



Evan Smith (Bar No. SBN 242352) BRODSKY & SMITH, LLC. 9595 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 900 Beverly Hills, CA 90212 Tel: (877) 534-2590 Fax: (310) 247-0160 Attorneys for Plaintiff SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA HECTOR VELARDE, Plaintiff, ٧. RECOVER INC., Defendant.

ALAMEDA COUNTY

JUL 26 2018

CLERK OF THE SUPERIOR COURT
By

COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

Case No.: RG18906216
CONSENT JUDGMENT
Judge: Stephen Pulido
Dept.: 517
Hearing Date: July 24, 2018
Hearing Time: 3:00 PM
Reservation # R-1968292

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Parties. This Consent Judgment is entered into by and between Hector Velarde acting on behalf of the public interest (hereinafter "Velarde") and Recover Inc. ("Recover" or "Defendant") with Velarde and Defendant collectively referred to as the "Parties" and each of them as a "Party." Velarde is an individual residing in California that seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals and improve human health by reducing or eliminating hazardous substances contained in consumer products. Recover is alleged by Velarde to be a person in the course of doing business for purposes of Proposition 65, Cal. Health & Safety Code §§ 25249.6 et seq.
- 1.2 Allegations and Representations. Velarde alleges that Defendant has exposed individuals to Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP) from Dress Your Tech Vinyl Laptop Skins without providing clear and reasonable warnings under Proposition 65. DEHP is listed under Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer and reproductive toxicity.
- 1.3 **Notices of Violation/Complaint.** On or about March 12, 2018, Velarde served Urban Outfitters, Inc. ("Urban Outfitters"), Recover, and various public enforcement agencies with documents entitled "60-Day Notice of Violation" pursuant to Health & Safety Code §25249.7(d) (collectively, the "Notice"), alleging that Defendant and Urban Outfitters were in violation of Proposition 65 for failing to warn consumers and customers that Dress Your Tech Vinyl Laptop Skins exposed users in California to DEHP. No public enforcer has brought and is diligently prosecuting the claims alleged in the Notice. On May 24, 2018, Velarde filed a complaint (the "Complaint") in the matter.
- 1.4 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 filed in this matter, that venue is proper in the County of Alameda, and that this Court has jurisdiction to approve, enter, and oversee the enforcement of this Consent Judgment as a full and final binding resolution of all claims which were or could have been raised in the Complaint based on the facts alleged therein

and/or in the Notice.

1.5 Defendant denies the material allegations contained in Velarde's Notice and Complaint and maintains that it has not violated Proposition 65. 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, such being specifically denied by Defendant. However, this section shall not diminish or otherwise affect the obligations, responsibilities, and duties of Defendant under this Consent Judgment.

2. **DEFINITIONS**

- 2.1 Covered Products. The term "Covered Products" means Dress Your Tech Vinyl Laptop Skins containing DEHP that are manufactured, distributed and/or offered for sale in California by Recover or offered for sale in or into California by retailers to whom Recover sold such products.
- 2.2 **Effective Date.** The term "Effective Date" means the date this Consent Judgment is entered as a Judgment of the Court.

3. **INJUNCTIVE RELIEF: WARNINGS**

- 3.1 As of the date this Consent Judgment is signed by both Parties, Recover shall not manufacture or order from any supplier any Covered Products intended for retail sale in California that contains DEHP on any component to which consumers are exposed in excess of 0.1% (1,000 ppm) (hereinafter "Reformulated Products") unless the Covered Product is accompanied by a warning that complies with Article 6 of Title 27 of the California Code of Regulations when offered for sale in or into California. Covered Products sold by Recover before the date this Consent Judgment is signed by both Parties may be sold by Downstream Releasees without a warning even if not Reformulated Products. Until August 30, 2018, the warning shall consist of either:
 - (a) The statement: "WARNING: This product contains a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects or other reproductive harm."; or

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(b) (1) A symbol consisting of a black exclamation point in a yellow equilateral triangle with a bold black outline to the left of the word "warning" in bold all capital letters, followed by the statement "This product can expose you to chemicals including Di(2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (DEHP), which is known to the State of California to cause cancer and birth defects other reproductive For information. harm. more to www.P65Warnings.ca.gov."; or (2) a warning consisting of a symbol that is a black exclamation point in a yellow equilateral triangle with a bold black outline to the left of the word "warning" in bold all capital letters, followed by the statement "Cancer and Reproductive Harm - www.P65Warnings.ca.gov."1

For products manufactured on and after August 30, 2018, the warning set forth in Section 3.1(b) shall be used.

3.2 The warning provided pursuant to Section 3.1 shall be affixed to or printed on the Covered Product's packaging or labeling, or on a placard, shelf tag, sign or electronic device or automatic process, providing that the warning is displayed with such conspicuousness, as compared with other words, statements, or designs as to render it likely to be read and understood by an ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase or use. A warning may be contained in the same section of the packaging, labeling, or instruction booklet that states other safety warnings, if any, concerning the use of the product and shall be at least the same size as those other safety warnings.

4. MONETARY TERMS

4.1 **Civil Penalty.** Recover shall pay a Civil Penalty of \$1,000.00 pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 25249.7(b), to be apportioned in accordance with California Health & Safety Code § 25192, with 75% of these funds remitted to the State of California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA") and the remaining 25% of the Civil Penalty remitted to Velarde, as provided by California Health & Safety Code § 25249.12(d).

¹ The triangular symbol need only be in yellow where the sign, label, shelf tag or other transmission format is being printed in color for purposes of other language, symbols or designs.

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1	4.1.1 Within fourteen (14) business days of the Effective Date, Recover shall		
2	issue two separate checks for the Civil Penalty payment to (a) "OEHHA" in the amount of		
3	\$750.00; and (b) "Brodsky & Smith, LLC in Trust for Velarde" in the amount of \$250.00.		
4	Payment owed to Velarde pursuant to this Section shall be delivered to the following payment		
5	address:		
6	Evan J. Smith, Esquire		
7	Brodsky & Smith, LLC Two Bala Plaza, Suite 510		
8	Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004		
9	Payment owed to OEHHA (EIN: 68-0284486) pursuant to this Section shall be delivered directly		
10	to OEHHA (Memo Line "Prop 65 Penalties") at one of the following address(es):		
11	For United States Postal Service Delivery:		
12	Mike Gyurics		
13	Fiscal Operations Branch Chief Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment		
14	P.O. Box 4010 Sacramento, CA 95812-4010		
15	For Non-United States Postal Service Delivery:		
16	Mike Gyurics		
17	Fiscal Operations Branch Chief Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment		
18	1001 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814		
19	A copy of the check payable to OEHHA shall be mailed to Brodsky & Smith, LLC at the		
20	address set forth above as proof of payment to OEHHA.		
21	4.2 Attorneys' Fees. Within fourteen (14) business days of the Effective Date, Recover		
22	shall pay \$18,500.00 to Brodsky & Smith, LLC ("Brodsky Smith") as complete reimbursement for		
23	Plaintiff Velarde's attorneys' fees and costs incurred as a result of investigating, bringing this		
24	matter to Recover's attention, litigating and negotiating and obtaining judicial approval of a		
25	settlement in the public interest, pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1021.5.		
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RELEASE OF ALL CLAIMS

- This Consent Judgment is a full, final, and binding resolution between Velarde acting on his own behalf, and on behalf of the public interest, and Recover, and its parents, shareholders, members, directors, officers, managers, employees, representatives, agents, attorneys, divisions, subdivisions, subsidiaries, partners, sister companies, and affiliates, and their predecessors, successors and assigns ("Defendant Releasees"), and all entities from whom they obtain and to whom they directly or indirectly distribute or sell Covered Products, including but not limited to manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, wholesalers, customers, licensers, licensees retailers, franchisees, and cooperative members including without limitation Urban Outfitters ("Downstream Releasees"), of all claims for violations of Proposition 65 that were or could have been asserted against Defendant Releasees or Downstream Releasees based on exposure to DEHP from Covered Products or failure to warn as set forth in the Notice, with respect to any Covered Products manufactured, distributed, or sold by Recover prior to the Effective Date. This Consent Judgment shall have preclusive effect such that no other person or entity, whether purporting to act in his, her, or its interests or the public interest shall be permitted to pursue and/or take any action with respect to any violation of Proposition 65 that was alleged in the Complaint, or that could have been brought pursuant to the Notice against Recover or its Downstream Releasees of the Product including but not limited to Urban Outfitters ("Proposition 65 Claims"). Compliance with the terms of this consent judgment constitutes compliance with Proposition 65 with regard to the Covered Products.
- 5.2 In addition to the foregoing, Velarde, on behalf of himself, his past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, and successors and/or assignees, and <u>not</u> in his representative capacity, hereby waives all rights to institute or participate in, directly or indirectly, any form of legal action and releases Recover, Defendant Releasees, and Downstream Releasees from any and all manner of actions, causes of action, claims, demands, rights, suits, obligations, debts, contracts, agreements, promises, liabilities, damages, charges, losses, costs, expenses, and attorneys' fees, of any nature whatsoever, known or unknown, in law or equity, fixed or contingent, now or in the

future, with respect to Covered Products manufactured, distributed, or sold by Recover, Defendant Releasees or Downstream Releasees. With respect to the foregoing waivers and releases in this paragraph, Velarde hereby specifically waives any and all rights and benefits which he now has, or in the future may have, conferred by virtue of the provisions of Section 1542 of the California Civil Code, which provides as follows:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS WHICH THE CREDITOR DOES NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE, WHICH IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER MUST HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR.

5.3 Recover waives any and all claims against Velarde, his attorneys and other representatives, for any and all actions taken or statements made by Velarde and his attorneys and other representatives, whether in the course of investigating claims or otherwise seeking enforcement of Proposition 65 against it in this matter, and/or with respect to Covered Products.

6. <u>INTEGRATION</u>

6.1 This Consent Judgment contains the sole and entire agreement of the Parties and any and all prior negotiations and understandings related hereto shall be deemed to have been merged within it. No representations or terms of agreement other than those contained herein exist or have been made by any Party with respect to the other Party or the subject matter hereof.

7. **GOVERNING LAW**

7.1 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 or is otherwise rendered inapplicable by reason of law generally, or as to Covered Products or the listed chemical, then Defendant shall have no further obligations pursuant to this Consent Judgment with respect to, and to the extent that, Covered Products are so affected. If Proposition 65 or associated regulations are amended to require or allow different text, font, and/or methods of warning than specified above, Recover, after providing written notice to Velarde, may substitute such text, font, and/or methods of warning for product warnings required under this Consent Judgment.

- 10.2 This Consent Judgment shall not be effective until it is approved and entered by the Court and shall be null and void if, for any reason, it is not approved by the Court. In such case, the Parties agree to meet and confer on how to proceed and if such agreement is not reached within 30 days, the case shall proceed on its normal course.
- 10.3 If the Court approves this Consent Judgment and is reversed or vacated by an appellate court, the Parties shall meet and confer as to whether to modify the terms of this Consent Judgment. If the Parties do not jointly agree on a course of action to take, the case shall proceed on its normal course on the trial court's calendar.

11. MODIFICATION

11.1 This Consent Judgment may be modified only by further stipulation of the Parties and the approval of the Court or upon the granting of a motion brought to the Court by either Party.

12. <u>ATTORNEY'S FEES</u>

- 12.1 A party who unsuccessfully brings or contests an action arising out of this Consent Judgment shall be required to pay the prevailing party's reasonable attorney's fees and costs.
- 12.2 Nothing in this Section shall preclude a Party from seeking an award of sanctions pursuant to law.

13. <u>RETENTION OF JURISDICTION</u>

13.1 This Court shall retain jurisdiction of this matter to implement or modify the Consent Judgment.

14. **AUTHORIZATION**

14.1 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 document and certify that he or she is fully authorized by the Party he or she represents to execute the Consent Judgment on behalf of the Party represented and legally bind that Party. Except as explicitly provided herein each Party is to bear its own fees and costs.

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3	Date: 6/5/18	ate: 3/22/18
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5	HECTOR VELARDE	RECOVER INC.
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7	IT IS SO ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREE	D:
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11		Stephen Pulido
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