

1 Josh Voorhees, State Bar No. 241436 Troy C. Bailey, State Bar No. 277424 2 THE CHANLER GROUP ALAMEDA COUNTY 2560 Ninth Street 3 Parker Plaza, Suite 214 APR 16 2015 U Berkeley, CA 94710-2565 Telephone: (510) 848-8880 4 CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR-COURT Facsimile: (510) 848-8118 5 Attorneys for Plaintiff ANTHÔNY E. HELD, PH.D., P.E. 6 7 8 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 9 **COUNTY OF ALAMEDA** 10 UNLIMITED CIVIL JURISDICTION 11 12 Case No. RG14741385 ANTHONY E. HELD, PH.D., P.E., 13 Plaintiff, (PROPOSED) JUDGMENT **PURSUANT TO TERMS OF** 14 ٧. **PROPOSITION 65 SETTLEMENT** AND CONSENT JUDGMENT AS TO 15 AVA ENTERPRISES, INC., et al., AVA ENTERPRISES, INC. 16 Defendants. Date: April 16, 2015 Time: 3:45 p.m. 17 Dept.: Judge: Hon. Frank Roesch 18 Reservation No. R-1600005 19 20 21 22 23 24

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IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that, pursuant to California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(f)(4) and California Code of Civil Procedure § 664.6, Judgment is entered in accordance with the terms of the Consent Judgment attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. By stipulation of the parties, the Court will retain jurisdiction to enforce the settlement under Code of Civil Procedure § 664.6.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: 4/16/2015

JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7	Josh Voorhees, State Bar No. 241436 Troy C. Bailey, State Bar No. 277424 THE CHANLER GROUP 2560 Ninth Street Parker Plaza, Suite 214 Berkeley, CA 94710-2565 Telephone: (510) 848-8880 Facsimile: (510) 848-8118 Attorneys for Plaintiff ANTHONY E. HELD, PH.D., P.E.		
8	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
9	COUNTY OF ALAMEDA		
10	UNLIMITED CIVIL JURISDICTION		
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12	ANTHONY E. HELD, PH.D., P.E.,	Case No. RG14741385	
13	Plaintiff,	(DDADASEN) CANSENT HINCMENT	
14		[PROPOSED] CONSENT JUDGMENT	
15	AVA ENTERPRISES, INC.; et al.,	Action Filed: September 19, 2014	
16	Defendants.		
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INTRODUCTION

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1.1 Anthony E. Held, Ph.D., P.E. and Ava Enterprises, Inc.

This Consent Judgment is entered into by and between plaintiff Anthony E. Held, Ph.D., P.E. ("Held" or "Plaintiff") and defendant Ava Enterprises, Inc. ("Ava") with Plaintiff and Defendant collectively referred to as the "parties."

Anthony E. Held, Ph.D., P.E.

Held is an individual residing in the State of California who seeks to promote awareness of exposure to toxic chemicals and to improve human health by reducing or eliminating hazardous substances contained in consumer and commercial products.

1.3 Ava Enterprises, Inc.

Held alleges that Defendant employs ten or more persons and is a person in the course of doing business for purposes of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986, California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6, et seq. ("Proposition 65").

1.4 **General Allegations**

Held alleges that Defendant manufactured, imported, distributed and/or sold in the State of California headphones with vinyl/PVC components containing Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate ("DEHP"). DEHP is listed pursuant to Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

1.5 **Product Description**

The products that are covered by this Consent Judgment are defined as headphones with vinyl/PVC components containing DEHP including, but not limited to, Boss Audio Systems Wireless Headphones, HP34C, UPC #7 91489 11855 2, which are manufactured, imported, distributed, sold and/or offered for sale by Defendant in the State of California, hereinafter the "Products."

1.6 **Notices of Violation**

On June 20, 2014, Held served Ava Enterprises, Inc. and various public enforcement agencies with a document entitled "60-Day Notice of Violation" ("Notice") that provided the

recipients with notice that Ava was in violation of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 for failing to warn consumers that their Products exposed users in California to DEHP.

1.7 Complaint

On September 19, 2014, Held filed a complaint in the Superior Court in and for the County of Alameda against Ava and Does 1 through 150, Held v. Ava Enterprises, Inc., et al., Case No. RG14741385 (the "Action"), alleging violations of California Health & Safety Code § 25249.6, based on the alleged exposures to DEHP from Products sold by Defendant in the State of California.

1.8 No Admission

Defendant denies the material, factual and legal allegations contained in Held's Notice and Complaint and maintains that all products that it has sold, manufactured, imported and/or distributed in California, including the Products, have been and are in compliance with all laws. Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall be construed as an admission by Defendant of any fact, finding, issue of law or violation of law, nor shall compliance with this Consent Judgment constitute or be construed as an admission by Defendant of any fact, finding, conclusion, issue of law or violation of law. However, this section shall not diminish or otherwise affect Defendant's obligations, responsibilities and duties under this Consent Judgment.

1.9 Consent to Jurisdiction

For purposes of this Consent Judgment only, the parties stipulate that this Court has jurisdiction over Defendant as to the allegations contained in the Complaint, that venue is proper in the County of Alameda and that this Court has jurisdiction to enter and enforce the provisions of this Consent Judgment.

1.10 Effective Date

For purposes of this Consent Judgment, the term "Effective Date" shall mean January 15, 2015.

2. <u>INJUNCTIVE RELIEF: REFORMULATION AND WARNINGS</u>

2.1 Reformulation Standards

"Reformulated Products" are defined as those Products containing a maximum of 1,000 parts per million ("ppm") of DEHP by weight in any accessible component (i.e., any component that can be touched or handled during reasonably foreseeable use) when analyzed pursuant to Environmental Protection Agency testing methodologies 3580A and 8270C or other methodology utilized by federal or state government agencies for the purpose of determining DEHP content in a solid substance.

2.2 Reformulation Commitment

As of the Effective Date all Products manufactured for sale and/or purchased for sale in the State of California by Defendant shall be Products that qualify as Reformulated Products as defined in Section 2.1 above or shall carry the Proposition 65 warnings specified in Section 2.3 below.

2.3 **Product Warnings**

As of the Effective Date, Ava shall provide clear and reasonable warnings for all Products as set forth in subsections 2.3(a) and (b) for all Products that do not qualify as Reformulated Products. Each warning shall be prominently placed with such conspicuousness as compared with other words, statements, designs, or devices as to render it likely to be read and understood by an ordinary individual under customary conditions before purchase or use. Each warning shall be provided in a manner such that the consumer or user understands to which *specific* Product the warning applies, so as to minimize the risk of consumer confusion. However, the parties acknowledge that Ava presently has a warning program in place with regard to the Products. Therefore, to the extent the warning label requirements set forth below vary from the label language and logistics that Ava has been applying, Ava may continue to use its present labeling system until it converts its system to the provisions set forth herein or January 15, 2015, whichever occurs sooner.

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catalog shall be in the same type size or larger than the Product description text within the catalog.

The following warning shall be provided on the same page and in the same location as the display and/or description of the Product:

WARNING: This product contains DEHP, a phthalate chemical known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

Where it is impracticable to provide the warning on the same page and in the same location as the display and/or description of the Product, Ava may utilize a designated symbol to cross reference the applicable warning and shall define the term "designated symbol" with the following language on the inside of the front cover of the catalog or on the same page as any order form for the Product(s):

WARNING: Certain products identified with this symbol ▼ and offered for sale in this catalog contain DEHP, a phthalate chemical known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

The designated symbol must appear on the same page and in close proximity to the display and/or description of the Product. On each page where the designated symbol appears, Ava must provide a header or footer directing the consumer to the warning language and definition of the designated symbol.

(ii) Internet Website Warning. A warning shall be given in conjunction with the sale of the Products via the internet, which warning shall appear either: (a) on the same web page on which a Product is displayed; (b) on the same web page as the order form for a Product; (c) on the same page as the price for any Product; or (d) on one or more web pages displayed to a purchaser during the checkout process. The following warning statement shall be used and shall appear in any of the above instances adjacent to or immediately following the display, description, or price of the Product for which it is given in the same type size or larger than the Product description text:

WARNING: This product contains DEHP, a phthalate chemical known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

Alternatively, the designated symbol may appear adjacent to or immediately following the display, description, or price of the Product for which a warning is being given, provided that the following warning statement also appears elsewhere on the same web page, as follows:

WARNING: This product contains DEHP, a phthalate chemical known to the State of California to cause birth defects and other reproductive harm.

3. MONETARY PAYMENTS

3.1 <u>Civil Penalty Payments</u>

In settlement of all the claims referred to in this Consent Judgment, Defendant has been assessed a total of \$20,000 in civil penalties in accordance with this Section. Each penalty payment will be allocated in accordance with California Health & Safety Code § 25249.12(c)(1) & (d), with 75% of the funds remitted to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA") and the remaining 25% of the penalty remitted to Held, as follows:

3.1.1 <u>Initial Civil Penalty</u>

Defendant shall pay an initial civil penalty in the amount of \$7,000 on or before the Effective Date. Defendant shall issue a check for its initial civil penalty payment in the amount of \$7,000 to "Barg Coffin Lewis & Trapp, LLP." Barg Coffin Lewis & Trapp, LLP shall provide The Chanler Group with written confirmation within five days of receipt that the funds have been deposited in a trust account. Within five business days of the date this Consent Judgment is approved by the Court, including any tentative rulings that are not opposed by any party, Barg Coffin Lewis & Trapp, LLP shall issue a check for the initial civil penalty payment to "Anthony E. Held, Ph.D., P.E., Client Trust Account" in the amount of \$7,000, in accordance with Section 3.3 below. Defendant shall be liable for payment of interest, at an annual rate of 10% simple interest, for all amounts due and owing under this Section that are not received within five business days of the due date.

3.1.2 Final Civil Penalty

Defendant shall pay a final civil penalty of \$13,000 on or before May 1, 2015. The final civil penalty shall be waived in its entirety, however, if, no later than April 15, 2015, an officer

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of Defendant provides Held with written certification that, as of the date of such certification and continuing into the future, all Products manufactured or imported for distribution, sale or offer for sale in California by, or on behalf of, Defendant are Reformulated Products. Held must receive any such certification on or before April 15, 2015. The certification in lieu of a final civil penalty payment provided by this Section is a material term, and time is of the essence. In the event a final civil penalty payment is required, Defendant shall issue a check for its final civil penalty payments to "Anthony E. Held, Ph.D., P.E., Client Trust Account" in the amount of \$13,000.

3.2 Reimbursement of Fees and Costs

The parties acknowledge that Held and his counsel offered to resolve this dispute before reaching terms on the amount of fees and costs to be reimbursed to them, thereby leaving this fee issue to be resolved after the material terms of the agreement had been agreed to in principle. The parties then agreed to resolve the fee and cost issue shortly after the other settlement terms had been tentatively finalized subject to agreement on fees and costs. The parties then attempted to (and did) reach an accord on the compensation due to Held and his counsel under general contract principles and the private attorney general doctrine codified at California Code of Civil Procedure § 1021.5, for all work performed through the mutual execution of this agreement, and for work necessary to implement the post-executive activities set forth in Section 11. Defendant shall pay \$28,500 for fees and costs incurred as a result of investigating, bringing this matter to Defendant's attention, and negotiating a settlement in the public interest. On or before the Effective Date, Ava shall issue a check payable to "Barg Coffin Lewis & Trapp, LLP" in the amount of \$28,500 to be held in trust by the Barg Coffin Lewis & Trapp, LLP for The Chanler Group. Barg Coffin Lewis & Trapp, LLP shall provide The Chanler Group with written confirmation within five days of receipt that the funds have been deposited in a trust account. Within five business days of the date this Consent Judgment is approved by the Court, including any tentative rulings not opposed by any party, Barg Coffin Lewis & Trapp, LLP shall issue a check payable to "The Chanler Group", in the amount of \$28,500, to the address found in Section 3.3 below.

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3.3 Payment Procedures

3.3.1. Issuance of Payments. Payments shall be delivered as follows:

(a) All payments owed to Held and his counsel, pursuant to Sections 3.1 through 3.3, shall be delivered to the following payment address:

The Chanler Group Attn: Proposition 65 Controller 2560 Ninth Street Parker Plaza, Suite 214 Berkeley, CA 94710

4. CLAIMS COVERED AND RELEASED

4.1 Held's Public Release of Proposition 65 Claims

Held, acting on his own behalf and in the public interest, releases Defendant and its parents, subsidiaries, affiliated entities under common ownership, including without limitation Melody Audio International and Sound Storm Laboratories Corporation, and each of their directors, officers, employees, and attorneys ("Releasees"), and each entity to whom Releasees, respectively, directly or indirectly distribute or sell the Products including, but not limited to, their respective downstream distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers, franchisers, cooperative members, licensors and licensees ("Downstream Releasees"), for any violations arising under Proposition 65 for unwarned exposures to DEHP from the Products sold by Defendant prior to the Effective Date, as set forth in the Notice. Compliance with the terms of this Consent Judgment constitutes compliance with Proposition 65 with respect to exposures to DEHP from the Products as set forth in the Notice.

4.2 Held's Individual Release of Claims

Held, in his individual capacity only and *not* in his representative capacity, also provides a release to Defendant, Releasees, and Downstream Releasees which shall be effective as a full and final accord and satisfaction, as a bar to all actions, causes of action, obligations, costs, expenses, attorneys' fees, damages, losses, claims, liabilities and demands of Held of any nature, character or kind, whether known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected, arising out of alleged or actual exposures to DEHP in the Products sold or distributed for sale by Defendant before the Effective Date.

4.3 Ava's Release of Held

Defendant on behalf of itself, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors and/or assignees, hereby waives any and all claims against Held, his attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken or statements made (or those that could have been taken or made) by Held and his attorneys and other representatives, whether in the course of investigating claims or otherwise seeking to enforce Proposition 65 against it in this matter with respect to the Products.

5. COURT APPROVAL

This Consent Judgment is not effective until it is approved and entered by the Court and shall be null and void if, for any reason, it is not approved and entered by the Court within one year after it has been fully executed by all parties.

6. SEVERABILITY

If, subsequent to the execution of this Consent Judgment, any of the provisions of this Consent Judgment are held by a court to be unenforceable, the validity of the enforceable provisions remaining shall not be adversely affected, so long as the deletion of provisions deemed unenforceable does not materially affect, or otherwise result in the effect of the Consent Judgment being contrary to, the intent of the Parties in entering into this Consent Judgment.

7. GOVERNING LAW

The terms of this Consent Judgment shall be governed by the laws of the State of California and apply within the State of California. In the event that Proposition 65 is repealed, preempted or is otherwise rendered inapplicable by reason of law generally, or if any of the provisions of this Consent Judgment are rendered inapplicable or no longer required as a result of any such repeal or preemption or rendered inapplicable by reason of law generally as to the Products, then Defendant shall provide written notice to Held of any asserted change in the law, and shall have no further obligations pursuant to this Consent Judgment with respect to, and to the extent that, the Products are so affected. Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall be interpreted to relieve Defendant from any obligation to comply with any pertinent state or federal toxics control law.

This Consent Judgment may be modified only: (1) by written agreement of the parties and upon entry of a modified Consent Judgment by the Court thereon; or (2) upon a successful motion of any party and entry of a modified Consent Judgment by the Court.

13. <u>AUTHORIZATION</u>

The undersigned are authorized to execute this Consent Judgment on behalf of their respective parties and have read, understood and agree to all of the terms and conditions of this Consent Judgment.

AGREED TO:

AGREED TO:

Date: January 13, 2015

Date: <u>| - & - & o (j</u>

By: Unihory E. Held, Ph.D., P.E.

Soheil Kabbam, Presiden Ava Enterprises, Inc.