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CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

5 Attorneys for Plaintiffs HAYLEY FORD and SHANNON J. KRAMER, individually and
 6 on behalf of other members of the public similarly situated

BY: *WJ*

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 9 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
 10 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

11 HAYLEY FORD and SHANNON J.
 12 KRAMER, individually, for class members,
 13 and on behalf of other members of the
 public similarly situated,

14 **07 CV 0734 BTM (RBB)**
 CASE NO.

JURY TRIAL REQUESTED
 CLASS COMPLAINT FOR
 DAMAGES:

Plaintiffs,

vs.

1. STRICT PRODUCT LIABILITY—
DEFECTIVE DESIGN OR
MANUFACTURE;
2. STRICT PRODUCT LIABILITY—
FAILURE TO WARN;
3. SOUNDING IN FRAUD;
4. BREACH OF IMPLIED
WARRANTY;
5. BREACH OF EXPRESS
WARRANTY;
6. NEGLIGENCE; AND
7. UNJUST ENRICHMENT

17 MENU FOODS INCOME FUND; MENU
 18 FOODS MIDWEST CORPORATION;
 19 MENU FOODS SOUTH DAKOTA, INC.;
 20 MENU FOODS, INC.; MENU FOODS
 HOLDINGS, INC.; DEL MONTE FOODS
 COMPANY; NESTLE PURINA
 21 PETCARE COMPANY; HILLS PET
 NUTRITION; NUTRO PRODUCTS,
 22 INC.; WAL-MART STORES; PETCO
 ANIMAL SUPPLIES, INC.; PETCO
 23 SOUTHWEST, INC.; PETCO ANIMAL
 SUPPLIES STORES, INC., THE IAMS
 24 COMPANY; FRY'S FOOD CENTERS;
 SMITH'S FOOD AND DRUG CENTERS,
 25 INC.; KROGER CO.; CHEMNUTRA,
 INC. and PETSMART,

Defendants.

VIA FAX

CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

NOW INTO COURT, through undersigned counsel, come Plaintiffs HAYLEY FORD and SHANNON J. KRAMER (hereinafter "Plaintiffs"), individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, who file this Class Action Complaint pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23(a) and (b)(3), seeking monetary relief for themselves and the classes they seek to represent. This suit is brought against MENU FOODS INCOME FUND, MENU FOODS MIDWEST CORPORATION, MENU FOODS SOUTH DAKOTA, INC., MENU FOODS, INC., MENU FOODS HOLDINGS, INC., DEL MONTE FOODS COMPANY; NESTLE PURINA PETCARE COMPANY, HILLS PET NUTRITION, WALMART STORES, NUTRO PRODUCTS, INC., PETCO ANIMAL SUPPLIES, INC.; PETCO SOUTHWEST, INC.; PETCO ANIMAL SUPPLIES STORES, INC.; THE IAMS COMPANY, KROGER CO.; FRY'S FOOD CENTERS; SMITH'S FOOD AND DRUG CENTERS, INC.; CHEMNUTRA, INC. and PETSMART, representing as follows:

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

1. This is class action brought against defendants for negligence in manufacturing and distributing contaminated the pet food supply making the food unfit for animal consumption, for purposely failing to warn consumers of the contaminated pet food in a timely manner, and an action for damages relating to Defendants' design, manufacture, sale, testing, marketing, advertising, promotion and/or distribution of unsafe dog and cat food through retailers within the United States and fraud. As a result of Defendants' actions, Plaintiffs and other similarly situated pet owners have been damaged.

2. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter and Defendants in this case pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1332 because there is complete diversity of citizenship between Plaintiffs and Defendants and the matter in controversy involves a request that the Court certify a class action.

3. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2) because a substantial part of the acts, conduct and damages complained of occurred in this district.

PARTIES

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4. Plaintiff HAYLEY FORD is and was at all relevant times a resident of Jonestown, Texas.

5. Plaintiff SHANNON J. KRAMER is and was at all relevant times a resident of Mesa, Arizona.

6. Defendant MENU FOODS INCOME FUND is an unincorporated company with its principal place of business in Ontario, Canada. It is doing business in the United States and in the State of California. Jurisdiction is appropriate pursuant to the California Long Arm Statute, Sec. 410, and service may be affected through the Hague Convention on service abroad of judicial and extrajudicial documents and civil or commercial matters at 8 Falconer Drive, Streetsville, Ontario Canada L5N 1B1.

7. MENU FOODS MIDWEST CORPORATION is a Delaware corporation and may be served through its registered agent for service, The Corporation Trust Company, Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware.

8. Defendant MENU FOODS SOUTH DAKOTA, INC. is a Delaware corporation and may be served through its registered agent for service, The Corporation Trust Company, Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware.

9. Defendant MENU FOODS HOLDINGS, INC. is a Delaware corporation and may be served through its registered agent for service, The Corporation Trust Company, Corporation Trust Center, 1209 Orange Street, Wilmington, Delaware.

10. Defendant MENU FOODS, INC. is a New Jersey corporation and may be served through its registered agent for service, Corporation Trust Company, 820 Bear Tavern Road, West Trenton, New Jersey.

11. Defendant DEL MONTE FOODS COMPANY, is a Delaware corporation registered to conduct business in the State of California and may be served through its registered agent for service, CT Corporation System, 818 West Seventh Street, Los Angeles, California 90017.

12. Defendant THE IAMS COMPANY is an Ohio corporation registered to do

1 business in the State of California and may be served through its registered agent for
2 service, CT Corporation System, 818 West Seventh Street, Los Angeles, California.

3 13. Defendant NESTLE PURINA PETCARE COMPANY, is a Missouri
4 corporation registered to do business in the State of California and may be served through
5 its registered agent for service, CT Corporation System, 818 West Seventh Street, Los
6 Angeles, California 90017.

7 14. Defendant HILLS PET NUTRITION is a Delaware corporation registered to
8 do business in the State of California and may be served through its registered agent for
9 service, CT Corporation System, 818 West Seventh Street, Los Angeles, California 90017.

10 15. Defendant NUTRO PRODUCTS, INC. (hereinafter "NUTRO") is a
11 California corporation and may be served through its registered agent for service, Ronald
12 Ong, 445 Wilson Way, City of Industry, California 91744.

13 16. Defendant PETSMART, INC. is a Delaware corporation registered to do
14 business in the State of California and may be served through its registered agent for
15 service, CT Corporation System, 818 West Seventh Street, Los Angeles, California 90017.

16 17. Defendant WAL-MART STORES is a Delaware corporation and may be
17 served through its registered agent The Corporation Company, 425 W. Capitol Avenue,
18 Ste. 1700, Little Rock, Arizona 72201.

19 18. Defendant PETCO ANIMAL SUPPLIES, INC. is a Delaware corporation
20 registered to do business in the State of California with its designated principal place of
21 business located in San Diego, County of San Diego, California and may be served through
22 its registered agent for service Corporation Service Company d.b.a. Lawyers Incorporating
23 Service, P.O. Box 526036, Sacramento, California 95852.

24 19. Defendant PETCO SOUTHWEST, INC. is a California corporation with its
25 principal place of business located in San Diego, California, County of San Diego.

26 20. Defendant PETCO ANIMAL SUPPLIES STORES, INC. is a Delaware
27 corporation registered to do business in the State of California with its designated principal
28 place of business located in San Diego, California, County of San Diego. (Defendants

1 PETCO ANIMAL SUPPLIES, INC., PETCO SOUTHWEST, INC., and PETCO
2 ANIMAL SUPPLIES STORES, INC. are hereafter collectively referred to as "PETCO").

3 21. Defendant FRY'S FOOD STORES is a wholly owned subsidiary of
4 SMITH'S FOOD & DRUG CENTERS, INC. Both companies are owned and operated by
5 KROGER CO., an Ohio corporation and may be served through their agent for service of
6 process Csc-Lawyers Incorporating Service, 50 West Broad Street, #1800, Columbus, Ohio
7 43215. Defendant FRY'S FOOD STORES may be served through its agent for service of
8 process, Smith's Food & Drug Centers, Inc., 500 S. 99th Avenue, Tolleson, Arizona 85353.
9 Defendant SMITH'S FOOD & DRUG CENTERS, INC. may be serve through its agent for
10 service or process, Smith's Food & Drug Centers, Inc., 1550 S. Redwood Road, Salt Lake
11 City, Utah 84104.

12 22. Defendant CHEMNUTRA, INC. (hereinafter "CHEMNUTRA) is a
13 Delaware corporation with its' principal place of business in Nevada and may be served
14 through its registered agent for service of process National Registered Agents, Inc., 160
15 Greentree Drive, Ste. 101, Dover, Delaware 19904.

16 22. Defendants MENU FOODS INCOME FUND, MENU FOODS MIDWEST
17 CORPORATION, MENU FOODS SOUTH DAKOTA, INC., MENU FOODS, INC.,
18 MENU FOODS HOLDINGS, INC., (collectively referred to as "MENU FOODS"), DEL
19 MONTE FOODS COMPANY ("DEL MONTE"), NESTLE PURINA PETCARE
20 COMPANY ("NESTLE"), HILLS PET NUTRITION, INC. ("HILLS"), PETSMART,
21 WAL-MART STORES ("WAL-MART"), PETCO ANIMAL SUPPLIES, INC.; PETCO
22 SOUTHWEST, INC.; PETCO ANIMAL SUPPLIES STORES, INC.; ("PETCO"), THE
23 IAMS COMPANY ("IAMS"); KROGER CO., ("KROGER"); FRY'S FOOD STORES
24 ("FRYS"); SMITH'S FOOD & DRUG CENTERS, INC. ("SMITH'S"); CHEMNUTRA,
25 INC. ("CHEMNUTRA") and NUTRO PRODUCTS, INC. ("NUTRO") are hereinafter
26 collectively referred to as "Defendants."

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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23. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1332(d)(2) and the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005, Pub. L. 109-2 (Feb. 18, 2005). The matter in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000, is a class action and there are members of the proposed Class that are citizens of States different than at least one of the Defendants.

24. Venue is proper in this District under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), (c) and (d) and/or Pub. L. 109-2 (Feb. 18, 2005) because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this judicial district. Thousands of consumers, including members of the Class, purchased pet food products manufactured, distributed, marketed and/or sold by Defendants in this judicial district or others controlled or in privity with Defendant retailers or others sold deadly pet food products to the general public and members of the Class. Pet food products manufactured, distributed and/or sold by Defendants were purchased for consumption by the pets of Plaintiffs and other members of the Class. Defendants made or caused these products to be offered for sale and sold to the public.

25. Defendant Menu Foods Income Fund is a foreign corporation with headquarters outside the United States and manufactures and distributes the pet food products through United States retailers in this District. Defendants Menu Foods Midwest Corporation, Menu Foods South Dakota, Inc., Menu Foods, Inc. and Menu Foods Holdings, Inc., Del Monte Foods Company, Nestle Purina Petcare Company, Nutro, PetSmart, Wal-Mart Stores, Petco, The Iams Company, Kroger Co, Fry's Food Stores, Smith's Food And Drug Centers, Inc.; ChemNutra, Inc. and Hills Pet Nutrition, Inc. are all subject to personal jurisdiction in this District.

FACTS

26. Defendants are in the business of manufacturing, producing, distributing, and/or selling pet food under various brands or labels, and/or for third-party firms. Defendants MENU FOODS have manufactured or produced pet food for over 100 different

1 private labels and for approximately 17 leading retailers in the United States. On or about
2 March 15, 2007, Defendants MENU FOODS informed the Food and Drug Administration
3 that they had become aware that pet food manufactured and distributed by them in the
4 United States was contaminated and causing injury and/or death to cats and dogs who
5 consumed the food. Defendants MENU FOODS believed at the time the contamination
6 came from a new supplier of Wheat Gluten which was added to the pet food, which it
7 purchased from Defendant CHEMNUTRA. Defendants MENU FOODS conducted their
8 own tests concluding that the contaminated food resulted in one out of every six pets who
9 consumed the food died.

10 27. On or about February 11, 2007, Plaintiff FORD purchased at H.E.B Foods, the
11 following Hill Country Fare dog food: Country Stew in Gravy, Beef in Gravy, and Chicken in
12 Gravy. On February 13, 2007, Plaintiffs FORD's dog Mickie stopped eating and would drink
13 water excessively. Over the next few days, Mickie's condition deteriorated. On February 15,
14 2007, Plaintiff FORD took Mickie to a veterinarian. Mickie was having trouble breathing. Mickie
15 was with kidney failure and was given a poor prognosis for recovery. On February 15, 2007,
16 Mickie was euthanized to end her suffering.

17 28. Between late January 2007 to about February 18, 2007, Plaintiff KRAMER
18 purchased Special Kitty and Pet Pride pet food products from Defendants WAL-MART
19 and FRY'S FOOD STORES. On or about February 20, 2007, Plaintiff KRAMER's cat,
20 "Mamma Cat", began exhibiting symptoms of severe illness. KRAMER took Mamma Cat
21 to the veterinarian on February 22, 2007, who diagnosed her as having renal failure. After
22 numerous medical procedures, tests and medications, Mamma Cat seemed to be on the way
23 to recovery. Sunday, February 25, 2007 Mamma Cat was given Special Kitty, wild duck
24 with rice and gravy, purchased by KRAMER from Defendant WAL-MART. Mamma Cat
25 rapidly declined back into a lethargic state. KRAMER took Mamma Cat back to the
26 veterinarian the next day. Mamma Cat's B.U.N. levels were off the charts. Mamma Cat
27 suffered severe seizures and was euthanized on February 26, 2007 to end her suffering.
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1 29. On or about March 16, 2007, Defendant MENU FOODS announced a recall
2 of approximately 42 brands of "cuts and gravy style" pet food, all produced by Defendants
3 MENU FOODS between December 3, 2006 and March 6, 2007. MENU FOODS initially
4 claimed it had received complaints from consumers as far back as February 20, 2007
5 indicating that certain pet food products manufactured, marketed and sold by Defendants
6 was causing acute kidney failure resulting in the death of dogs and cats.

7 30. On or about March 30, 2007, Defendant PURINA announced that some of its
8 pet food products were being recalled stating they believed the food contained the same
9 tainted ingredient attributed to the injury and death of pets across the United States.

10 31. On or about March 30, 2007, Defendant HILLS announced that some of its
11 pet food products were being recalled stating they believed their food contained the same
12 tainted ingredient attributed to the injury and death of pets across the United States.

13 32. On or about April 1, 2007, Defendant DEL MONTE announced that some of
14 its pet food products were being recalled stating they believed their products contained the
15 same tainted ingredient attributed to the injury and death of pets across the United States.

16 33. On or about March 17, 2007 Defendant NUTRO announced that some of its
17 pet food products were being recalled stating they believed their products contained the
18 same tainted ingredient attributed to the injury and death of pets across the United States.
19 The recall was expanded on April 10, 2007 when it was discovered other NUTRO products
20 were contaminated.

21 34. Defendant PETSMART sells to the public pet food products manufactured
22 and/or distributed by Defendants MENU FOODS, IAMS, NUTRO, HILLS, and PURINA,
23 and continued to carry and sell products which were subsequently recalled.

24 35. Defendant WAL-MART sells to the public pet food products manufactured
25 and/or distributed by Defendants MENU FOODS, IAMS, NUTRO, HILLS, and PURINA,
26 and continued to carry and sell products which were subsequently recalled.

27 36. Defendant PETCO sells to the public pet food products subject to the recall
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1 and manufactured and/or distributed by Defendants MENU FOODS, IAMS, NUTRO,
2 HILLS, and PURINA, and continued to do so despite the recall until approximately March
3 23, 2007.

4 37. On or about March 16, 2007 Defendant IAMS announced that some of its pet
5 food products were being recalled because they were manufactured/produced by Defendant
6 MENU FOODS.

7 38. On or about March 6, 2007, Defendant CHEMNUTRA was informed by
8 Defendant MENU FOODS to stop shipments of wheat gluten. Defendants CHEMNUTRA
9 did not recall and/or inform its customers of any problems associated with the wheat gluten
10 until approximately April 2, 2007.

11 39. Defendants FRY'S, SMITH'S and KROGER sell to the public the pet food
12 products subject to the recall that were manufactured and/or distributed by Defendants
13 MENU FOODS, IAMS, and PURINA, and continued to do so after Defendant MENU
14 FOODS announced the recall of their products on or about March 16, 2007.

15 40. Defendants, and all of them, did nothing to prevent the distribution and sale
16 of contaminated and deadly pet food to United States retailers until weeks or months after
17 discovering the food was contaminated and causing harm to those animals who consumed
18 the food. This lack of action permitted and caused additional harm and death to thousands
19 of pet owners in California and throughout the United States, including Plaintiffs'.

20 41. Had Plaintiffs known the risks and dangers associated with Defendants' pet
21 food products, or had Defendants disclosed such information to Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs would
22 not have fed Defendants' products to their pets, and the animals would not have suffered
23 subsequent health complications.

24 42. Upon information and belief, as a result of the manufacturing, marketing and
25 sale of Defendants' dog and cat food products, Defendants, and all of them, have reaped
26 huge profits while concealing from the public, knowledge of the potential hazard
27 associated with the ingestion of Defendants' dog and cat food products.

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1 43. Defendants failed to perform adequate testing and/or inspection in that the
2 adequate testing would have shown that Defendants' dog and cat food products produced
3 serious side effects with respect to which Defendants should have taken appropriate
4 measures to ensure that its defectively designed product would not be placed into the
5 stream of commerce and/or should have provided full and proper warnings accurately
6 reflecting the scope and severity of symptoms of those side effects should have been made.
7 In fact, Defendants MENU FOODS did perform such testing and discovered on or about
8 February 27, 2007 that their pet food products, and those manufactured, distributed and/or
9 sold by all Defendants, caused death in dogs and cats who ingested the products.

10 44. Despite such knowledge, Defendants, through their officers, directors,
11 partners and managing agents for the purposes of increasing sales and enhancing its profits,
12 knowingly and deliberately failed to remedy the known defects of Defendants' product in a
13 timely manner, failed to conduct testing in a timely manner, and failed to warn the public
14 in a timely manner, including Plaintiffs, of the serious risk of illness and death occasioned
15 by the defects inherent in Defendants' product.

16 45. Defendants and their officers, agents, partners and managers intentionally
17 proceeded with the manufacturing, distribution, sale and marketing of Defendants' product,
18 knowing that dogs and cats ingesting Defendants' product would be exposed to serious
19 potential danger, in order to advance their own pecuniary interests.

20 46. Defendants' conduct was wanton and willful, and displayed a conscious
21 disregard for the safety of the product and particularly of the damage it would cause to pet
22 owners, like Plaintiffs, entitling these Plaintiffs to exemplary damages.

23 47. Defendants acted with conscious and wanton disregard of the health and
24 safety of Plaintiffs' pets, and Plaintiffs request an award of additional damages for the sake
25 of example and for the purpose of punishing such entities for their conduct, in an amount
26 sufficiently large to be an example to others, and to deter Defendants and others from
27 engaging in similar conduct in the future. The above-described wrongful conduct was
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1 done with knowledge, authorization and ratification of officers, directors, partners and
2 managing agents of Defendants.

3 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

4 48. Plaintiffs bring all claims as class claims pursuant to Rule 23(b)(2) of the
5 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The requirements of Rule 23 are met with respect to the
6 classes defined below:

- 7 A. All persons in the United States, who purchased pet food products
- 8 manufactured, distributed and/or sold by Defendants that were or will
- 9 be recalled by Defendants.
- 10 B. All persons in the United States, who purchased pet food products
- 11 manufactured, distributed and/or sold by Defendants that were or will
- 12 be recalled by Defendants and whose pet(s) suffered serious injury
- 13 and/or died after ingesting the contaminated food.

14 Upon completion of discovery with respect to the scope of the Class, Plaintiffs
15 reserve the right to amend the class definition.

16 49. Numerosity: The members of the Class are so numerous and geographically
17 diverse that joinder of all of them is impracticable. While the exact number and identities
18 of members of the Class are unknown to plaintiffs at this time and can only be ascertained
19 through appropriate discovery, plaintiffs believe and therefore allege that there are
20 thousands of Class members throughout the United States.

21 50. Commonality: Questions of law and fact common to the Class exist as to
22 Plaintiffs and all Class Members, and these common questions predominate over any
23 questions affecting only individual members of the Class. Among the common questions
24 of law and fact are the following:

- 25 a. Whether Defendants sold the pet food products that were recalled or
- 26 subject to recall;

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- b. Whether Defendants advertised, represented, or held themselves out as producing, manufacturing or selling a pet food product that was safe for the pets of Plaintiffs and Class members;
- c. Whether Defendants expressly warranted these pet food products;
- d. Whether Defendants purported to disclaim any express warranty;
- e. Whether Defendants purported to disclaim any implied warranty;
- f. Whether Defendants were negligent in the supplying, manufacturing, processing and/or selling the pet food products;
- g. Whether Defendants owed a duty to pet owners by ensuring that the pet food was not contaminated with dangerous ingredients.
- h. Whether Defendants' conduct amounted to breach of such a duty.
- i. Whether Defendants' conduct was a proximate cause of Plaintiffs' and Class Members' damages.
- j. Whether using the pet food products as intended, feeding to pets, resulted in loss, injury, damage or damages to Plaintiffs and the Class;
- k. Whether Defendants are strictly liable;
- l. Whether Defendants breached their warranty of merchantability.
- m. Whether Defendants supplied, produced, marketed, distributed, and sold a defective product.
- n. Whether Defendants failed to adequately warn consumers of the contaminated pet food.
- o. Whether Plaintiffs and Class Members are entitled to damages.
- p. Whether Defendants employed deceptive representations of the safety of their pet food products;
- q. Whether Defendants' statements or omissions were likely to deceive a reasonable consumer;
- r. Whether Defendants' statements or omissions were likely to deceive a reasonable consumer; and

1 s. Whether Defendants concealed information from the public and such
2 silence was relied on by Plaintiffs and Class members.

3 51. Typicality: Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the claims of the Class Members.
4 Plaintiffs and other Class Members sustained losses, injuries and damages arising out of
5 Defendants' conduct in manufacturing, producing, entering into the stream of commerce
6 and selling defective pet food products, Defendants' conduct surrounding the recall of the
7 defective pet food products, and Plaintiffs' and Class members' purchase and use of
8 Defendants' defective pet food products. Plaintiffs and Class members seek identical
9 remedies under identical legal theories, and there is no antagonism or material factual
10 variation between Plaintiffs' claims and those of Class members.

11 52. Adequacy: Plaintiffs are able to fairly and adequately protect the interests of
12 all members of the class. The attorneys for Plaintiffs and the potential class are qualified
13 and competent and very experienced in class action litigation.

14 53. A class action is superior to other available means for the fair and efficient
15 adjudication of this controversy. The sheer number of consumers composing the putative
16 class is so numerous as to make separate actions by each consumer impractical and unfair.
17 A class action represents the superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of the
18 controversy in question. Class action treatment will permit a large number of similarly
19 situated persons to prosecute their common claims in a single forum simultaneously,
20 efficiently and without the unnecessary duplication of effort and expense that numerous
21 individual actions engender. Also, because the losses, injuries and damages suffered by
22 each of the individual Class Members are small in the sense pertinent to class action
23 analysis, the expenses and burden of individual litigation against a foreign corporation
24 would make it extremely difficult or impossible for the individual Class Members to
25 redress the wrongs done to them. On the other hand, important public policy interests will
26 be served by addressing the matter as a class action. The burden and cost to the court
27 system and the public of adjudication of individual litigation and claims would be very
28 substantial, and substantially more than if the claims are treated as a class action.

1 Individual litigation of claims would also present the potential for inconsistent or
2 contradictory results.

3 54. Plaintiffs request this Court to certify this Class in accordance with
4 Fed.R.Civ.P. 23 and the Class Action Fairness Act of 2005.
5

6 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**
7 **STRICT PRODUCT LIABILITY-DEFECTIVE IN DESIGN**
8 **OR MANUFACTURE**

9 55. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference each and every paragraph of this
10 complaint as set forth in paragraphs 1 through 54.

11 56. Defendants are/were the manufacturers, sellers, distributors and/or suppliers
12 of pet food products, which were defective and unreasonably dangerous to the Plaintiffs'
13 pets.

14 57. Defendants' supplied, sold, distributed, supplied, manufactured, marketed,
15 and/or promoted pet food products, that were expected to reach and did reach consumers
16 without substantial change in the condition in which it was manufactured or sold by
17 Defendants.

18 58. Pet food products manufactured, supplied, and/or sold by Defendants and
19 were defective in design or formulation in that when it left the hands of the manufacturers
20 and/or sellers it was unreasonably dangerous in that its foreseeable risks exceeded the
21 benefits associated with the designs and/or formulations of the products.

22 59. Upon information and belief, Defendants actually knew of the defective
23 nature of Defendants' pet food products but continued to supply, manufacture, market, and
24 sell it so as to maximize sales and profits at the expense of the public health and safety, in
25 conscious disregard of the foreseeable harm caused by Defendants' pet food products.

26 60. At all times material to this action, pet food products were designed, tested,
27 inspected, manufactured, assembled, developed, labeled, sterilized, licensed, marketed,
28 advertised, promoted, sold, packaged, supplied and/or distributed by Defendants in a

1 defective and unreasonably dangerous condition in ways which include, but are not limited
2 to, one or more of the following:

- 3 a. When placed in the stream of commerce, the pet food products
- 4 contained unreasonably dangerous design defects and was not
- 5 reasonably safe and fit for its intended or reasonably foreseeable
- 6 purpose or as intended to be used, thereby subjecting the dogs and cats
- 7 owned by consumers, including Plaintiffs, to risks which exceeded the
- 8 benefits of the pet food products;
- 9 b. The pet food products and ingredients were insufficiently tested;
- 10 c. The pet food products caused serious illness, harmful side effects, and
- 11 possible death that outweighed any potential utility;
- 12 d. In light of the potential and actual risk of harm associated with
- 13 ingestion of the pet food products by dogs and cats, a reasonable
- 14 person would have concluded that the pet food products should not
- 15 have been marketed, distributed or sold in that condition; and
- 16 e. Pet food products supplied, manufactured, distributed, and/or sold by
- 17 Defendants were defective due to inadequate post-marketing warning
- 18 or instruction because, after Defendants knew or should have known
- 19 of the risk of injury caused by the contaminated pet food products,
- 20 Defendants failed to immediately provide adequate warnings to
- 21 Plaintiffs and the public.

22 61. At all times, Plaintiffs purchased pet food products supplied, manufactured,
23 marketed and/or sold by Defendants for their intended or reasonably foreseeable purpose,
24 to wit: for consumption by their pets.

25 62. As a direct, legal proximate and producing result of the defective and
26 unreasonably dangerous condition of pet food products supplied, manufactured, marketed
27 and/or sold by Defendants, Plaintiffs sustained damage, for which Plaintiffs are entitled to
28 recovery.

1 proximate result of negligence, gross negligence, willful and wanton misconduct, or other
2 wrongdoing and actions of Defendants described herein, Plaintiffs suffered damages.

3 70. Upon information and belief, Defendants knew of the defective nature of the
4 pet food products but continued to supply, manufacture, market, and sell it so as to
5 maximize sales and profits at the expense of animal health and safety, in knowing,
6 conscious and deliberate disregard of the foreseeable harm caused by pet food products
7 supplied, manufactured, marketed and/or sold by Defendants and in violation of their duty
8 to provide an accurate, adequate, and complete warning concerning the use of Defendants'
9 products.

10 71. Defendants failed to warn the public or Plaintiffs in a timely manner of the
11 dangerous propensities of pet food products supplied, manufactured, marketed and/or sold
12 by Defendants, which dangers were known or should have been known to Defendants, as
13 they were scientifically readily available.

14 72. Defendants knew and intended that pet food products supplied,
15 manufactured, marketed and/or sold by Defendants would be distributed through the
16 United States without any inspection for defects.

17 73. Defendants knew that veterinary clinics, pet food stores, food chains and
18 users such as Plaintiffs would rely upon the representations and warranties made by
19 Defendants on the product labels and other promotional and sales materials upon which the
20 Plaintiffs did so rely.

21 74. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' distribution and sale of
22 the contaminated products without adequate warnings regarding the health risks to animals,
23 the Plaintiffs suffered damage as previously alleged herein, including ascertainable
24 economic loss, including the purchase price of the pet food products, out-of-pocket costs of
25 veterinary medical tests and treatment for their pets, out-of-pocket costs for disposal/burial
26 fees, as well as the pecuniary value of their pets.

27 75. Defendants' conduct in the packaging, warning, marketing, advertising,
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1 promotion, distribution, and sale of pet food products was committed with knowing,
2 conscious, and deliberate disregard for the rights and safety of consumers such as
3 Plaintiffs' pets, thereby entitling Plaintiffs to punitive damages in an amount to be
4 determined at trial that is appropriate to punish Defendants and deter them from similar
5 conduct in the future.

6 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**
7 **SOUNDING IN FRAUD**

8 76. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference each and every paragraph of this
9 complaint as set forth in paragraphs 1 through 75.

10 77. At all material times, Defendants were engaged in the business of
11 manufacturing, marketing, distributing, promoting, and selling pet food products and/or
12 ingredients to be placed in pet food products.

13 78. Defendants made misrepresentations of material facts to, and omitted and/or
14 concealed material facts from, Plaintiffs and Class members in the advertising, marketing,
15 distribution and sale of pet food products regarding its safety and use.

16 79. Defendants deliberately and intentionally misrepresented to, and omitted
17 and/or concealed material facts from, consumers, including Plaintiffs, that Defendants' pet
18 food products were safe when ingested by dogs and cats. Such misrepresentations,
19 omissions, and concealments of facts include, but are not limited to:

- 20 a. Failing to disclose and/or intentionally concealing, the results of tests
- 21 showing the potential health risks to dogs and cats associated with the
- 22 use of Defendants' contaminated pet food products;
- 23 b. Failing to include adequate warnings with pet food products
- 24 manufactured, distributed and/or sold by Defendants about the
- 25 potential and actual risks and the nature, scope, severity, and duration
- 26 of serious adverse effects of pet food products supplied, manufactured,
- 27 marketed and/or sold by Defendants;
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- c. Concealing information regarding the known health risks to dogs and cats associated with pet food products supplied, manufactured, distributed and/or sold by Defendants; and
- d. Concealing the known incidents of illness and death of dogs and cats, as previously alleged herein.

80. Defendants intentionally concealed facts known to them, as alleged herein, in order to ensure increased sales of pet food products supplied, manufactured, marketed and/or sold by Defendants.

81. Defendants had a duty to disclose the foregoing risks and failed to do so, despite possession of information concerning those risks. Defendants' representations that pet food products manufactured, distributed and/or sold by Defendants were safe for their intended purpose were false, as Defendants' pet food products were, in fact, dangerous to the health of and ultimately fatal to Plaintiffs' pets.

82. Defendants knew of that their statements were false, knew of incidents of serious illness and death of dogs and cats, and knew that their omissions rendered their statements false or misleading.

83. Defendants failed to exercise reasonable care in ascertaining the accuracy of information regarding the safe use of pet food products manufactured, distributed and/or sold by Defendants, and failed to disclose that the pet food products caused possible death in dogs and cats, among other serious adverse effects. Defendants also failed to exercise reasonable care in communicating the information concerning pet food products supplied, manufactured, marketed and/or sold by Defendants to Plaintiffs, and/or concealed facts that were known to Defendants.

84. Plaintiffs were not aware of the falsity of the foregoing representations, nor were Plaintiffs aware that one or more material facts concerning the safety of pet food products and/or ingredients contained therein, manufactured, distributed and/or sold by Defendants had been concealed or omitted.

1 sold by Defendants were intended and impliedly warranted the pet food products to be of
2 merchantable quality and safe and fit for such use.

3 93. Plaintiffs reasonably relied on the skill, superior knowledge, and judgment of
4 Defendants as to whether the pet food products were of merchantable quality and safe and
5 fit for its intended use.

6 94. Contrary to such implied warranty, pet food products supplied,
7 manufactured, marketed, distributed and sold by Defendants' were not of merchantable
8 quality and were not safe for its intended use.

9 95. Due to Defendants' wrongful conduct as alleged herein, Plaintiffs could not
10 have known about the risks and side effects associated with pet food products supplied,
11 manufactured, marketed, distributed and sold by Defendants until after ingestion by their
12 pets.

13 96. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' breach of implied warranty,
14 Plaintiffs suffered damages.

15 97. Defendants' aforementioned conduct was committed with knowing,
16 conscious and deliberate disregard for the rights and safety of consumers such as Plaintiffs,
17 thereby entitling Plaintiffs to punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial that
18 is appropriate to punish Defendants and deter them from similar conduct in the future.

19 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

20 **BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY**

21 98. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference each and every paragraph of this
22 complaint as set forth in paragraphs 1 through 97.

23 99. Defendants expressly warranted that the pet food products supplied,
24 manufactured, marketed, distributed and sold by Defendants were safe for consumption by
25 pets.

26 100. The pet food products, and/or ingredients contained therein, supplied,
27 manufactured, marketed, distributed and sold by Defendants did not conform to these
28 express representations because the products are not safe and cause serious side effects in

1 pets, including death.

2 101. As a direct and proximate result of the breach of said warranties, and as the
3 direct and proximate result of the defective condition of the pet food products
4 manufactured, marketed, distributed and sold by Defendants, and other wrongdoing of
5 Defendants described herein, Plaintiffs were caused to suffer damages.

6 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

7 **NEGLIGENCE**

8 102. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference each and every paragraph of this
9 complaint as set forth in paragraphs 1 through 101.

10 103. Defendants owed a duty to consumers, including Plaintiffs, to use reasonable
11 care in designing, testing, labeling, manufacturing, marketing, supplying, distributing and
12 selling pet food products supplied, manufactured, marketed and/or sold by Defendants,
13 including a duty to ensure that the products did not cause the dogs and cats ingesting the
14 pet food to suffer from unreasonable, unknown and/or dangerous side effects.

15 104. Defendants failed to exercise reasonable care in warning about designing,
16 testing, labeling, manufacturing, marketing, selling, and/or distributing of pet food products
17 and breached their duties to Plaintiffs in that, without limitation, they did not warn of the
18 known risks associated with the ingestion of pet food products supplied, manufactured,
19 marketed and/or sold by Defendants and did not exercise an acceptable standard of care.

20 105. Pet food products supplied, manufactured, marketed and/or sold by
21 Defendants lacked sufficient warnings of the hazards and dangers to users of the products
22 and failed to provide safeguards to prevent the injuries sustained by Plaintiffs' pets.
23 Defendants failed to properly test their pet food products, and/or ingredients contained
24 therein, prior to their sale, and as a result subjected users to an unreasonable risk of injury
25 when these products were used as directed and as recommended.

26 106. Defendants breached their duty and were negligent in their actions,
27 misrepresentations, and omissions toward Plaintiffs as follows:
28

- 1 a. Failed to exercise due care in designing, developing and
- 2 manufacturing pet food products so as to avoid contaminants being
- 3 present in the pet food;
- 4 b. Failed to include adequate warnings that would alert Plaintiffs and
- 5 other consumers to its potential risks and serious side effects;
- 6 c. Failed to conduct sufficient testing on their pet food products and/or
- 7 ingredients contained therein, which if properly performed, would
- 8 have revealed to Defendants the serious side effects, including but not
- 9 limited to, death of the animals consuming their products;
- 10 d. Failed to adequately warn Plaintiffs that pet food products
- 11 manufactured, marketed, distributed and/or sold by Defendants carried
- 12 a risk of serious side effects;
- 13 e. Failed to provide adequate post-marketing warnings or instructions
- 14 after Defendants knew, or should have known, of the significant risks
- 15 of ingestion by dogs and cats of the pet food products;
- 16 f. Placed an unsafe produce into the stream of commerce, and
- 17 g. Was otherwise careless or negligent.

18 107. Defendants knew, or should have known, that pet food products and/or
19 ingredients contained therein, manufactured, marketed, distributed and sold by Defendants
20 caused unreasonably dangerous risks and serious side effects of which Plaintiffs would not
21 be aware. Defendants nevertheless advertised, marketed, sold and/or distributed pet food
22 products knowing of the unreasonable risks of injury.

23 108. Defendants knew or should have known that Plaintiffs' and consumers' dogs
24 and cats would suffer injury and possible death as a result of Defendants' failure to
25 exercise reasonable care as described above.

26 109. Upon information and belief, Defendants knew or should have known of the
27 defective nature of Defendants' product, as set forth herein, but continued to design,
28 manufacture, market and sell their pet food products so as to maximize sales and profits at

1 the expense of the health and safety of the public, including Plaintiffs, in conscious and/or
2 negligent disregard of the foreseeable harm caused by Defendants' pet food products.

3 110. Defendants failed to disclose to the Plaintiffs and the general public facts
4 known or available to them, as alleged herein, in order to ensure continued and increased
5 sales of pet food products supplied, manufactured, marketed and/or sold by Defendants.
6 This failure to disclose deprived Plaintiffs of the information necessary for them to weigh
7 the true risks of purchasing pet food products against the benefits.

8 111. As a direct and proximate result of Plaintiffs' feeding their pets pet food
9 products supplied, manufactured, marketed and/or sold by Defendants, Plaintiffs' pets
10 suffered serious illness and died.

11 112. By virtue of Defendants' negligence, Defendants directly, foreseeably and
12 proximately caused Plaintiffs pets to suffer serious health problems, permanent damage to
13 their health and death or possible death. As a result, the imposition of punitive damages
14 against Defendants is warranted.

15 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

16 **UNJUST ENRICHMENT**

17 113. Plaintiffs hereby incorporate by reference each and every paragraph of this
18 complaint as set forth in paragraphs 1 through 112.

19 114. As a direct, proximate and foreseeable result of Defendants' acts and
20 otherwise wrongful conduct, Plaintiffs suffered damages. Defendants profited and
21 benefited from the manufacture, distribution and sale of pet food products, even as the
22 products caused Plaintiffs to incur damages.

23 115. Defendants have voluntarily accepted and retained these profits and benefits,
24 derived from consumers, including Plaintiffs, with full knowledge and awareness that, as a
25 result of Defendants' unconscionable wrongdoing, consumers, including Plaintiffs, were
26 not receiving products of the quality, nature, fitness or value that had been represented by
27 Defendants or that reasonable consumers expected. Plaintiffs purchased pet foods they
28 expected would be safe and healthy for their pets and instead now have to endure the death
of their beloved pets.

1 116. By virtue of the conscious wrongdoing alleged in this Complaint, Defendants
 2 have been unjustly enriched at the expense of Plaintiffs who are entitled to, and hereby
 3 seek, the disgorgement and restitution of Defendants' wrongful profits, revenue, and
 4 benefits, to the extent and in the amount, deemed appropriate by the Court, and such other
 5 relief as the Court deems just and proper to remedy Defendants' unjust enrichment.

PRAYER

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

- 8 1. For an order certifying the Class under the appropriate provisions of
- 9 Fed.R.Civ.P. 23, as well as any appropriate subclasses, and appointing
- 10 plaintiffs and their legal counsel to represent the Class;
- 11 2. Awarding actual and consequential damages;
- 12 3. Injunctive relief to prevent further contamination of United States pet food
- 13 supply and further injuries and/or death to dogs and cats.
- 14 4. Punitive damages;
- 15 5. For pre- and post-judgment interest as allowed by law;
- 16 6. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs;

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

- 18 7. For an order certifying the Class under the appropriate provisions of
- 19 Fed.R.Civ.P. 23, as well as any appropriate subclasses, and appointing
- 20 plaintiffs and their legal counsel to represent the Class;
- 21 8. Awarding actual and consequential damages;
- 22 9. Injunctive relief to prevent further contamination of United States pet food
- 23 supply and further injuries and/or death to dogs and cats.
- 24 10. Punitive damages;
- 25 11. For pre- and post-judgment interest as allowed by law;
- 26 12. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

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THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

- 13. For an order certifying the Class under the appropriate provisions of Fed.R.Civ.P. 23, as well as any appropriate subclasses, and appointing plaintiffs and their legal counsel to represent the Class;
- 14. Awarding actual and consequential damages;
- 15. Punitive damages;
- 16. For pre- and post-judgment interest as allowed by law;
- 17. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

- 18. For an order certifying the Class under the appropriate provisions of Fed.R.Civ.P. 23, as well as any appropriate subclasses, and appointing plaintiffs and their legal counsel to represent the Class;
- 19. Awarding actual and consequential damages;
- 20. For pre- and post-judgment interest as allowed by law;
- 21. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

- 22. For an order certifying the Class under the appropriate provisions of Fed.R.Civ.P. 23, as well as any appropriate subclasses, and appointing plaintiffs and their legal counsel to represent the Class;
- 23. Awarding actual and consequential damages;
- 24. Injunctive relief to prevent further contamination of United States pet food supply and further injuries and/or death to dogs and cats.
- 25. Punitive damages;
- 26. For pre- and post-judgment interest as allowed by law;
- 27. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

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SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION

- 28. For an order certifying the Class under the appropriate provisions of Fed.R.Civ.P. 23, as well as any appropriate subclasses, and appointing plaintiffs and their legal counsel to represent the Class;
- 29. Awarding actual and consequential damages;
- 30. Injunctive relief to prevent further contamination of United States pet food supply and further injuries and/or death to dogs and cats.
- 31. Punitive damages;
- 32. For pre- and post-judgment interest as allowed by law;
- 33. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION


- 34. For an order certifying the Class under the appropriate provisions of Fed.R.Civ.P. 23, as well as any appropriate subclasses, and appointing plaintiffs and their legal counsel to represent the Class;
- 35. Awarding reimbursement, restitution and disgorgement from Defendants' benefits conferred;
- 36. For pre- and post-judgment interest as allowed by law;
- 37. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

ALL CAUSES OF ACTION

- 38. Injunctive relief to prevent further contamination of United States pet food supply and further injuries and/or death to dogs and cats.
- 39. For reasonable attorneys' fees and costs;
- 40. For pre- and post-judgment interest as allowed by law; and
- 41. For all other relief the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: April 17, 2007

CLASS ACTION LITIGATION GROUP

By: 
 KATHERINE J. ODENBREIT, Attorneys
 For Plaintiffs

JS44

(Rev. 07/89)

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE SECOND PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

FILED

07 APR 23 PM 2:10

(a) PLAINTIFFS HAVILEY FORD, and SHANNON J. KRAMER, individually, for class members, and on behalf of other members similarly situated (b) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF FIRST LISTED PLAINTIFF Travis, Texas (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

DEFENDANTS MENU FOODS INCOME FUND; MENU FOODS CORPORATION; MENU FOODS SOUTH DAKOTA, INC.; MENU FOODS, INC.; MENU FOODS HOLDINGS, INC.; DEL MONTE FOODS COMPANY; NESTLE PURINA PETCARE COMPANY; HILLS NUTRITION; NUTRO PRODUCTS, INC.; WAL-MART STORES; PETCO ANIMAL SUPPLIES, INC.; PETCO SOUTHWEST, INC.; PETCO ANIMAL SUPPLIES STORES, INC.; THE NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED TAMM COMPANY; FRY'S FOOD CENTERS; SMITH'S FOOD

(c) ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER) Rene L. Barge, State Bar No. 182317 Kathereine J. Odenbreit, State Bar No. 184619 CLASS ACTION LITIGATION GROUP 11111 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 1000 Tel. 310-481-9851 Los Angeles, CA 90025

ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN) AND DRUG CENTERS, INC.; KROGER CO.; CHEMNUTRA, INC. and PETSMART

'07 CV 0734 BTM (RBB)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (PLACE AN X IN ONE BOX ONLY)

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party) 2 U.S. Government Defendant Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (PLACE AN X IN ONE BOX FOR PLAINTIFF AND ONE BOX FOR DEFENDANT (For Diversity Cases Only))

- Citizen of This State Incorporated or Principal Place of Business in This State Citizen of Another State Incorporated and Principal Place of Business in Another State Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country Foreign Nation

IV. CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE US CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE. DO NOT CITE JURISDICTIONAL STATUTES UNLESS DIVERSITY) 28 USCA Sec 671

FRCO Rule 23--Class Action, Strict Product Liability, Sounding in Tort

V. NATURE OF SUIT (PLACE AN X IN ONE BOX ONLY)

Table with columns: CONTRACT, REAL PROPERTY, TORTS, CIVIL RIGHTS, PRISONER PETITIONS, FORFEITURE/PENALTY, LABOR, BANKRUPTCY, FEDERAL TAX SUITS, OTHER STATUTES. Includes checkboxes for various legal categories like Personal Injury, Property Rights, Social Security, etc.

VI. ORIGIN (PLACE AN X IN ONE BOX ONLY)

- 1 Original Proceeding 2 Removal from State Court 3 Remanded from Appellate Court 4 Reinstated or Reopened 5 Transferred from another district (specify) 6 Multidistrict Litigation 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See Instructions): JUDGE

DATE 4/17/07

DEMAND \$

Check YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: YES NO

Docket Number

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

Matthew Odenbreit

137451 \$350 su 4/23/07

UNITED STATES
DISTRICT COURT
Southern District of California
San Diego Division

137451 - A2
April 23, 2007

Code	Case #	Qty	Amount
CV086900	3-07-CV-8734		50.00 CH
Judge	- ROSKOWITZ		
CV086400			100.00 CH
CV510000			190.00 CH

Total -> 350.00

FROM CIVIL FILING
HAYLEY FORD ET AL V. NENU
FOODS INCOME FUND ET AL
BCL000366 SH