

L Brooks Anderholt

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**ELECTRONICALLY FILED**  
Superior Court of California,  
County of Imperial  
**03/26/2024 at 01:58:49 PM**  
By: Lizette Hendry, Deputy Clerk

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
**COUNTY OF IMPERIAL**

RAMY KAUFLE EDEN

Plaintiff,

v.

PETROMART RETAIL GROUP, INC. and  
DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: ECU003445

**COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF  
AND CIVIL PENALTIES**

(Violation of Health & Safety Code section  
25249.5, *et seq.*)

1 Plaintiff Ramy Kaufler Eden (“Plaintiff”), by and through his attorneys, alleges the following  
2 based on information and belief and investigation of counsel:

3 **INTRODUCTION**

4 1. California’s Proposition 65, codified in California Health & Safety Code section  
5 25249.5, *et seq.*, makes it unlawful for businesses to knowingly and intentionally expose individuals  
6 in California to chemicals known to the State to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm  
7 without first providing clear and reasonable warnings to the exposed individuals.

8 2. Unleaded Gasoline (Wholly Vaporized) (herein, “Gasoline”) is known to the State of  
9 California to cause cancer.

10 3. Defendant PETROMART RETAIL GROUP, INC. (“Defendant”) owns and operates a  
11 service station located at 1691 E. Main St., Brawley, California (“Subject Service Station”).

12 4. Defendant exposes individuals who come onto the Subject Service Station’s premises  
13 to Gasoline without first warning of such exposure.

14 5. By exposing individuals to Gasoline at the Subject Service Station without providing  
15 any warnings whatsoever about the carcinogenic hazards associated with Gasoline exposure,  
16 Defendant violates the warning provision of Proposition 65. *See* Health & Saf. Code § 25249.6.

17 6. This Complaint (“Complaint”) seeks to remedy Defendant’s failure to warn of this  
18 toxic exposure and hold Defendant accountable for violating California’s Proposition 65.

19 **PARTIES**

20 7. Plaintiff is a citizen of the State of California acting in the interest of the general public  
21 to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals in California. He brings this action in the public  
22 interest pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 25249.7(d).

23 8. Defendant is incorporated or organized in the State of California, has its principal place  
24 of business in California, and is a “person in the course of doing business” within the meaning of  
25 Health & Safety Code section 25249.11. Defendant owns and operates the Subject Service Station and  
26 exposes individuals there to Gasoline without first providing any warnings of the carcinogenic hazards  
27 associated with such exposure.

28 9. DOES 1 through 50 are each a “person in the course of doing business” within the

1 meaning of Health & Safety Code section 25249.11.

2 10. The true names of DOES 1 through 50 are either unknown to Plaintiff at this time or  
3 the applicable time period before which Plaintiff may file a Proposition 65 action against them has not  
4 yet run. When their identities are ascertained or the applicable time period before which Plaintiff may  
5 file a Proposition 65 action against them has run, the Complaint shall be amended to reflect their true  
6 names. Defendant and DOES 1 through 50 are collectively referred to herein as “Defendant.”

7 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

8 11. The Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to Health & Safety Code section  
9 25249.7, which allows enforcement in any court of competent jurisdiction, and pursuant to California  
10 Constitution Article VI, Section 10, because this case is a cause not given by statute to other trial  
11 courts.

12 12. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendant because it is either a citizen of the State of  
13 California, has sufficient minimum contacts with the State of California, and/or intentionally avails  
14 itself of the California market through operation of the Subject Service Station in California or by  
15 having such other contacts with California so as to render the exercise of jurisdiction over it by the  
16 California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

17 13. Venue is proper in Imperial County Superior Court because the violations alleged  
18 herein arise in the County of Imperial.


19 **STATUTORY BACKGROUND**

20 14. The People of the State of California have declared by initiative under Proposition 65  
21 their right “[t]o be informed about exposures to chemicals that cause cancer, birth defects, or other  
22 reproductive harm.” Proposition 65, § 1(b).

23 15. To effectuate this goal, Proposition 65 prohibits exposing people to chemicals listed by  
24 the State of California as known to cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm without a  
25 “clear and reasonable warning” unless the business responsible for the exposure can prove that it fits  
26 within a statutory exemption. Health & Safety Code section 25249.6 states, in pertinent part: “No  
27 person in the course of doing business shall knowingly and intentionally expose any individual to a  
28 chemical known to the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity without first giving clear and

1 reasonable warning to such individual . . . .” Health & Saf. Code § 25249.6

2 16. California Code of Regulations Title 27, sections 25607.26 and 25607.27 set forth  
3 “clear and reasonable warnings” for environmental exposures from service stations. Such warnings  
4 consist of the following content—printed in no smaller than 22-point type and enclosed in a box—  
5 posted on a sign at each gas pump of the service station:

6  **WARNING:** Breathing the air in this area or skin contact with petroleum products  
7 can expose you to chemicals including benzene, motor vehicle exhaust and carbon  
8 monoxide, which are known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth  
9 defects or other reproductive harm. Do not stay in this area longer than necessary.  
10 For more information go to [www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/service-station](http://www.P65Warnings.ca.gov/service-station)

11  
12  
13 17. Additionally, if other signage at the service station is provided for the public in a  
14 language other than English, the warning content set forth above must be provided in both English and  
15 that other language.

16 18. Proposition 65 provides that any “person who violates or threatens to violate” the  
17 statute may be enjoined in a court of competent jurisdiction. Health & Saf. Code § 25249.7. Violators  
18 are liable for civil penalties of up to \$2,500 per day for each violation of the Act. *See id.* Any person  
19 acting in the public interest has standing to enforce violations of Proposition 65 provided that such  
20 person has supplied the requisite public enforcers with a valid 60-Day Notice of Violation and such  
21 public enforcers are not diligently prosecuting the action within such time. *See* Health & Saf. Code §  
22 25249.7(d).

23 19. On April 1, 1988, the State of California officially listed Gasoline as a chemical known  
24 to cause cancer and one year later, Gasoline became subject to the clear and reasonable warning  
25 requirement under Proposition 65. Health & Saf. Code § 25249.10(b).

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1 **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

2 20. At all relevant times—including the period from at least one year preceding the filing  
3 of this Complaint and continuing through the filing of this Complaint—Defendant knowingly and  
4 intentionally exposed individuals who came onto the premises of the Subject Service Station to  
5 Gasoline without first providing a “clear and reasonable” warning of such exposure. The primary route  
6 of exposure to Gasoline at the Subject Service Station is through inhalation.

7 21. At all such times, Defendant was a “person in the course of doing business” within the  
8 meaning of Health & Safety Code section 25249.11. During such times, as a proximate result of acts  
9 by Defendant, individuals have been exposed to Gasoline on the premises of the Subject Service  
10 Station without first being provided a clear and reasonable warning concerning such exposure.

11 **SATISFACTION OF NOTICE REQUIREMENTS**

12 22. More than sixty days prior to naming Defendant in this lawsuit, Plaintiff served a 60-  
13 Day Notice of Violation of Proposition 65 (“Notice”) upon the named Defendant, the California  
14 Attorney General, the Imperial County District Attorney.

15 23. The Notice complied with all procedural requirements of Proposition 65, including the  
16 attachment of a Certificate of Merit.

17 24. After receiving the Notice, and to the best of Plaintiff’s information and belief, as of  
18 the filing of this Complaint, none of the noticed public enforcement agencies have commenced and  
19 diligently prosecuted a cause of action against Defendant under Proposition 65 to enforce the alleged  
20 violations set forth in the Notice.

21 25. Plaintiff is commencing this action more than sixty days from the date of the Notice to  
22 Defendant.

23 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

24 **(Against Defendant for Violations of Health & Safety Code Section 25249.6)**

25 26. Plaintiff hereby repeats and incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs of this  
26 Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

27 27. Defendant has, at all times mentioned herein, acted as a person in the course of doing  
28 business within the meaning of Health & Safety Code section 25249.11.



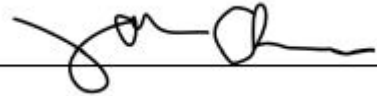
1 theory, grant Plaintiff his reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of suit; and

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

3  
4 Dated: March 26, 2024

JARRETT CHARO APC

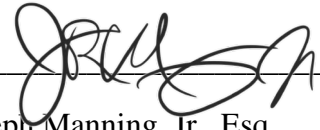
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6 By: \_\_\_\_\_



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



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