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8 Counsel for Plaintiff, Athena Hohenberg;
 9 and the Proposed Class

10
 11 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
 12 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

13 ATHENA HOHENBERG, individually and on
 14 behalf of all others similarly situated,

15 Plaintiffs,

16 v.

17 FERRERO U.S.A, INC., a foreign corporation,

18 Defendant.

CASE NO. 11-cv-00205 H CAB
 CLASS ACTION

**DECLARATION OF RONALD A. MARRON
 IN SUPPORT OF MOTION BY PLAINTIFF
 ATHENA HOHENBERG AND RELATED
 CASE PLAINTIFF LAURA RUDE-
 BARBATO TO:
 (1) CONSOLIDATE CASES, AND
 (2) APPOINT INTERIM LEAD CO-
 CLASS COUNSEL**

Date: March 28, 2011
Time: 10:30 a.m.
Location: Courtroom 13
Judge: Hon. Marilyn L. Huff

[Filed concurrently with:
 • **Notice of Motion and Motion;**
 • **Memorandum of Points and Authorities;**
 • **Declaration of Gregory S. Weston;**
 • **Declaration of John J. Fitzgerald; and**
 • **Certificate of Service]**

1 LAURA RUDE-BARBATO, on behalf of herself
2 and all others similarly situated,

Case No. 11-cv-00249-DMS-BLM
Class Action

3 Plaintiff,

Hon. Dana M. Sabraw

4 v.

5 FERRERO U.S.A, INC.,

6 Defendant.
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10 I, Ronald A. Marron, declare:

11 1. I am attorney of record for Plaintiff Athena Hohenberg in this action. I submit
12 this declaration in support of the motion by Plaintiff Athena Hohenberg, and Related Case
13 Plaintiff Laura Rude-Barbato to Consolidate Cases and Appoint Interim Lead Co-Class Counsel.
14 I am licensed to practice law before this Court and all California state courts. If called as a
15 witness, I would competently testify to the matters herein from personal knowledge.

16 2. I have spoken with counsel in the Laura Rude-Barbato case and we have agreed
17 that the instant case and *Laura Rude Barbato v. Ferrero* case are substantially similar and should
18 be consolidated. In addition, if the Court agrees that the subject actions are to be consolidated,
19 the Weston firm and my firm have agreed to work together on the joint prosecution of this case.

20 3. My work experience and education began in 1984 when I enlisted in the United
21 States Marine Corps (1984-1990), soon thereafter, I received my Bachelor of Science in Finance
22 from the University of Southern California (1991). I interned at the California Department of
23 Corporations with emphasis in consumer fraud investigations while attending Southwestern
24 University School of Law (1992-1994). I was admitted to the State Bar of California in 1995
25 and have been a member in good standing since that time. In 1998, I started my own law firm
26 with an emphasis in consumer fraud. My firm is now known as the Law Offices of Ronald A.
27 Marron, A Professional Law Corporation.
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1 4. Over the years I have acquired extensive experience in class actions and other
2 complex litigation and have obtained large settlements as lead counsel. I was appointed class
3 counsel in *Peterman v. Midland National Life Insurance*, No. BC357194, (L.A. Co. Sup. Ct.),
4 which was litigated for over 4 years and achieved a settlement of approximately \$60 million for
5 consumers. I also served as class counsel in *Clark v. National Western Life Insurance Company*,
6 No. BC321681 (L.A. Co. Sup. Ct.), a class action that, after litigating the case for well over 6
7 years, resulted in a settlement of approximately \$25 million for consumers. In *Iorio v. Asset*
8 *Marketing*, No. 05cv00633 (S.D. Cal.), I was appointed class counsel following class
9 certification. In *Iorio*, a settlement was reached following nearly 6 years of intensive litigation
10 and has received preliminary approval and the final approval hearing is currently set for March
11 3, 2011 before the Honorable Judge Sammartino. My firm was recently appointed Class Counsel
12 and obtained class certification in the matter of *Tabares v. Equitrust Life Insurance Company*,
13 No. BC390195 (L.A. Co. Sup. Ct.).

14 5. I am currently counsel in a number of additional putative class actions and
15 complex cases, including *Yrene v. The Quaker Oats Company*, Case No. 5:10-CV-05398-PVT
16 (USDC, S.D. Cal.), *Bruno v. Eckhart Corporation, et al.*, Case No. 8:11-CV-00173-DOC-E
17 (USDC, Santa Ana, CA), *Pinson v. Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada*, Case No. 37-2010-
18 00100478 (S.D. Co. Sup. Ct.), *Salvatierra v. Sprint Solutions*, Case No. 10-cv-2044 (USDC,
19 S.D. Cal.), *Martinez v. Toll Brothers, et al.*, Case No. 09-cv-00937-CDJ (USDC, E.D. Penn.),
20 and *In re Arena Pharma.*, No. 10-cv-2079 (USDC, S.D. Cal.).

21 6. Besides these cases, I have also represented plaintiffs victimized in other complex
22 cases such as Ponzi schemes, shareholder derivative suits, and securities fraud cases. I have
23 litigated hundreds of lawsuits and arbitrations against investment advisors and stockbrokers, such
24 as Morgan Stanley, LPL Financial, Merrill Lynch, Banc of America Securities, and Citigroup,
25 who placed clients into unsuitable investments, failed to diversify, and who violated the
26 Securities Acts of 1933 and/or 1934.

27 7. On February 24, 2011, the Court in this action granted the joint motion filed by
28 the parties in this action extending the time in which defendant Ferrero, U.S.A., Inc. may

1 respond to the complaint. Defendant's response is now due on March 28, 2011 – on the same
2 day of the hearing as the present motion.

3 8. As part of the parties' joint motion, Defendant stipulated that it did not oppose the
4 filing of the instant motion to consolidate the above-referenced actions, including the instant case
5 and the Rude-Barbato action.

6 9. My firm is fully committed to prosecuting these actions against Ferrero to achieve
7 a successful outcome for the proposed Classes.

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9 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

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Executed on February 28, 2011, in San Diego, California.

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/s/ Ronald A. Marron
Ronald A. Marron

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