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BALA CYNWYD, PA 19004  
610.667.6200

January 12, 2023

President/CEO MSRF, Inc. c/o The Prentice-Hall Corporation System, Inc. 251 Little Falls Drive Wilmington, DE 19808	President/CEO MSRF, Inc. c/o Barry J. Shkolnik 70 W. Madison Street, Suite 5200 Chicago, IL 60602
President/CEO Ross Stores, Inc. c/o CT Corporation System 330 N. Brand Blvd., Suite 700 Glendale, CA 91203	President/CEO Ross Stores, Inc. c/o The Corporation Trust Company Corporation Trust Center 1209 Orange Street Wilmington, DE 19801

**60-Day Notice of Violation of California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act<sup>1</sup>**

To Whom It May Concern:

This Notice of Violation (the "Notice") is provided to you pursuant to and in compliance with California Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(d).

Brodsky & Smith, LLC ("Brodsky Smith") represents Precila Balabbo ("Balabbo"), a citizen of the State of California acting in the interest of the general public to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals from use of consumer products sold in California and to improve human health and the environment by reducing hazardous substances.

With respect to the Product herein, Balabbo has identified a violation of California's Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 ("Proposition 65") codified at Cal. Health & Safety Code § 25249.5, et seq. This violation has occurred and continues to occur because the alleged Violator(s) failed to provide a clear and reasonable health hazard warning in connection with the sale or use of the Product in California. Health & Safety Code § 25249.6 provides that "[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 providing a clear and reasonable warning to such individual ..." Without proper warnings regarding the toxic effects of exposures to the Listed Chemical resulting from use of the Product, California citizens lack the information necessary to make informed decisions on whether and/or how to eliminate (or reduce) the risk of exposure to the Listed Chemical from the reasonably foreseeable use of the Product.

**I. DESCRIPTION OF THE VIOLATION**

<sup>1</sup> The public enforcement agencies that have been served with copies of this Notice are identified in the attached distribution list accompanying the Certificate of Service.

1. **Enforcer:** Precila Balabbo, 285 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Unit 209, San Pedro, CA 90731; (Ph) 818-434-4023.
2. **Alleged Violator(s):** MSRF, Inc.; Ross Stores, Inc.
3. **Time Period of Exposure:** Violations have been occurring since at least January 12, 2023 and are continuing to this day.
4. **Listed Chemical:** Lead. Lead is listed under Proposition 65 as a chemical known to the State to cause cancer and reproductive toxicity.
5. **Product:**

Product <sup>2</sup>	Non- Exclusive Examples of the Product
Mug	Mugs & Hot Cocoa Mix Set UPC# 702014659198

6. **Description of Exposure:** The exposures that are the subject of this Notice result from the purchase and recommended use of the Product. The primary route of exposure to the Listed Chemical is through ingestion and dermal absorption exposure. When used for its intended purpose, the Product will be in contact with foods. The Listed Chemical will leach into the foods it comes into contact with. When foods contaminated with the Listed Chemical are consumed, ingestion of the Listed Chemical will occur which will increase BLLs. No clear and reasonable warning is provided with the Products regarding the health hazards of exposure to the Listed Chemical.

## II. PROPOSITION 65 INFORMATION

For the Violators' reference, enclosed is a copy of "Proposition 65: A Summary" that has been prepared by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment ("OEHHA"). For more information concerning the provisions of Proposition 65, contact OEHHA at 916.445.6900.

## III. RESOLUTION OF THE CLAIMS

Based on the allegations set forth in this Notice, Brodsky Smith intends to file a citizen enforcement lawsuit on behalf of Balabbo against the alleged Violator(s) unless such Violator(s) agree in a binding written agreement to: (1) recall Products already sold; (2) provide Proposition 65 compliant exposure warnings for Products sold in the future or reformulate the Products to eliminate exposures to the Listed Chemical; and (3) pay an appropriate civil penalty based on the factors enumerated in Health & Safety Code § 25249.7(b). Consistent with the public interest goals of Proposition 65 and the desire to have these violations of California law quickly rectified, Balabbo is interested in seeking a constructive resolution of the claims in this Notice without engaging in costly and protracted litigation.

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<sup>2</sup> The specifically identified example of the Product in this Notice is to assist the recipients' investigation of, among other things, the magnitude of potential exposures to the Listed Chemical from other items within the definition of Products. This example is not intended to be an exhaustive or comprehensive identification of each specific offending Product. It is Balabbo's position that the alleged Violators are obligated to conduct a good faith investigation into other Products that may have been manufactured, distributed, sold, shipped, stored (or otherwise within the alleged Violators' custody or control) during the relevant period to ensure that requisite health hazard warnings were and are provided to California citizens prior to purchase and use.

Balabbo has retained me as legal counsel in connection with this Notice. **Please direct all communications regarding this Notice to my attention at Brodsky & Smith, LLC, 9595 Wilshire Blvd., Ste. 900, Beverly Hills, CA 90212, (877) 534-2590, esmith@brodskysmith.com.**

Sincerely,



Evan J. Smith

**Attachments**

Certificate of Merit

Certificate of Service

The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Action of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the following is true and correct:


I am a citizen of the United States, over the age of 18 years of age, and am not a party to the within action. My business address is 2 Bala Plaza, Suite 805, Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania. I am employed in Montgomery County where the mailing occurred.

On January 12, 2023, I served the following documents: **Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5, et seq.; Certificate of Merit; The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Action of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary** on the following entities and individuals listed below by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to the person or entity listed below and depositing it in a US Postal Service Office with postage fully prepaid for delivery by Certified Mail:

President/CEO MSRF, Inc. c/o The Prentice-Hall Corporation System, Inc. 251 Little Falls Drive Wilmington, DE 19808	President/CEO MSRF, Inc. c/o Barry J. Shkolnik 70 W. Madison Street, Suite 5200 Chicago, IL 60602
President/CEO Ross Stores, Inc. c/o CT Corporation System 330 N. Brand Blvd., Suite 700 Glendale, CA 91203	President/CEO Ross Stores, Inc. c/o The Corporation Trust Company Corporation Trust Center 1209 Orange Street Wilmington, DE 19801

On January 12, 2023, I served the following documents: **Notice of Violation of California Health & Safety Code §25249.5, et seq.; Certificate of Merit; The Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Action of 1986 (Proposition 65): A Summary** on each of the individuals on the service list attached hereto as Appendix B by placing a true and correct copy thereof in a sealed envelope, addressed to the person or entity listed below and depositing it in a US Postal Service Office with postage fully prepaid for delivery by Priority Mail.

Executed on January 12, 2023, in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Evan J. Smith

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**  
Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7(d)

I, Evan J. Smith, hereby declare:

- (1) This Certificate of Merit accompanies the attached sixty-day notice in which it is alleged the parties identified in the notice have violated Health & Safety Code Section 25249.6 by failing to provide clear and reasonable warnings.
- (2) I am the attorney for the noticing party, Precila Balabbo.
- (3) I have consulted with one or more persons with relevant and appropriate experience or expertise who has reviewed facts, studies or other data regarding the alleged exposure to the listed chemicals that are the subject of the action.
- (4) Based on the information obtained through these consultations, and on all other information in my possession, I believe there is a reasonable and meritorious case for the private action. I understand that "reasonable and meritorious case for private action" means that the information provides a credible basis that all elements of the plaintiffs' case can be established and the information did not prove that the alleged violator(s) will be able to establish any of the affirmative defenses set forth in the statute.
- (5) The copy of this Certificate of Merit served on the Attorney General attaches to it factual information sufficient to establish the basis for this certificate, including information identified in Health & Safety Code Section 25249.7(h)(2), i.e., (1) the identity of the persons consulted with and relied on by the certifier, and (2) the facts, studies, or other data reviewed by those persons.

Dated: January 12, 2023



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Evan J. Smith  
Attorney for Precila Balabbo

## SERVICE LIST

The Honorable Nancy O'Malley Alameda County District Attorney 1225 Fallon Street, Room 900 Oakland, CA 94612	The Honorable Stacey Montgomery Lassen County District Attorney 220 South Lassen Street, Ste. 8 Susanville, CA 96130	The Honorable Candice Hooper San Benito County District Attorney 419 4th Street, Second Floor Hollister, CA 95203	The Honorable Gregg Cohen Tehama County District Attorney 444 Oak Street, Room L Red Bluff, CA 96080
The Honorable Terese Drabec Alpine County District Attorney 270 Laramie Street, PO BOX 248 Markleeville, CA 900120	The Honorable Jackie Lacey Los Angeles County District Attorney 211 West Temple Street, Suite 1200 Los Angeles, CA 90012	The Honorable Michael Ramos San Bernardino County District Attorney 303 West 3rd Street, 6th Floor San Bernardino, CA 92415-0502	The Honorable Eric Heryford Trinity County District Attorney P.O. Box 310 Weaverville, CA 96093
The Honorable Todd Riebe Amador County District Attorney 708 Court Street Jackson, CA 95642	The Honorable David Linn Madera County District Attorney 209 West Yosemite Avenue Madera, CA 93637	The Honorable Bonnie Dumanis San Diego County District Attorney 330 W. Broadway Street San Diego, CA 92101	The Honorable Tim Ward Tulare County District Attorney 221 South Mooney Boulevard, Rm 224 Visalia, CA 93291-4593
The Honorable Michael Ramsey Butte County District Attorney 25 County Center Drive Oroville, CA 95965	The Honorable Edward Berberlan Marin County District Attorney 3501 Civic Center Drive, Room 130 San Rafael, CA 94903	The Honorable George Gascon San Francisco County District Attorney 850 Bryant Street, Room 322 San Francisco, CA 94103	The Honorable Laura Krieg Tuolumne County District Attorney 423 North Washington Street Sonora, CA 95370
The Honorable Barbara Yook Calaveras County District Attorney 891 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249	The Honorable Thomas Cooke Mariposa County District Attorney 5101 Jones Street, P.O. Box 730 Mariposa, CA 95338	The Honorable Tori Verber Salazar San Joaquin County District Attorney 222 East Weber Avenue, Room 202 Stockton, CA 95201	The Honorable Gregory Totten Ventura County District Attorney 800 South Victoria Avenue Ventura, CA 93009
The Honorable John Poyner Colusa County District Attorney 346 Fifth Street Colusa, CA 95932	The Honorable C. David Eyster Mendocino County District Attorney 100 North State Street, P.O. Box 1000 Ukiah, CA 95482	The Honorable Dan Dow San Luis Obispo County District Atty 1035 Palm Street, 4th Floor San Luis Obispo, CA 93408	The Honorable Jeff Reisig Yolo County District Attorney 301 Second Street Woodland, CA 95695
The Honorable Mark Peterson Contra Costa County District Attorney 900 Ward Street Martinez, CA 94553	The Honorable Larry Morse II Merced County District Attorney 550 W. Main Street Merced, CA 95340	The Honorable Stephen Wagstaffe San Mateo County District Attorney 400 County Center, Third Floor Redwood City, CA 94063	The Honorable Patrick McGrath Yuba County District Attorney 215 Fifth Street Marysville, CA 95901
The Honorable Dale Trigg Del Norte County District Attorney 450 H Street, Room 171 Crescent City, CA 95531	The Honorable Jordan Funk Modoc County District Attorney 204 S. Court Street, Suite 202 Alturas, CA 96101	The Honorable Joyce Dudley Santa Barbara County District Attorney 1112 Santa Barbara Street Santa Barbara, CA 93101	The Honorable Mike Feuer Office of the City Attorney, Los Angeles 800 City Hall East 200 North Main Street Los Angeles, CA 90012
The Honorable Vern Pierson El Dorado County District Attorney 778 Pacific Street Placerville, CA 95667	The Honorable Tim Kendall Mono County District Attorney P.O. Box 617 Bridgeport, CA 93517	The Honorable Jeffrey Rosen Santa Clara County District Attorney 70 West Hedding Street, West Wing San Jose, CA 95110	The Honorable James Sanchez Office of the City Attorney, Sacramento 915 I Street, 4th Floor Sacramento, CA 95814
The Honorable Lisa Smittcamp Fresno County District Attorney 2220 Tulare Street, #1000 Fresno, CA 93721	The Honorable Dean Filippo Monterey County District Attorney P.O. Box 1131 Salinas, CA 93902	The Honorable Jeff Roseil Santa Cruz County District Attorney 701 Ocean Street, Room 200 Santa Cruz, CA 95060	The Honorable Jan Goldsmith Office of the City Attorney, San Diego 1200 Third Avenue, Suite 1620 San Diego, CA 92101
The Honorable Dwayne Stewart Glenn County District Attorney P.O. Box 430 Willows, CA 95988	The Honorable Allison Haley Napa County District Attorney 1127 First Street, Suite C Napa, CA 94559	The Honorable Stephen Carlton Shasta County District Attorney 1355 West Street Redding, CA 96001	The Honorable Dennis Herrera Office of the City Attorney, San Francisco 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place San Francisco, CA 94102
The Honorable Maggie Fleming Humboldt County District Attorney 825 5th Street, Fourth Floor Eureka, CA 95501	The Honorable Clifford Newell Nevada County District Attorney 201 Commercial Street Nevada City, CA 95959	The Honorable Lawrence Allen Sierra County District Attorney 100 Courthouse Square Downieville, CA 95936	The Honorable Richard Doyle Office of the City Attorney, San Jose 200 East Santa Clara Street, 16th Floor San Jose, CA 95113
The Honorable Gilbert Otero Imperial County District Attorney 940 West Main Street, Suite 102 El Centro, CA 92243	The Honorable Tony Rackauckas Orange County District Attorney 401 Civic Center Drive West Santa Ana, CA 92701	The Honorable James Kirk Andrus Siskiyou County District Attorney P.O. Box 986 Yreka, CA 96097	Office of the California Attorney General Proposition 65 Enforcement Reporting ATTN: Prop 65 Coordinator 1515 Clay Street, Suite 2000 Oakland, CA 94612-0550
The Honorable Thomas Hardy Inyo County District Attorney P.O. Drawer D Independence, CA 93526	The Honorable R. Scott Owens Placer County District Attorney 10810 Justice Center Drive, Suite 240 Roseville, CA 95678	The Honorable Krishna Abrams Solano County District Attorney 675 Texas Street, Suite 4500 Fairfield, CA 94533	
The Honorable Lisa Green Kern County District Attorney 1215 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, CA 93301	The Honorable David Hollister Plumas County District Attorney 520 Main Street, Room 404 Quincy, CA 95971	The Honorable Jill Ravitch Sonoma County District Attorney 600 Administration Drive, Room 212J Santa Rosa, CA 95403	
The Honorable Keith Fagundas Kings County District Attorney 1400 West Lacey Boulevard Hanford, CA 93230	The Honorable Michael Hestrin Riverside County District Attorney 3960 Orange Street Riverside, CA 92501	The Honorable Birgit Fladager Stanislaus County District Attorney 832 12th Street, Suite 300 Modesto, CA 95354	
The Honorable Donald Anderson Lake County District Attorney 255 North Forbes Street Lakeport CA 95453	The Honorable Anne Marie Schubert Sacramento County District Attorney 901 G Street Sacramento CA 95814	The Honorable Amanda Hopper Sutter County District Attorney 463 Second Street, Suite 102 Yuba City CA 95991	

### ELECTRONIC MAIL SERVICE LIST

The Honorable Nancy O'Malley Alameda County District Attorney 7776 Oakport Street, Suite 650 Oakland, CA 94621 <a href="mailto:CEPDProp65@acgov.org">CEPDProp65@acgov.org</a>	The Honorable Tori Verber Salzar San Joaquin County District Attorney 222 E. Weber Avenue, Room 202 Stockton, CA 95202 <a href="mailto:DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org">DAConsumer.Environmental@sjcda.org</a>	Honorable Anne Marie Schubert Sacramento County District Attorney 901 G Street Sacramento, CA 95814 <a href="mailto:Prop65@sacda.org">Prop65@sacda.org</a>
The Honorable Allison Haley Napa County District Attorney 1127 First St., Suite C Napa, CA 94559 <a href="mailto:CEPD@countyofnapa.org">CEPD@countyofnapa.org</a>	The Honorable Jeffrey S. Rosell Santa Cruz County District Attorney 701 Ocean Street Santa Cruz, CA 95060 <a href="mailto:Prop65DA@santacruzcounty.us">Prop65DA@santacruzcounty.us</a>	The Honorable Summer Stephan San Diego County District Attorney 300 West Broadway San Diego, CA 92101 <a href="mailto:SanDiegoDAProp65@sdcda.org">SanDiegoDAProp65@sdcda.org</a>
The Honorable Jeff W. Reisig Yolo County District Attorney 301 Second Street Woodland, CA 95695 <a href="mailto:cfepd@yolocounty.org">cfepd@yolocounty.org</a>	Michelle Latimer, Program Coordinator Lassen County 220 S. Lassen Street Susanville, CA 96130 <a href="mailto:mlatimer@co.lassen.ca.us">mlatimer@co.lassen.ca.us</a>	Mark Ankorn, Deputy City Attorney City of San Diego 1200 Third Avenue San Diego, CA 92101 <a href="mailto:CityAttyProp65@sandiego.gov">CityAttyProp65@sandiego.gov</a>
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The Honorable Walter W. Wall Mariposa County District Attorney P.O. Box 730 Mariposa, CA 95338 <a href="mailto:mdda@mariposacounty.org">mdda@mariposacounty.org</a>	The Honorable Kimberly Lewis Merced County District Attorney 550 West Main Street Merced, CA 95340 <a href="mailto:Prop65@countyofmerced.com">Prop65@countyofmerced.com</a>	The Honorable Morgan Briggs Gire Placer County District Attorney 10810 Justice Center Drive Roseville, CA 95678 <a href="mailto:prop65@placer.ca.gov">prop65@placer.ca.gov</a>
Nora V. Frimann, City Attorney 200 E. Santa Clara Street, 16th Floor San Jose, CA 96113 <a href="mailto:Proposition65notices@sanjoseca.gov">Proposition65notices@sanjoseca.gov</a>	Lisa A. Smitcamp, District Attorney 2100 Tulare Street Fresno, CA 93721 <a href="mailto:consumerprotection@fresnocountyca.gov">consumerprotection@fresnocountyca.gov</a>	

### ELECTRONIC UPLOAD SERVICE LIST

Office of the California Attorney General  
 Proposition 65 Enforcement Reporting  
 ATTN: Prop 65 Coordinator  
 P.O. Box 70550  
 Oakland, CA 94612-0550  
<https://oag.ca.gov/prop65/add-60-day-notice>