

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

BETWEEN

CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC.

AND

H&R PLANNING COMPANY LLC

Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc. (“CAG”) and H&R Planning Company LLC (hereto referred to as “H&R Planning”), (CAG and H&R Planning collectively referred to as, the “Parties”) enter into this agreement (“Settlement Agreement”) for the purpose of avoiding prolonged and costly litigation to settle CAG’s allegations that H&R Planning violated Proposition 65. The effective date of this Settlement Agreement shall be the date upon which it is fully executed by all Parties hereto (the “Effective Date”).

1.0 Introduction

1.1 CAG is a California-based entity whose position is that it seeks to promote awareness of exposures to toxic chemicals and improve human health by reducing or eliminating hazardous substances contained in consumer and industrial products.

1.2 H&R Planning previously sold, at various times, handbags including but not limited to, "Trina Turk"; "Light Blue Handbag"; "Style TTT31017BLSW"; "trinaturk.com"; "UPC 4 890808 260265" (collectively, the “Covered Products”). The Covered Products are limited to those manufactured, imported, distributed, or sold by H&R Planning only.

1.3 CAG alleges that the Covered Products contain Di (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate (“DEHP”), also known as Diethyl Hexyl Phthalate and Bis (2-

ethylhexyl) phthalate, and that H&R Planning did not provide a required warning in compliance with the California Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act (*Cal. Health & Safety Code* § 25249.5, *et seq.* (“Proposition 65”)).

1.4 On January 1, 1988, the Governor of California added DEHP to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause cancer, and on October 24, 2003, the Governor added DEHP to the list of chemicals known to the State to cause developmental male reproductive toxicity. These additions took place more than twenty (20) months before CAG served its “Sixty-Day Notice of Intent To Sue For Violations Of The Safe Drinking Water And Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986” which is further described below.

1.5 DEHP is referred to hereafter as the “Listed Chemical”.

1.6 On or about December 22, 2022 (Attorney General Notice # 2022-03085), CAG served H&R Planning and certain relevant public enforcement agencies with documents entitled “Sixty-Day Notice Of Intent To Sue For Violations Of The Safe Drinking Water And Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986” regarding Covered Products containing the Listed Chemical.

1.7 The Sixty-Day Notice (referred to as “Notice”) alleged that H&R Planning violated Proposition 65 by failing to warn consumers in California that use of Covered Products exposes persons to the Listed Chemical.

1.8 On June 22, 2023, CAG filed in the Alameda County Superior Court its Complaint for Penalty and Injunction, thereby commencing Case No. 23CV036731 (the “**Action**”).

1.9 As its Eighth Cause of Action in its Complaint for the Action, CAG asserts against L2T, Inc. (“**L2T**”), Burlington Coat Factory of California, LLC and Burlington Coat Factory of Texas, Inc. claims for violations of Proposition 65 related to the sale and offering for sale of the Covered Products in California (the “**Eighth Cause of Action**”).

1.10 The Parties enter into this Settlement Agreement to settle disputed claims between the Parties as set forth below concerning the Parties’ and the Covered Products’ compliance with Proposition 65 (the “Dispute”).

1.11 By execution of this Settlement Agreement, the Parties do not admit any facts or conclusions of law, including, but not limited to, any facts or conclusions of law regarding any violation of Proposition 65, or any other statutory, regulatory, common law, or equitable doctrine. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall be construed as an admission by the Parties of any fact, conclusion of law, issue of law, or violation of law. Nothing in this Settlement Agreement, nor compliance with its terms, shall constitute or be construed, considered, offered, or admitted as evidence of an admission or evidence of fault, wrongdoing, or liability by H&R Planning, its officers, directors, employees, or parents, subsidiaries or affiliated corporations, in any administrative or judicial proceeding or litigation in any court, agency, or forum. Except for the allegations settled and compromised, nothing in this Settlement Agreement shall prejudice, waive, or impair any right, remedy, argument, or defense that CAG or H&R Planning may have against one another in any other pending legal proceeding as to allegations unrelated to the Dispute or claims released herein.

2.0 Release

1.1.1 This Settlement Agreement is a full, final, and binding resolution between CAG, acting in its individual capacity, on the one hand, and (a) H&R Planning, and its owners, parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, sister and related companies, licensors, employees, shareholders, officers, directors, insurers, attorneys, predecessors, successors, and assigns (collectively, "Releasees"), and (b) all entities to whom Releasees directly or indirectly provides, distributes, or sells the Covered Products, including but not limited to distributors, wholesalers, customers, retailers, franchisees, cooperative members, and licensees expressly including without limitation Burlington Coat Factory Warehouse Corporation, a Delaware Corporation, Burlington Coat Factory Direct Corporation, a New Jersey Corporation, Burlington Coat Factory of California, LLC, a California Limited Liability Company, Burlington Coat Factory of Texas, Inc. a Delaware Corporation or licensors including but not limited to L2T, Inc.; Pavilion Investment LTD; and Shanghai Manfan Finery Machine Technology Co Ltd (collectively, "Downstream Releasees"), and Upstream Releasees, including those entities who sold or distributed the Covered Products for sale to H&R on the other hand, of any violation(s) or claimed violation(s) of Proposition 65 or any statutory or common law claim that has been, could have been or may in the future be asserted against the Releasees and Downstream and Upstream Releasees regarding exposing persons to the Listed Chemical and the failure to warn about exposure to the Listed Chemical arising only in connection with the Covered Products manufactured, shipped, and/or otherwise distributed prior to the

Effective Date, even if sold by Downstream Releasees after the Effective Date.

The Covered Products are limited to those manufactured, imported, distributed or sold by H&R Planning.

CAG, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees, hereby waives and releases with respect to the Covered Products all rights to institute or participate in, directly or indirectly, any form of legal action, including, without limitation, all actions, and causes of action, in law or in equity, suits, liabilities, demands, obligations, damages, costs, fines, penalties, losses, or expenses (including, but not limited to, investigation fees, expert fees, and attorneys' fees) including, without limitation those asserted in the Eighth Cause of Action in the Action (collectively "Claims"), against Releasees and/or Downstream Releasees that arise under Proposition 65 or any other statutory or common law claims that were or could have been asserted in respect of any Covered Products sold up to the Effective Date, only to the extent that such Claims relate to Releasees' and/or Downstream Releasees' alleged exposure of persons to the Listed Chemical contained in the Covered Products or any failure by Releasees and Downstream Releasees to warn about exposures to the Listed Chemical contained in the Covered Products.

CAG acknowledges that it is familiar with Section 1542 of Civil Code, which provides as follows:

A GENERAL RELEASE DOES NOT EXTEND TO CLAIMS
THAT THE CREDITOR OR RELEASING PARTY DOES
NOT KNOW OR SUSPECT TO EXIST IN HIS OR HER
FAVOR AT THE TIME OF EXECUTING THE RELEASE

AND THAT, IF KNOWN BY HIM OR HER, WOULD HAVE MATERIALLY AFFECTED HIS OR HER SETTLEMENT WITH THE DEBTOR OR RELEASED PARTY.

CAG, its past and current agents, representatives, attorneys, successors, and/or assignees expressly waives and relinquishes any and all rights and benefits which it may have under, or which may be conferred on it by the provisions of Civil Code § 1542 as well as under any other state or federal statute or common law principle of similar effect, to the fullest extent that it may lawfully waive such rights or benefits pertaining to the released matters. The release in this section shall have no force or effect until the full amount of payments set forth in Section 4.0 below are paid in full.

2.1 **Dismissal Of Eighth Cause Of Action.**

CAG agrees to, within ten (10) business days of its receipt of its portions of the settlement payments referenced in Section 4.1.2 of this Settlement Agreement, to file a request for dismissal without prejudice of the Eighth Cause of Action of the Action as against L2T and Burlington Coat Factory of California, LLC and Burlington Coat Factory of Texas, Inc. a Delaware Corporation.

3.0 **H&R Planning's Duties**

3.1 H&R Planning agrees, promises, and represents that after the Effective Date H&R Planning shall reformulate any Covered Products manufactured after the Effective Date and offered for sale in California to a point where the level of DEHP in the Covered Products does not exceed 0.1%.

3.2 H&R Planning agrees, promises, and represents that, as of the Effective Date, to the extent it ships or sells any Covered Products in existing inventory that have not been reformulated, it will provide warnings for cancer and reproductive toxicity on such Covered Products that comply with Proposition 65. The Parties agree that such warning shall comply with the warning requirements under Title 27, California Code of Regulations, §§25600, et seq. The warnings shall be provided in such a conspicuous and prominent manner that will assure the message is made available and likely to be read, seen, or heard by the consumer prior to or at the time of the sale or purchase. The Parties agree warnings consistent with Title 27, California Code of Regulations, §§25600, et seq. shall constitute compliance with Proposition 65 with respect to the Listed Chemical in the Covered Products for any Covered Products in existing inventory that had not been reformulated and were distributed and/or sold by Releasees or Downstream Releasees after the Effective Date. Where a label used for the Covered product in existing inventory, that exceeds 0.1% of DEHP includes consumer information as defined by California Code of Regulations title 27 §25600.1(c) in a language other than English, the warning must also be provided in that language in addition to English. Should H&R Planning sell or distribute any Covered Products in existing inventory, that exceeds 0.1% of DEHP, through the internet the warning will be posted in the manner provided for with respect to internet sales, as provided for in 27 CCR sections 25601 and 25602, as they may be subsequently amended.

4.0 Payments

4.1 H&R Planning agrees, to pay a total of fifty-eight thousand dollars (\$58,000.00) within ten (10) days of the Effective Date by separate checks apportioned as follows:

4.1.1 Penalty: H&R Planning shall issue two separate checks for a total amount of eighteen thousand dollars (\$18,000.00) as follows: (a) one check made payable to the State of California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) in the amount of thirteen thousand and five hundred dollars (\$13,500.00), representing 75% of the total penalty; and (b) one check to Consumer Advocacy Group, Inc. in the amount of four thousand and five hundred dollars (\$4,500.00) representing 25% of the total penalty. OEHHA's check shall be delivered to Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment P.O. Box 4010 Sacramento, CA 95812-4010, Attn: Mike Gyurics. CAG's check shall be delivered to: Reuben Yeroushalmi, Yeroushalmi & Yeroushalmi, 9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 240W, Beverly Hills, California 90212. Additionally, two separate 1099s shall be issued for the above payments: The first 1099 shall be issued to OEHHA, P.O. Box 4010 Sacramento, CA 95812-4010, Attn: Mike Gyurics (EIN: 68-0284486) in the amount of \$13,500.00. The second 1099 shall be issued in the amount of \$4,500.00 to CAG and delivered to Yeroushalmi & Yeroushalmi, 9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 240W, Beverly Hills, CA 90212.

4.1.2 Attorneys' Fees and Costs: Forty thousand dollars (\$40,000.00) of

such payment shall be paid to Yeroushalmi & Yeroushalmi, as CAG's attorneys, for reasonable investigation fees and costs, attorneys' fees, and any other costs incurred as a result of investigating and bringing this matter to H&R Planning's attention. The check shall be delivered to: Reuben Yeroushalmi, Yeroushalmi & Yeroushalmi, 9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 240W, Beverly Hills, California 90212. By the Effective Date, Yeroushalmi & Yeroushalmi shall provide H&R Planning with its Employer Identification Number and an executed IRS Form W9.

5.0 Authority to Enter Into Settlement Agreement

5.1 CAG represents that its signatory to this Settlement Agreement has full authority to enter into and legally bind CAG to this Settlement Agreement.

5.2 H&R Planning represents that its signatory to this Settlement Agreement has full authority to enter into and legally bind H&R Planning to this Settlement Agreement.

6.0 Report of the Settlement Agreement to the Office of the Attorney General Of California

6.1 CAG shall report this Settlement Agreement to the Attorney General's Office within five (5) days of the Parties' execution of this Settlement Agreement.

7.0 Execution in Counterparts and Facsimile

7.1 This Settlement Agreement may be executed in counterparts, which taken together shall be deemed to constitute the same document. A facsimile or portable document format (PDF) signature shall be as valid as the original.

8.0 Entire Agreement

8.1 This Settlement Agreement contains the sole and entire agreement and understanding of the Parties with respect to the entire subject matter hereof, and all related prior discussions, negotiations, commitments, and understandings. No other agreements, oral or otherwise, exist to bind any of the Parties.

9.0 Modification of Settlement Agreement

9.1 Any modification to this Settlement Agreement shall be in writing and signed by the Parties.

10.0 Application of Settlement Agreement

10.1 This Settlement Agreement shall apply to, be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, CAG and the Releasees and Downstream Releasees identified in Section 2 above who are all either parties to this Settlement Agreement or intended third-party beneficiaries.

11.0 Enforcement of Settlement Agreement

11.1 Notwithstanding the above, CAG may bring an action to enforce any breach of the monetary settlement terms in Section 4.0, above, upon five (5) business days written notice by CAG to Vendor of the alleged breach in accordance with the notification requirements set forth in Section 12.0, below. In

case of any enforcement action, the prevailing party shall be entitled to its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs associated with such enforcement.

12.0 Notification Requirements

12.1 Any notice required or permitted hereunder shall be effective only if given in writing and delivered in person, certified or registered mail return receipt requested, or traceable overnight delivery service, to the following designees:

For CAG:

Reuben Yeroushalmi, Esq.
YEROUSHALMI & YEROUSHALMI
9100 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 240W
Beverly Hills, CA 90212

For H&R Planning Company LLC:

Michael Harari
H&R Planning Company LLC
35 West 35 Street floor 11
New York NY 10001

Any party may change its designee(s) for purposes of notification by providing written notice of such change pursuant to this section.

13.0 SEVERABILITY

13.1 If, subsequent to the execution of this Settlement Agreement, any of the provisions of this Settlement Agreement are held by a court to be unenforceable, the validity of the enforceable provisions remaining shall not be adversely affected.

14.0 GOVERNING LAW

14.1 The terms of this Settlement Agreement 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 as to the Listed Chemical and/or the Covered Products, then H&R Planning shall provide written notice to CAG of any asserted change in the law, and shall have no further obligations pursuant to this Settlement Agreement with respect to, and to the extent that, the Covered Products are so affected.

CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC.


Dated: _____ By: _____
Printed Name: _____
Title: _____

H&R PLANNING COMPANY LLC


Dated: April 28, 2023 By: [Signature]
Printed Name: MICHAEL HAGER
Title: owner / operator

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 as to the Listed Chemical and/or the Covered Products, then H&R Planning shall provide written notice to CAG of any asserted change in the law, and shall have no further obligations pursuant to this Settlement Agreement with respect to, and to the extent that, the Covered Products are so affected.

CONSUMER ADVOCACY GROUP, INC.

Dated: 09/14/2023 By: 
Printed Name: Michael Marcus
Title: Director

H&R PLANNING COMPANY LLC

Dated: Aug 28, 2023 By: 
Printed Name: Michael Marcus
Title: owner / operator