BURSOR & FISHER, P.A. 1 L. Timothy Fisher (State Bar No. 191626) 2 Annick M. Persinger (State Bar No. 272996) Yeremey O. Krivoshey (State Bar No. 295032) 3 1990 North California Blvd., Suite 940 Walnut Creek, CA 94596 4 Telephone: (925) 300-4455 Facsimile: (925) 407-2700 5 E-Mail: ltfisher@bursor.com 6 apersinger@bursor.com ykrivoshey@bursor.com 7 Attorneys for Plaintiffs 8 9 10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 11 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 12 Case No. 2:15-cy-01801-PSG-AJW JONATHAN RETTA, KIRSTEN 13 SCHOFIELD, and JESSICA MANIRE 14 on Behalf of Themselves and all Others THIRD AMENDED CLASS ACTION Similarly Situated, 15 **COMPLAINT** 16 Plaintiffs, v. JURY TRIAL DEMANDED 17 18 MILLENNIUM PRODUCTS, INC. 19 Defendant. 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 THIRD AMENDED CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT CASE NO. 2:15-CV-01801-PSG-AJW

Plaintiffs Jonathan Retta, Kirsten Schofield, and Jessica Manire ("Plaintiffs") bring this action on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated against Defendant Millennium Products, Inc. ("Millennium" or "Defendant"). Plaintiffs make the following allegations pursuant to the investigation of their counsel and based upon information and belief, except as to the allegations specifically pertaining to themselves, which are based on personal knowledge.

INTRODUCTION

- 1. Millennium Products, Inc. has passed off millions of bottles of its wildly successful kombucha beverages as non-alcoholic, when, in fact, the beverages contain two to seven times the legal limit for non-alcoholic beverages. Having been caught selling alcoholic kombucha beverages to unsuspecting customers in 2006 and 2010, Millennium decided to market and distribute an alcoholic version of its kombucha products (the "Classic" kombucha line) and a "non-alcoholic" version (the "Enlightened" line), knowing that the non-alcoholic line has a much greater market appeal and could be sold in far more retail locations. But the purported distinction between the "Classic" and "Enlightened" lines is a sham designed to confuse the public and government regulators, as both lines of products contain alcohol levels far surpassing the legal limit for non-alcoholic beverages.
- 2. Millennium's marketing campaign also takes advantage of high consumer demand for antioxidants by touting the antioxidant content in its kombucha beverages in precisely the manner the Food and Drug Administration ("FDA") sought to prohibit by establishing the antioxidant labeling requirements set forth in 21 C.F.R. § 101.54(g). Millennium has plastered misleading antioxidant messaging on every side of its GT's Enlightened Kombucha and Enlightened Synergy (collectively, "the Enlightened line" or "Enlightened Kombucha"¹)

¹ "Enlightened Kombucha" refers to every flavor of Millennium's GT's Enlightened Kombucha and Enlightened Synergy lines, as described herein.

- beverage labels. The simple truth is, however, that Enlightened Kombucha does not have even a single nutrient that the FDA recognizes and approves of for labeling statements using the term "antioxidant." Because the antioxidant statements on Enlightened Kombucha's labels are unauthorized and misleading nutrient content claims proscribed by the FDA, Enlightened Kombucha is misbranded and improperly labeled in violation of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, and corresponding state laws as described herein. Accordingly, Millennium has sold misbranded products using misleading advertising to millions of consumers, who relied on Millennium's advertising and were injured as a result.
 - 3. Plaintiffs Retta, Manire, and Schofield purchased numerous bottles of Enlightened Kombucha based on Millennium's misleading advertising and labeling of the products.
 - 4. Plaintiffs seek relief in this action individually, and on behalf of all purchasers of Enlightened Kombucha, for Millennium's violations of the California Consumer Legal Remedies Act ("CLRA"), Civil Code §§ 1750, *et seq.*, Unfair Competition Law ("UCL"), Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200, *et seq.*, False Advertising Law ("FAL"), Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17500, *et seq.*, and New York's Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act, New York General Business Law § 349 ("NYGBL").

PARTIES

5. Plaintiff Jonathan Retta is a citizen of Virginia, residing in Annandale. Within the past three years, Mr. Retta purchased GT's Enlightened Kombucha: Multi-Green and Enlightened Synergy: Mystic Mango from Whole Foods, in Washington, D.C. and New York. Mr. Retta purchased GT's Enlightened Kombucha: Multi-Green and Enlightened Synergy: Mystic Mango relying on statements on the bottles' labels, including the following statements that characterize the level of antioxidants in the beverages: