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8. NEGLIGENT

MISREPRESENTATION

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff Haylee Woodard ("Plaintiff"), on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, file this Class Action Complaint ("CAC") against Defendant Lilly Lashes, LLC ("LL" or "Defendant"), and in support state the following:

NATURE OF THE ACTION

1. This is a class action lawsuit by Plaintiff, and others similarly situated, who purchased eyelashes manufactured, sold and distributed by Defendant and the DOES Defendants (collectively, "Defendants"). Such eyelashes were falsely advertised as detailed below. Plaintiff and the putative classes suffered economic damages due to Defendants' misconduct (as set forth below) and they seek injunctive relief and restitution for the full purchase price of the product(s) they purchased. Plaintiff alleges the following based upon personal knowledge as well as investigation by counsel, and as to all other matters, upon information and belief. Plaintiff further believes that substantial evidentiary support will exist for the allegations set forth herein after a reasonable opportunity for discovery.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 2. Both jurisdiction and venue are proper in this Court. Defendants conduct, or have conducted, a substantial amount of business activity in California. Defendants have sufficient minimum contacts in California or otherwise intentionally avail themselves of the California market through, without limitation, their advertisement, promotion, marketing, sales and/or distribution of cosmetic products in the State of California and the County of Los Angeles and other business activities, so as to render the exercise of jurisdiction over the Defendants by the California courts consistent with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice. Additionally, Defendant LL, is a California company headquartered in Los Angeles County.
- 3. Venue is proper in this Court because Defendant LL is headquartered in this Los Angeles County and Defendants regularly conduct business in Los Angeles County, because Plaintiff lives in Los Angeles County, and because the conduct alleged herein which gives rise to the claims asserted occurred within Los Angeles County. Specifically, Plaintiff purchased the subject product at stores in Los Angeles County.

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THE PARTIES

- 4. Plaintiff is a citizen and resident of Los Angeles County, California. In 2017, Plaintiff began purchasing Defendant's product at My Makeup Kit in Rancho Cucamonga, Impressions Vanity Company in Los Angeles, and Sephora stores through Los Angeles Conty. Plaintiff paid approximately \$19-24 each for the Products. At the time of purchase, based on the false and misleading claims and omissions by Defendant, Plaintiff believed that the mink was "Cruelty Free". Plaintiff purchased the Defendant's products on the assumption that the packaging of Defendant's Products were accurate and that the Products were "Cruelty Free".
- 5. Plaintiff would not have purchased Defendant's Products had she known the processes used to manufacture the mink lashes was not cruelty free. As a result, Plaintiff suffered injury in fact when she spent money to purchase products she would not otherwise have purchased absent Defendant's misconduct, as alleged herein. Plaintiff may purchase the products again if the product does not contain mink and is properly labeled.
- 6. Defendant is a California Corporation with its principal place of business in El Segundo, California. Defendant manufactures, markets, advertises, labels, distributes and sells the products at issue in this litigation.
- 7. The use of the term "defendants" or "Defendants" in any of the allegations in this Complaint, unless specifically alleged otherwise, is intended to include and charge, both jointly and severally, not only the Defendants identified in this Complaint, but also all Defendants designated as DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, as though the term "Defendants" was followed in each and every instance throughout this Complaint with the phrase "and each of them jointly and severally, including all named Defendants and Defendants included herein and sued under the fictitious names of DOES 1 through 10, inclusive."
- 8. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that Defendants, at all times herein mentioned, were the partners, joint venturers, subsidiaries, successors in interest, managing agent, merged entities, agents, alter egos, part of a jointly owned, managed, and/or operated business enterprise, and/or employees of each other Defendant and in doing the acts, omissions, and things alleged herein were acting as such and within the scope of their authority

as such agents and employees and with the permission and consent of all other Defendants. 1 Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that Defendants have, and always 2 herein mentioned had, a joint economic and business interest, goal and purpose in the products 3 4 that are the subject of this lawsuit. INTRODUCTION 5 Lilly Lashes, LLC (https://lillylashes.com) is a California company that is 9. 6 engaged in the sale of cosmetics, including false eyelashes, eyeliner, and mascara. Lilly 7 Lashes' products are sold direct-to-consumer through the company's website, as well as 8 through retailers such as Sephora, Ulta Beauty, and Amazon. The company's advertising 9 efforts primarily target youthful consumers through posts on social media. The company has 10 2.4 million followers on Instagram (@lillylashes) and boasts that "Jennifer Lopez, Kim 11 Kardashian, Kylie Jenner, Rihanna and Lady Gaga are just a few of the A List Celebrities that 12 have rocked the red carpet in their Lilly Lashes.1" 13 In December 2019, Lilly Lashes was acquired by Gauge Capital, a Texas-based 10. 14 private equity firm. Gauge targets companies with \$5 million to \$40 million in EBITDA.² 15 The company's founder is Lilly Ghalichi, a former reality television personality 16 11. who appeared on "Shahs of Sunset" on the Bravo network. Ms. Ghalichi describes herself as a 17 "Persian barbie" and is known for her over-the-top appearance and personality. 18 19 12. During the relevant time period, Lilly's advertised their Mink eyelashes as 20 "cruelty free". 21 /// /// 22 23 /// 24 /// 25 /// /// 26 27 28 ¹ https:///lilylashes.com/about/(last viewed 4/13/2022.) ² Slide 1 (gaugecapital.com) (last viewed 4/13/2022).







- 13. Despite marketing its lashes as "cruelty free," Lilly Lashes knows that its lashes are created in a way that is harmful to animals.
- 14. On May 27, 2020, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals ("PETA") released an article on its website entitled Lilly Lashes Is Duping Customers About Mink Fur—Act Now!,³.
 - 15. According to the PETA article and other articles available online, Lilly Lashes'

³ https://support.peta.org/page/19299/action/1?locale=en-US (last viewed 4/13/2022).

false lashes are inexpensively manufactured in China and made of mink fur that is harvested in a manner abusive to the animals. The minks are confined in "cramped wire cages that are often caked with waste.

- 16. The animals frequently show signs of extreme psychological distress, such as frantic circling and self-mutilation, and suffer from infections, gaping wounds, and other illnesses and injuries that commonly go untreated."
- 17. When the mink fur is ready to be harvested, the "mink farmers commonly use the cheapest killing methods available, including gassing, electrocution, and neck-breaking, before peeling the skin off the animals' bodies."
 - 18. Lilly's "Cruelty Free" representations are material to consumers.
- 19. On June 20, 2020, PETA published an article on its website entitled: Victory! PETA and YOU Persuade Sephora to Ban Fur Eyelashes, available at: https://www.peta.org/blog/sephora-bans-mink-lashes-fur-eyelashes/.]. The article (and similar articles on other online platforms) stated that Sephora banned mink-fur eyelashes in response to a PETA campaign and emails from more than 280,000 concerned shoppers. The PETA article also stated: "False-eyelash company Lilly Lashes still tries to deceive customers in a similar way: Knowing that no one wants to buy vile animal fur,
 - 20. Lilly Lashes even goes so far as to market some mink fur lashes as "vegan." Id.
- 21. Animal cruelty is clearly an important issue for customers of Sephora, Lilly Lashes, and other brands that market products to young female consumers.
- 22. In additional to falsely advertising its mink lashes as "cruelty free", Lilly's posts fake customer reviews on its website to entice buyers into purchasing the lashes. Lilly's employees draft these reviews and so Lilly's expressly knows that such reviews are fake.

TOLLING OF THE STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS, FRAUDULENT CONCEALMENT, EQUITABLE TOLLING, AND CONTINUING VIOLATIONS

23. Plaintiffs did not discover and could not have discovered through the exercise of reasonable diligence, the existence of the claims sued upon herein until immediately prior to

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commencing this civil action.

- 24. Any applicable statutes of limitation have been tolled by Defendants' affirmative acts of fraudulent concealment and continuing misrepresentations, as the facts alleged above reveal.
- 25. Because of the self-concealing nature of Defendants' actions and their affirmative acts of concealment, Plaintiffs and the Classes assert the tolling of any applicable statutes of limitations affecting the claims raised herein.
- 26. Defendants continue to engage in the deceptive practice, and consequently, unwary consumers are injured on a daily basis by Defendants' unlawful conduct. Therefore, Plaintiff and the Classes submit that each instance that Defendants engaged in the conduct complained of herein and each instance that a member of any Class purchased Lilly's Lashes Product constitutes part of a continuing violation and operates to toll the statutes of limitation in this action.
- 27. Defendants are estopped from relying on any statute of limitations defense because of their unfair or deceptive conduct.
- 28. Defendants' conduct was and is, by its nature, self-concealing. Still, Defendants. through a series of affirmative acts or omissions, suppressed the dissemination of truthful information regarding their illegal conduct, and actively have foreclosed Plaintiffs and the Classes from learning of their illegal, unfair, and/or deceptive acts. These affirmative acts included concealing that the Product is pasteurized.
- 29. By reason of the foregoing, the claims of Plaintiffs and the Classes are timely under any applicable statute of limitations, pursuant to the discovery rule, the equitable tolling doctrine, and fraudulent concealment.

CLASS ALLEGATIONS

30. Plaintiff bring this action on behalf of herself and all other similarly situated class members (the "Class" or "Classes") and seeks certification of the following Class and/or Sub-Classes against Defendant for violations of California state laws and/or similar laws in other states:

1	Multi-State Mink Eyelash Class Action
2	All consumers who purchased any Mink Eyelashes in the United
3	States of America and its territories from April xx, 2018 to the
4	present for personal use.
5	Excluded from the Class are Defendant, any parent companies,
6	subsidiaries, and/or affiliates, officers, directors, legal
7	representatives, employees, co-conspirators, all governmental
8	entities, and any judge, justice or judicial officer presiding over
9	this matter.
10	California Mink Eyelash Class Action
11	All consumers who purchased any Mink Eyelashes in the State of
12	California from April xx, 2018 to the present for personal use.
13	Excluded from the Class are Defendant, any parent companies,
14	subsidiaries, and/or affiliates, officers, directors, legal
15	representatives, employees, co-conspirators, all governmental
16	entities, and any judge, justice or judicial officer presiding over
17	this matter.
18	California Cosmetic Class Action
19	All consumers who purchased any product directly from Lilly's
20	website and shipped the products to the State of California at any
21	time between April xx, 2018 and the present for personal use.
22	Excluded from the Class are Defendant, any parent companies,
23	subsidiaries, and/or affiliates, officers, directors, legal
24	representatives, employees, co-conspirators, all governmental
25	entities, and any judge, justice or judicial officer presiding over
26	this matter.
27	Consumer Protection Class
28	All persons who reside in states in the United States with similar

consumer protection laws, breach of express warranty laws and breach of implied warranty law, who purchased the Mink Eyelash Products from April xx, 2018, until the date of judgment in this action, for personal or household use, and not for resale or distribution purposes. Specifically excluded from this Class are Defendants, the officers, directors, or employees of Defendants, any entity in which Defendants have a controlling interest, and any affiliate, legal representative, heir, or assign of Defendants. Also excluded are those who assert claims for personal injury as well as any federal, state, or local governmental entities, any judicial officer presiding over this action and the members of his/her immediate family and judicial staff, and any juror assigned to this action.

- 31. Plaintiff reserves the right to modify these class definitions.
- 32. The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members of the Class is impracticable. Plaintiff is informed and believes that the proposed Class/Sub-Classes contains thousands of purchasers of Defendants' Products who have been damaged by Defendants' conduct as alleged herein. The precise number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiff at this time.
- 33. Plaintiff's claims are typical to those of all Class members because members of the Class are similarly injured through Defendants' uniform misconduct described above and were subject to Defendants' deceptive claims that accompanied each and every Product.

 Plaintiff is advancing the same claims and legal theories on behalf of herself and all members of the Class/Sub-Class.
- 34. Plaintiff's claims raise questions of law and fact common to all members of the Class, and they predominate over any questions affecting only individual Class members. The claims of Plaintiff and all prospective Class members involve the same alleged defect. These common legal and factual questions include the following:
 - (a) whether Defendant's Products contained mink;

on grounds applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final declaratory and/or injunctive relief with respect to the members of the Class as a whole.

- 38. Plaintiff seek preliminary and permanent injunctive and equitable relief on behalf of the entire Class, on grounds generally applicable to the entire Class, to enjoin and prevent Defendant from engaging in the acts described above and requiring Defendant to provide a full refund of the purchase price of the Defendant's Products. Products to Plaintiff and Class members.
- 39. Unless a Class is certified, Defendant will retain monies received as a result of their conduct that were taken from Plaintiff and the Class members. Unless a Class-wide injunction is issued, Defendant will continue to commit the violations alleged and the members of the Class and the general public will continue to be misled.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

FALSE AND MISLEADING ADVERTISING IN VIOLATION OF BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS CODE §17200, et seq.

(By Plaintiff and California Classes against all Defendants)

- 40. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations set forth above, and incorporates the same as if set forth herein at length.
- 41. This cause of action is brought pursuant to *Business and Professions Code* §17200, et seq.
- 42. In the advertising of the Lash Products, Defendants make false and misleading statements and material omissions including, as set forth above, Defendants represents their product is "Cruelty Free." In fact, the Product is not cruelty free.
- 43. Plaintiff also believed that the reviews on the website were true and accurate and were not written by employees of or at the direction of Defendants.
- 44. Defendants are aware that the claims that they make about the cosmetic products are false, misleading and unsubstantiated.
- 45. As alleged in the preceding paragraphs, the misrepresentations and omissions by Defendants of the material facts detailed above constitute an unfair and fraudulent business

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- In addition, Defendants' use of various forms of advertising media to advertise, 46. call attention to or give publicity to the sale of goods or merchandise which are not as represented in any manner constitute unfair competition, unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising, and an unlawful business practice within the meaning of Business & Professions Code §§17531 and 17200, which advertisements have deceived and are likely to deceive the consuming public, in violation of Business & Professions Code §17500.
- 47. There were reasonably available alternatives to further Defendants' legitimate business interests, other than the conduct described herein.
- All of the conduct alleged herein occurs and continues to occur in Defendants' 48. business. Defendants' wrongful conduct is part of a pattern or generalized course of conduct repeated on thousands of occasions daily.
- 49. Pursuant to Business & Professions Code §§17203 and 17535, Plaintiff and the members of the Classes seek an order of this Court enjoining Defendants from continuing to engage, use, or employ their practice of advertising the sale and use of the cosmetic products. Likewise, Plaintiff and the members of the Classes seek an order requiring Defendants to disclose such misrepresentations, and additionally request an order awarding Plaintiff restitution of the money wrongfully acquired by Defendants by means of responsibility attached to Defendants' failure to disclose the existence and significance of said misrepresentations.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

FALSE AND MISLEADING ADVERTISING IN VIOLATION OF BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS CODE §17500, et seq.

(By Plaintiff and California Classes against all Defendants and Does 1-10)

- Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations set forth in the preceding 50. paragraphs, and incorporates the same as if set forth herein at length.
- 51. This cause of action is brought pursuant to Business and Professions Code §17500, et seq. (the "FAL"). The FAL prohibits the dissemination of any advertisement which is untrue or misleading, and which is known, or which by exercise of reasonable care should be

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- 52. In its advertising of their Cosmetic Products, Defendants make false and misleading statements. Specifically, as set forth above, Defendants labels their products as "Cruelty Free" and publish "customer reviews" on their website touting the benefits of the products and giving the products five star ratings.
- 53. In fact, the mink eyelashes are not "cruelty free" and the product reviews are not unbiased and accurate customer reviews.
- 54. As alleged in the preceding paragraphs, the misrepresentations by Defendants of the material facts detailed above constitute an unfair and fraudulent business practice within the meaning of California Business & Professions Code §17500.
- 55. In addition, Defendants' use of various forms of advertising media to advertise, call attention to or give publicity to the sale of goods or merchandise which are not as represented in any manner constitutes unfair competition, unfair, deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising, and an unlawful business practice within the meaning of Business & Professions Code §§ 17531 and 17200, which advertisements have deceived and are likely to deceive the consuming public, in violation of Business & Professions Code §17500.
- 56. Pursuant to Business & Professions Code §§17203 and 17535, Plaintiff and the members of the Classes seek an order of this Court enjoining Defendants from continuing to engage, use, or employ their practice of advertising the sale and use of the cosmetic products. Likewise, Plaintiff and the members of the Classes seek an order requiring Defendants to disclose such misrepresentations, and additionally request an order awarding Plaintiff restitution of the money wrongfully acquired by Defendants by means of responsibility attached to Defendants' failure to disclose the existence and significance of said misrepresentations.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA CIVIL CODE §1750, et seq.

(By Plaintiff and California Classes against all Defendants)

57. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all the allegations of the previous paragraphs, and incorporates the same as if set forth herein at length.

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Defendants from "representing that a transaction confers or involves rights, remedies, or obligations which it does not have or involve."

- 65. Defendants fraudulently deceived Plaintiff and the Classes by representing that their cosmetic products have certain characteristics, benefits, uses and qualities which it does not have. In doing so, Defendants intentionally misrepresented and concealed material facts from Plaintiff and the Classes, specifically and not limited to the fact that the product was not cruelty free. Said misrepresentations and concealment were done with the intention of deceiving Plaintiff and the Classes and depriving them of their legal rights and money.
- 66. Defendants knew that cosmetic products were contaminated and not safe for consumption.
- 67. Defendants' actions as described hereinabove were done with conscious disregard of Plaintiff's rights and Defendants were wanton and malicious in their concealment of the same.
- 68. Pursuant to California *Civil Code* §1780(a) of the Act, Plaintiff seeks injunctive relief in the form of an order enjoining the above-described wrongful acts and practices of Defendants including, but not limited to, an order enjoining Defendants from distributing such false advertising and misrepresentations. Plaintiff shall be irreparably harmed if such an order is not granted.
- 69. Plaintiff reserves the right to amend this complaint to include a request for damages under the CLRA after complying with California *Civil Code* §1782(a) within thirty days after the commencement of this action.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Unjust Enrichment

(On Behalf of the Multi-State Class and All State Classes)

- 70. Plaintiff incorporate by reference and re-alleges each and every allegation contained above, as though fully set forth herein.
- 71. As a result of Defendants' wrongful and deceptive conduct alleged herein, Defendants knowingly and voluntarily accepted and retained wrongful benefits in the form of

Defendants have a duty to provide accurate information to consumers as detailed

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above.

- 83. Defendants failed to fulfill its duty when it made false representations regarding the quality of the cosmetic products as detailed above.
- 84. Such failures to disclose on the part of Defendants amount to negligent omission and the representations regarding the quality of the product amount to negligent misrepresentation.
- 85. Plaintiff and the other members of the Classes reasonably relied upon such representations and omissions to their detriment.
- 86. By reason thereof, Plaintiff and the other Class members have suffered damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, pray for judgment against the Defendants as to each and every count, including:

- A. An order declaring this action to be a proper class action, appointing Plaintiff and their counsel to represent the Class/Sub-Classes, and requiring Defendants to bear the costs of class notice;
- An order requiring Defendants to engage in a corrective advertising B. campaign and engage in any further necessary affirmative injunctive relief;
- E. An order awarding declaratory relief, and any further retrospective or prospective injunctive relief permitted by law or equity, including enjoining Defendants from continuing the unlawful practices alleged herein, and injunctive relief to remedy Defendants' past conduct;
- F. An order requiring Defendants to pay restitution/damages to restore all funds acquired by means of any act or practice declared by this Court to be an unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice, untrue or misleading advertising in violation of the above-cited authority, plus preand post-judgment interest thereon (Plaintiff does not seek monetary

1		damages pursuant to his Ninth Cause of Action);	
2	G.	An order requiring Defendants to disgorge any ill-gotten benefits	
3		received from Plaintiff and members of the Class/Sub-Classes as a result	
4		of any wrongful or unlawful act or practice (presently Plaintiff does not	
5		seek monetary damages pursuant to her CLRA);	
6	Н.	An order requiring Defendant to pay all actual and statutory damages	
7		permitted under the counts alleged herein (presently Plaintiff does not	
8		seek monetary damages pursuant to her CLRA);	
9	I.	An order awarding attorneys' fees and costs to Plaintiff and the	
10		Class/Sub-Classes; and	
11	J.	An order providing for all other such equitable relief as may be just and	
12		proper.	
13		DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL	
14	Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.		
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16	DATED: June 7, 202	2 BRADLEY/GROMBACHER, LLP	
17		Ву:	
18		Marcus Bradley, Esc	
19		Kiley Grombacher, Esq. Lirit King, Esq.	
20		Attorneys for Plaintiff and others similarly situated	
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DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL Plaintiff hereby demands trial of Plaintiff's and the members of the Classes' claims by

jury to the extent authorized by law.

DATED: June 7, 2022

BRADLEY/GROMBACHER, LLP

By:

Marcus Bradley, Esq. Kiley Grombacher, Esq. Lirit King, Esq.

Attorneys for Plaintiff and others similarly situated