlord/tenant, or foreclosure</i>)</p> <p>Unlawful Detainer Commercial (31) Residential (32) Drugs (38) (<i>if the case involves illegal drugs, check this item; otherwise, report as Commercial or Residential</i>)</p> <p>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</p>	<p>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 (<i>arising from provisionally complex case type listed above</i>) (41)</p> <p>Enforcement of Judgment Enforcement of Judgment (20) Abstract of Judgment (Out of County) Confession of Judgment (<i>non-domestic relations</i>) Sister State Judgment Administrative Agency Award (<i>not unpaid taxes</i>) Petition/Certification of Entry of Judgment on Unpaid Taxes Other Enforcement of Judgment Case</p> <p>Miscellaneous Civil Complaint RICO (27) Other Complaint (<i>not specified above</i>) (42) Declaratory Relief Only Injunctive Relief Only (<i>non-harassment</i>) Mechanics Lien Other Commercial Complaint Case (<i>non-tort/non-complex</i>) Other Civil Complaint (<i>non-tort/non-complex</i>)</p> <p>Miscellaneous Civil Petition Partnership and Corporate Governance (21) Other Petition (<i>not specified above</i>) (43) Civil Harassment Workplace Violence Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse Election Contest Petition for Name Change Petition for Relief From Late Claim Other Civil Petition</p>
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Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION (ADR) INFORMATION PACKAGE

THE PLAINTIFF MUST SERVE THIS ADR INFORMATION PACKAGE ON EACH PARTY WITH THE COMPLAINT.

CROSS-COMPLAINANTS must serve this ADR Information Package on any new parties named to the action with the cross-complaint.

What is ADR?

ADR helps people find solutions to their legal disputes without going to trial. The main types of ADR are negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and settlement conferences. When ADR is done by phone, videoconference or computer, it may be called Online Dispute Resolution (ODR). These alternatives to litigation and trial are described below.

Advantages of ADR

- **Saves Time:** ADR is faster than going to trial.
- **Saves Money:** Parties can save on court costs, attorney's fees, and witness fees.
- **Keeps Control** (with the parties): Parties choose their ADR process and provider for voluntary ADR.
- **Reduces Stress/Protects Privacy:** ADR is done outside the courtroom, in private offices, by phone or online.

Disadvantages of ADR

- **Costs:** If the parties do not resolve their dispute, they may have to pay for ADR, litigation, and trial.
- **No Public Trial:** ADR does not provide a public trial or decision by a judge or jury.

Main Types of ADR

1. **Negotiation:** Parties often talk with each other in person, or by phone or online about resolving their case with a settlement agreement instead of a trial. If the parties have lawyers, they will negotiate for their clients.
2. **Mediation:** In mediation, a neutral mediator listens to each person's concerns, helps them evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of their case, and works with them to try to create a settlement agreement that is acceptable to all. Mediators do not decide the outcome. Parties may go to trial if they decide not to settle.

Mediation may be appropriate when the parties

- want to work out a solution but need help from a neutral person.
- have communication problems or strong emotions that interfere with resolution.

Mediation may not be appropriate when the parties

- want a public trial and want a judge or jury to decide the outcome.
- lack equal bargaining power or have a history of physical/emotional abuse.

How to Arrange Mediation in Los Angeles County

Mediation for **civil cases** is voluntary and parties may select any mediator they wish. Options include:

a. **The Civil Mediation Vendor Resource List**

If all parties in an active civil case agree to mediation, they may contact these organizations to request a "Resource List Mediation" for mediation at reduced cost or no cost (for selected cases).

- **ADR Services, Inc.** Assistant Case Manager Janet Solis, janet@adrservices.com
(213) 683-1600
- **Mediation Center of Los Angeles** Program Manager info@mediationLA.org
(833) 476-9145

These organizations cannot accept every case and they may decline cases at their discretion. They may offer online mediation by video conference for cases they accept. Before contacting these organizations, review important information and FAQs at www.lacourt.org/ADR.Res.List

NOTE: The Civil Mediation Vendor Resource List program does not accept family law, probate, or small claims cases.

b. **Los Angeles County Dispute Resolution Programs.** Los Angeles County-funded agencies provide mediation services on the day of hearings in small claims, unlawful detainer (eviction), civil harassment, and limited civil (collections and non-collection) cases.

<https://dcba.lacounty.gov/countywidedrp/>

Online Dispute Resolution (ODR). Parties in small claims and unlawful detainer (eviction) cases should carefully review the Notice and other information they may receive about (ODR) requirements for their case. <https://my.lacourt.org/odr/>

c. Mediators and ADR and Bar organizations that provide mediation may be found on the internet.

3. **Arbitration:** Arbitration is less formal than trial, but like trial, the parties present evidence and arguments to the person who decides the outcome. In "binding" arbitration, the arbitrator's decision is final; there is no right to trial. In "nonbinding" arbitration, any party can request a trial after the arbitrator's decision. For more information about arbitration, visit

<https://www.courts.ca.gov/programs-adr.htm>

4. **Mandatory Settlement Conferences (MSC):** MSCs are ordered by the Court and are often held close to the trial date or on the day of trial. The parties and their attorneys meet with a judge or settlement officer who does not make a decision but who instead assists the parties in evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of the case and in negotiating a settlement. For information about the Court's MSC programs for civil cases, visit <https://www.lacourt.org/division/civil/CI0047.aspx>

Los Angeles Superior Court ADR website: <https://www.lacourt.org/division/civil/CI0109.aspx>

For general information and videos about ADR, visit <http://www.courts.ca.gov/programs-adr.htm>

1 VINEET DUBEY, STATE BAR NO. 243208
2 CUSTODIO & DUBEY LLP
3 445 S. Figueroa St., Suite 2520
4 Los Angeles, CA 90071
5 Telephone: (213) 593-9095
6 Facsimile: (213) 785-2899

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Attorneys for Plaintiff
ECOLOGICAL ALLIANCE, LLC

7 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
8 COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
9 UNLIMITED CIVIL JURISDICTION

10 ECOLOGICAL ALLIANCE, LLC, a
California limited liability company,

11 Plaintiffs,

12 vs.

13 BUMKINS FINER BABY PRODUCTS,
14 INC., an Arizona corporation;
15 AMAZON.COM, INC., a Delaware
corporation; and DOES 1 through 10,
inclusive,

16 Defendants.

CASE NO.: 24STCV06508

**COMPLAINT FOR CIVIL PENALTIES
AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

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

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NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This Complaint is brought by plaintiff Ecological Alliance, LLC (“Plaintiff”) in the public interest of the People of the State of California to enforce their right to be informed of the presence of chemicals listed by the State of California, pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, codified at Health and Safety Code section 25249.6 *et seq.* (“Proposition 65”), including Perfluorooctanoic Acid (“PFOA”).

2. Plaintiffs seek to remedy Defendants’ failure to warn citizens of the State of California, in violation of Proposition 65, about the presence of PFOA (“Listed Chemical”) in the Defendants’ Superbibs, offered for sale throughout the State of California (“Products”). Defendants’ Superbibs are made to be used while feeding infants, 6-24 months old, containing pockets on the front of the bib, so parents feeding their children can catch falling food in the pockets, and then continue feeding that food to the infants. Because of the PFOA in the Superbibs, this leads to direct oral exposure of PFOA to the babies and infants during feedings.

3. PFOA is part of a group of synthetic, man-made chemicals known to be harmful to humans and the environment. Because PFOA persists and accumulates over time, they are harmful even at very low levels. According to the EPA, PFOA exposure may lead to:

- Reproductive effects such as decreased fertility or increased high blood pressure in pregnant women;
- Development effects or delays in children, including low birth weight, accelerated puberty, bone variations, or behavioral changes;
- Increased risks of some cancers, including prostate, kidney, and testicular cancers;
- Reduced ability of the body’s immune system to fight infections;
- Interference with the body’s natural hormones;

4. The proliferation of PFOA and similar chemicals and their potential to cause environmental harm is also well documented and was addressed in “The Madrid Statement,” issued by the Green Science Policy Institute. In this statement, more than 250 scientists from 38 countries, recommended the discontinuation of PFOA and similar chemicals.

1 5. Because PFOA accumulates in body tissue over time, there is no treatment to
2 remove it from the body, the most obvious way to avoid exposure is for consumers to avoid
3 products which they know contain it.

4 6. On November 10, 2017 PFOA was added to the list of chemicals known to the
5 State of California to cause reproductive toxicity.

6 7. On February 5, 2022, PFOA was added to the list of chemicals known to the state
7 of California to cause cancer.

8 8. Defendants' Products contain PFOA and consumers of Products in the State of
9 California are exposed to the PFOA through usage of the Products.

10 9. Defendants know and intend that their Products expose consumers in the State of
11 California to PFOA.

12 10. On October 26, 2023, Plaintiff sent a 60 Day Notice of Violation to Defendants,
13 California's Attorney General, and to every District Attorney in the state, to the City Attorneys
14 of every California city with a population greater than 750,000, and to all Defendants. Attached
15 to the 60-Day Notices were Certificates of Merit attesting to the reasonable and meritorious
16 basis for this action, Certificates of Service attesting to service of the letters on each entity
17 described above, and a description of Proposition 65 prepared by the California Office of
18 Environmental Health Hazard Assessment. Furthermore, factual information sufficient to
19 establish the basis of the Certificates of Merit was enclosed with the 60-Day Notice sent to
20 California's Attorney General.

21 11. After receiving the claims asserted in the 60-Day Notice, the public enforcement
22 agencies identified in Paragraph 5 have failed to commence and diligently prosecute a cause of
23 action against Defendants under Proposition 65.

24 12. Plaintiff seeks preliminary and permanent injunctive relief to compel Defendants
25 to provide the warning required under Proposition 65 regarding the Products.

26 13. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(b), Plaintiff also seeks civil
27 penalties against Defendants for violations of Proposition 65.
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PARTIES

14. Plaintiff is a California limited liability company. It brings this action in the public interest pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(d).

15. Defendants are both a “Person” in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code section 25249.11(a) – “Person” means an individual, trust, firm, joint stock company, corporation, company, partnership, limited liability company, and association.”

16. Defendant Bumkins Finer Baby Products, Inc. is an Arizona corporation that manufactures, distributes, and/or offers for sale in the State of California, Products that contain the Listed Chemical.

17. Defendant Amazon.com, Inc., is a Delaware corporation that manufactures, distributes, and/or offers for sale in the State of California, Products that contain the Listed Chemical.

18. Defendants DOES 1-10, which manufacture, distribute, and/or offers for sale in the State of California Products that contain the Listed Chemical, are each persons in the course of doing business within the meaning of Health and Safety Code section 25249.11. At this time, the true names and capacities of defendants DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, are unknown to Plaintiff, who, therefore, sues said defendants by their fictitious names pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 474. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that each of the fictitiously named defendants is responsible for the acts and occurrences alleged herein. When ascertained, their true names and capacities shall be reflected in an amended complaint.

VENUE AND JURISDICTION

19. The Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7. Pursuant to California Constitution Article VI, section 10, the California Superior Court has “original jurisdiction in all causes except those given by statute to other trial

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courts.” The statute under which this action is brought does not specify any other trial courts that should have jurisdiction.

20. The Court has jurisdiction over Defendants based on Plaintiff’s information and good faith belief that each Defendant is a person, firm, corporation, or 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. Defendants’ purposeful availment renders the exercise of personal jurisdiction by the Court consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

21. Venue is proper in this Court because Defendants manufacture, distribute, offer for sale, sell, and/or serve Products that contain the Listed Chemical. Liability for Plaintiff’s causes of action, or some parts thereof, has accordingly arisen during the times relevant to this Complaint and Plaintiff accordingly seeks civil penalties and forfeitures imposed by statutes.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Violation of Proposition 65 - Against All Defendants)

22. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference, as if fully set forth herein, Paragraphs 1 through 15, inclusive.

23. Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(b), as a consequence of the above-described acts, Defendants are liable for a violation of Proposition 65.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiff prays for judgment against Defendants as follows:

- 1. That the Court, pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(a), preliminarily and permanently enjoin Defendants from manufacturing, distributing, offering for sale, selling, and/or serving in the State of California Products that contain the Listed Chemical without first providing a “clear and reasonable warning” under Proposition 65;
- 2. That the Court grant Plaintiff’s reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs of suit;
- 3. That the Court, pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(b), assess civil penalties against Defendants in such amount as the Court deems appropriate; and

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

Dated: March 15, 2024

Respectfully Submitted,
CUSTODIO & DUBEY LLP

By: 

Vineet Dubey
Custodio & Dubey LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff
ECOLOGICAL ALLIANCE, LLC