

**SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CIVIL DIVISION**

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| <p>BEYOND PESTICIDES,<br/>701 E Street SE, Suite 200,<br/>Washington, D.C. 20003,</p> <p style="text-align:right">Plaintiff,</p> <p style="text-align:center">v.</p> <p>SARGENTO FOODS INC.,<br/>One Persnickety Place, Plymouth, WI 53073,</p> <p style="text-align:right">Defendant.</p> | <p>Case No. _____</p> <p><b><u>COMPLAINT</u></b></p> <p><b><u>DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL</u></b></p> |
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**COMPLAINT**

Plaintiff Beyond Pesticides (“Beyond Pesticides”) brings this action against Defendant Sargento Foods Inc. (“Sargento”) regarding the deceptive marketing and sale of Sargento’s cheese products (the “Products”) with the claim “No Antibiotics” when the Products are made with milk from cows raised with antibiotics and when the Products sometimes contain antibiotics. Beyond Pesticides alleges the following based upon personal knowledge, information, and belief. This Complaint is on behalf of the general public of the District of Columbia, in the interests of consumers.

**INTRODUCTION**

1. This is a consumer protection case concerning the deceptive marketing of dairy cheese products. The case is brought by Beyond Pesticides, a nonprofit, public interest organization dedicated to consumer protection. Beyond Pesticides seeks no monetary damages, only an end to the deceptive marketing and advertising at issue.

2. Consumers are increasingly interested in and aware of how their food is produced due to concerns about public health, the environment, and animal welfare. In particular, consumers are growing more concerned about the excessive use of antibiotics in industrial animal agriculture and how this contributes to the growing threat of antibiotic resistance.

3. According to the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization, antibiotic resistance—the ability of germs to defeat the drugs designed to kill them—is one of the greatest and most urgent public health risks of our time.<sup>1</sup> More than 2.8 million antibiotic-resistant infections occur in the United States each year, and more than 35,000 people die as a result.<sup>2</sup> The problem of antibiotic resistance has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic due to the widespread use of antibiotics in patients diagnosed with COVID-19.<sup>3</sup>

4. Antibiotics are used extensively in factory-style dairy production because the treatment and conditions to which cows are subjected impair their health and cause infections. The majority of dairy cows in the United States are confined indoors and not allowed to graze on pasture.<sup>4</sup> Teat trauma caused by milking machines, genetic selection for high milk yields, and unsanitary conditions make cows susceptible to clinical mastitis from pathogenic bacteria, which is the most commonly reported health problem in the dairy industry.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States, 2019*, Centers for Disease Control (Dec. 2019) at 3, <https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/pdf/threats-report/2019-ar-threats-report-508.pdf>; *In the face of slow progress, WHO offers a new tool and sets a target to accelerate action against antimicrobial resistance*, World Health Organization (June 18, 2019), <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/18-06-2019-in-the-face-of-slow-progress-who-offers-a-new-tool-and-sets-a-target-to-accelerate-action-against-antimicrobial-resistance>.

<sup>2</sup> *Antibiotic Resistance Threats in the United States, 2019*, Centers for Disease Control (Dec. 2019) at vii, <https://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/pdf/threats-report/2019-ar-threats-report-508.pdf>.

<sup>3</sup> The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in increased antibiotic use because COVID-19 patients are often prescribed antibiotics to prevent secondary bacterial infections, and many COVID-19 patients receive antibiotics even when not clinically indicated. Steffanie A. Strathdee et al., *Confronting antimicrobial resistance beyond the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2020 US election*, *The Lancet* (Sept. 29, 2020), [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(20\)32063-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(20)32063-8/fulltext).

<sup>4</sup> *An HSUS Report: The Welfare of Cows in the Dairy Industry*, The Humane Society of the United States at 3, <https://www.humanesociety.org/sites/default/files/docs/hsus-report-animal-welfare-cow-dairy-industry.pdf> (last visited Jan. 5, 2021).

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 5.

5. The use of antibiotics in livestock production causes residues of antibiotics and antibiotic-resistant bacteria to emerge on agricultural lands, move through the environment, contaminate waterways, and reach consumers in food.<sup>6</sup>

6. Antibiotics do not have to end up in food to pose a public health risk. Current science shows that a major cause of the development and spread of antibiotic resistance in human pathogens is environmental contamination from agricultural use.<sup>7</sup> As antibiotic residues move through the environment, they promote the transfer of antibiotic resistance genes between different species of bacteria. Through horizontal gene transfer, a pool of antibiotic-resistant soil bacteria, for example, can provide the genetic material for human pathogens to develop antibiotic resistance.<sup>8</sup>

7. Sargento is one of the United States' largest producers of dairy cheese products, which it sells under the Sargento name brand.<sup>9</sup>

8. Sargento knows that consumers seek out and wish to buy cheese products made by cows raised without antibiotics. To capture this growing market of consumers, Sargento labels the front or back of the retail packaging of the Products<sup>10</sup> with the label "No Antibiotics." Sargento makes the same representation throughout its website.

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<sup>6</sup> Terry Shistar & Carla Curle, *Agricultural Uses of Antibiotics Escalate Bacterial Resistance*, Beyond Pesticides (Winter 2016-17), <https://www.beyondpesticides.org/assets/media/documents/journal/bp-36.4-w17-Antibiotics-Cited2.pdf>.

<sup>7</sup> Terry Shistar, *A Is for Apples, Alar, and Antibiotics*, Beyond Pesticides, <https://www.beyondpesticides.org/assets/media/documents/infoservices/pesticidesandyou/documents/AisforApplesCited.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> Thomas F. O'Brien, *Emergence, Spread, and Environmental Effect of Antimicrobial Resistance: How Use of an Antimicrobial Anywhere Can Increase Resistance to Any Antimicrobial Anywhere Else*, *Clinical Infectious Diseases* S78-84 (June 2002), <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/11988877/>; J. Jutkina et al., *Antibiotics and Common Antibacterial Biocides Stimulate Horizontal Transfer of Resistance at Low Concentrations*, 616-617 *Sci. of the Total Env.* 172 (2018), <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29112840/>.

<sup>9</sup> *About Us*, Sargento, <https://www.sargento.com/our-company/about-us> (last visited Jan. 5, 2021).

<sup>10</sup> The Sargento products at issue in this Complaint include: Monterey Jack Natural Cheese, Natural Double Cheddar Cheese, Natural White Cheddar Cheese, Colby Natural Cheese, Colby-Jack Natural Cheese, Medium Cheddar Cheese, Medium Natural Cheddar Cheese, Havarti Natural Cheese, Pepper Jack Natural Cheese, Swiss Natural Cheese, Baby Swiss Natural Cheese, Aged Swiss Natural Cheese, Asadero Natural cheese, Sharp White Cheddar Cheese, Mild Yellow Natural Cheddar Cheese, Sharp Natural Cheddar Cheese, Extra Sharp Natural Cheddar

9. Sargento's representations mislead D.C. consumers to believe that the Products are not made with milk from cows raised with antibiotics and that the Products never contain antibiotics. In reality, the Products are made with milk from cows raised with antibiotics, and the Products sometimes contain antibiotics. Thus, Sargento's marketing of the Products is false and misleading to D.C. consumers.

### **STATUTORY FRAMEWORK**

10. This action is brought under the District of Columbia Consumer Protection Procedures Act ("CPPA"), D.C. Code § 28-3901, *et seq.*

11. The CPPA makes it a violation for "any person" to, *inter alia*:

Represent that goods or services have a source, sponsorship, approval, certification, accessories, characteristics, ingredients, uses, benefits, or quantities that they do not have;

Represent that goods or services are of a particular standard, quality, grade, style, or model, if in fact they are of another;

Misrepresent as to a material fact which has a tendency to mislead;

Fail to state a material fact if such failure tends to mislead;

Use innuendo or ambiguity as to a material fact, which has a tendency to mislead;  
or

Advertise or offer goods or services without the intent to sell them or without the intent to sell them as advertised or offered.

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Cheese, 4 State Natural Cheddar Cheese, Natural Double Cheddar Cheese, Taco Natural Cheese, Nacho & Taco Natural Cheese, Authentic Mexican Natural Cheese, Provolone with Natural Smoke Flavor Natural Cheese, 4 Cheese Pizzeria Natura Cheese, 4 Cheese Mexican Natural Cheese, Cheddar Jack Natural Cheese, Mozzarella Natural Cheese, Parmesan Natural Cheese, 4 Cheese Italian Natural Cheese, 18-Month Aged Natural Cheddar Cheese, Aged Italian Blend Natural Cheese, 14-Month Aged Parmesan Natural Cheese, Tomato & Basil Jack Cheese, Smokehouse Cheddar Natural Cheese, Garlic & Herb Jack Cheese, Reduced Fat Pepper Jack Natural Cheese, Reduced Fat Medium Natural Cheddar Cheese, Reduced Fat Colby Jack Natural Cheese, Fresh Asiago Natural Cheese, Gouda Natural Cheese, Muenster Natural Cheese, Sharp, Sharp Non-Smoked Provolone Natural Cheese, Cheddar-Mozzarella Natural Cheese, Aged Gouda Natural Cheese, Sharp White Natural Cheese, Aged White Natural Cheddar Cheese, Part-Skim Mozzarella Natural Cheese, Colby-Pepper Jack Natural Cheese, and Ricotta Natural Cheese. Discovery may reveal that additional Sargento products should be included within the scope of the allegations in this Complaint, and Beyond Pesticides reserves the right to add such products.

D.C. Code § 28-3904(a), (d), (e), (f), (f-1), (h).

12. A violation of the CPPA may occur regardless of “whether or not any consumer is in fact misled, deceived or damaged thereby.” *Id.*

13. The CPPA “establishes an enforceable right to truthful information from merchants about consumer goods and services that are or would be purchased, leased, or received in the District of Columbia.” *Id.* § 28-3901(c). The statute “shall be construed and applied liberally to promote its purpose.” *Id.*

14. Because Beyond Pesticides is a public interest organization, it may act on behalf of the general public and bring any action that an individual consumer would be entitled to bring:

[A] public interest organization may, on behalf of the interests of a consumer or a class of consumers, bring an action seeking relief from the use by any person of a trade practice in violation of a law of the District if the consumer or class could bring an action under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph for relief from such use by such person of such trade practice.

*Id.* § 28-3905(k)(1)(D)(i). Subparagraph (A) provides: “A consumer may bring an action seeking relief from the use of a trade practice in violation of a law of the District.”

15. A public interest organization may act on behalf of the interests of consumers, *i.e.*, the general public of the District of Columbia, so long as the organization has “sufficient nexus to the interests involved of the consumer or class to adequately represent those interests.” *Id.* § 28-3905(k)(1)(D)(ii). As set forth in this Complaint, *see infra* ¶¶ 40-43, Beyond Pesticides is an organization dedicated to consumer advocacy, and Beyond Pesticides has previously represented D.C. consumers in similar actions under the CPPA. Beyond Pesticides thus has a sufficient nexus to D.C. consumers to adequately represent their interests.

16. This is not a class action, or an action brought on behalf of any specific consumer, but an action brought by Beyond Pesticides on behalf of the general public, *i.e.*, D.C. consumers generally. No class certification will be requested.

17. This action does not seek damages. Instead, Beyond Pesticides seeks to end the unlawful conduct directed at D.C. consumers, *i.e.*, Sargento’s false and deceptive labeling and marketing of its Products. Remedies available under the CPPA include “[a]n injunction against the use of the unlawful trade practice.” *Id.* § 28-3905(k)(2)(D), (F). Beyond Pesticides also seeks declaratory relief in the form of an order holding Sargento’s conduct to be unlawful.

### **FACT ALLEGATIONS**

**I. Sargento’s “No Antibiotics” Representations Suggest to Consumers That the Products Are Not Made with Milk from Cows Raised with Antibiotics and That the Products Never Contain Antibiotics.**

18. Sargento labels the Products “No Antibiotics.” This label appears prominently on the front or back of the packaging.

19. In an apparent effort to qualify the “No Antibiotics” label, the Products’ packaging also includes the fine print statement: “Our cheese is made from milk that does not contain antibiotics.” An example of the Product packaging is shown below.

TEAR HERE >>>

Keep Cheese Fresh with **FreshLock**  
Double Zipper

<<< TEAR HERE

OUR FAMILY'S PASSION IS CHEESE™

# SARGENTO®

Natural Cheese

## Sharp Cheddar

Sliced Natural Cheddar Cheese

- No Added Growth Hormones\*
- No Artificial Flavors
- No Antibiotics\*\*

**11** Slices

NET WT. 8 OZ (226 g)

\*No significant difference has been shown between milk derived from rBST-treated and non-rBST-treated cows  
\*\*Our cheese is made from milk that does not contain antibiotics

20. Sargento makes the same “No Antibiotics” representations in numerous pages on its website, [www.sargento.com](http://www.sargento.com).<sup>11</sup> An example is provided below.



\*Our cheese is made from milk that does not contain antibiotics

21. Sargento’s “No Antibiotics” representations suggest to D.C. consumers that the Products are not made with milk from cows raised with antibiotics and that the Products never contain antibiotics.

22. A 2018 nationally representative consumer survey conducted by Consumer Reports Survey Group found that 67% of consumers believe the claim “no antibiotics” means that no antibiotics were administered to the animals under any circumstances.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> E.g., *Shredded Cheese*, Sargento, <https://www.sargento.com/shredded-cheese> (last visited Jan. 5, 2021); *Two complementary flavors of real, natural cheese*, Sargento, <https://www.sargento.com/real-life/snack-bites> (last visited Jan. 5, 2021); *Sargento Sliced Reduced Fat Medium Natural Cheddar Cheese*, Sargento, <https://www.sargento.com/our-cheese/sliced-cheese/reduced-fat-sliced-cheese/sargento-sliced-reduced-fat-medium-natural-cheddar-cheese> (last visited Jan. 5, 2021) (image from this webpage).

<sup>12</sup> *Natural and Antibiotics Label Survey: 2018 Nationally Representative Phone Survey*, Consumer Reports Survey Group (May 1, 2018), at 8, <https://advocacy.consumerreports.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/2018-Natural-and-Antibiotics-Labels-Survey-Public-Report-1.pdf>.

23. This understanding is consistent with the United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service’s policy for use of the similar claim “antibiotics free” on food labels. Such a claim is permitted only with evidence that the source animals have not been administered antibiotics.<sup>13</sup>

24. Sargento’s packaging and advertising fail to inform consumers that the Products are made with milk from cows who are raised with antibiotics.

25. This is a material omission, given that Sargento’s prominent labels and website representations suggest that Sargento’s Products are made without the use of antibiotics.

26. Thus, Sargento’s “No Antibiotics” representations mislead D.C. consumers to believe that the Products are produced without the use of antibiotics and that the Products never contain antibiotics. At a minimum, these representations tend to mislead D.C. consumers as to a fact that is material to them.

## **II. Sargento Sources Its Milk from Farms That Use Antibiotics, and the Products Sometimes Contain Antibiotics.**

27. Sargento sources the milk in its Products from dairy farms that use antibiotics. Contrary to Sargento’s “No Antibiotics” representations, Sargento does not attempt to ensure that the milk used in the Products comes only from cows who were not given antibiotics.

28. In addition, at least some of the Products, in their final form as sold to consumers, still contain detectable levels of antibiotics, which are then ingested by consumers.

29. Independent laboratory testing conducted in July 2020 has confirmed that Sargento’s Products contain milk from cows who are administered antibiotics. In testing

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<sup>13</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service, *Labeling Guideline on Documentation Needed to Substantiate Animal Raising Claims for Label Submissions* (Dec. 2019).

Sargento's Mild Cheddar sliced cheese product, which is marketed with the claim "No Antibiotics," the laboratory found detectable levels (0.985 ppb) of the antibiotic sulfamethazine.

30. Accordingly, Sargento's "No Antibiotics" representations are false and/or tend to mislead D.C. consumers as to a material fact, *i.e.*, that the Products are made with the use of antibiotics and sometimes contain antibiotics.

31. Sargento's fine print disclaimer, "Our cheese is made from milk that does not contain antibiotics," is also false, as evidenced by the fact that the Products sometimes contain antibiotics.

### **III. Sargento's Representations Are Material to D.C. Consumers.**

32. Sargento's false and misleading representations are material to D.C. consumers.

33. Consumers are aware of, and concerned about, the health threat posed by antibiotic-resistant bacteria. The 2018 Consumer Reports survey found that most consumers are aware that antibiotic use in farmed animals may diminish their effectiveness in humans, and 43% of consumers were "highly concerned" about this.<sup>14</sup>

34. Given these concerns, consumers seek out and are willing to pay more for dairy products that they believe are made without the use of antibiotics. The 2018 Consumer Reports survey cited above found that more than 60% of consumers would pay more for animal products labeled as being raised without antibiotics.<sup>15</sup>

35. Consumers further seek out and are willing to pay more for Products that are guaranteed to contain no antibiotics.

36. Consumers are also concerned about antibiotic use in dairy farming because the inhumane practices and conditions are harmful to the cows' health and welfare, which necessitates

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<sup>14</sup> *Natural and Antibiotics Label Survey: 2018 Nationally Representative Phone Survey*, *supra* note 12, at 5.

<sup>15</sup> *Id.* at 4.

the use of antibiotics. A 2015 Consumer Reports survey found that consumers deem it important that food not be produced through standard factory farm methods. For example, 84% of food shoppers believe it is “important” or “very important” to provide better living conditions for animals.<sup>16</sup>

### **PARTIES**

37. Defendant Sargento Foods Inc. is incorporated in Wisconsin and has its headquarters and principal place of business in Plymouth, Wisconsin.

38. Sargento produces, processes, markets, and distributes Sargento brand dairy cheese products.

39. The Products are available in a wide variety of food retail outlets, including stores in the District. The Products can also be purchased online and delivered to D.C. consumers.

40. Plaintiff Beyond Pesticides is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, public interest organization that is based in the District of Columbia and performs its work throughout the United States, including in D.C.

41. Beyond Pesticides was formed in 1981 as a nonprofit organization with the goal of informing the public of the dangers of toxic pesticides and advocating on behalf of the public against their use.

42. Beyond Pesticides’ mission is to protect public health and the environment and to lead the transition to a world free of toxic pesticides. As part of its mission, Beyond Pesticides advocates for and educates consumers about reducing antibiotic use in agriculture.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> *Natural Food Labels Survey: 2015 Nationally-Representative Phone Survey*, Consumer Reports National Research Center (2015), at 3, <https://foodpolitics.com/wp-content/uploads/Consumer-Reports-Natural-Food-Labels-Survey-Report.pdf>.

<sup>17</sup> See, e.g., *Scientists Warn of Another Pandemic If Officials Continue to Ignore Explosion of ‘Antimicrobial Resistance,’* Beyond Pesticides (Oct. 16, 2020), <https://beyondpesticides.org/dailynewsblog/2020/10/scientists-warn-of-another-pandemic-if-officials-continue-to-ignore-explosion-of-antimicrobial-resistance/>; *Take Action: Stop Antibiotic Use in Agriculture and Protect Human Health*, Beyond Pesticides (May 8, 2019),

43. Through its work, Beyond Pesticides promotes food transparency and accurate labeling of consumer goods. Beyond Pesticides educates the public so that consumers can make informed choices when they shop. Beyond Pesticides' website, publications, public education, research, networking building, and mobilization activities provide an important service to consumers and community activists.

### **JURISDICTION**

44. This Court has personal jurisdiction over the parties in this case. Beyond Pesticides consents to this Court having personal jurisdiction over the organization.

45. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Sargento because it has purposefully directed its conduct to the District and has availed itself of the benefits and protections of District of Columbia law.

46. Sargento aims marketing at consumers within the District. The Products can be, and are, purchased in the District by District consumers. Sargento's internet advertising is accessible in the District.

47. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over this action under the CPPA, D.C. Code § 28-3901, *et seq.*

### **CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### ***Violations of the District of Columbia Consumer Protection Procedures Act***

48. Beyond Pesticides incorporates by reference all the allegations of the preceding paragraphs of this Complaint.

49. Beyond Pesticides is a nonprofit, public interest organization that brings these claims on behalf of the general public of D.C. consumers. *See* D.C. Code §§ 28-3905(k)(1)(D).

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<https://beyondpesticides.org/dailynewsblog/2019/05/take-action-stop-antibiotic-use-in-agriculture-and-protect-human-health/>; Shistar and Curle, *supra* note 6.

50. Through § 28-3905(k)(1)(D), the CPPA explicitly allows for public interest standing and allows a public interest organization to stand in the shoes of a consumer to seek relief from any violation of the CPPA.

51. Sargento is a “person” and a merchant that provides “goods” within the meaning of the CPPA. *See id.* § 28-3901(a)(1), (3), (7).

52. Sargento has falsely and deceptively labeled and marketed the Products with “No Antibiotics” representations when, in reality, Sargento’s Products are made with milk from cows who were given antibiotics, and the Products themselves sometimes contain antibiotics.

53. Thus, Sargento has violated the CPPA by “represent[ing] that goods . . . have a source . . . [or] characteristics . . . that they do not have”; “represent[ing] that goods . . . are of a particular standard, quality, grade, style, or model, if in fact they are of another”; “misrepresent[ing] as to a material fact which has a tendency to mislead”; “fail[ing] to state a material fact if such failure tends to mislead”; “us[ing] innuendo or ambiguity as to a material fact, which has a tendency to mislead”; and “advertis[ing] . . . goods . . . without the intent to sell them as advertised.” *See id.* § 28-3904(a), (d), (e), (f), (f-1), (h).

#### **JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

54. Beyond Pesticides hereby demands a trial by jury.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

*Wherefore*, Beyond Pesticides prays for judgment against Sargento and requests the following relief:

- a. A declaration that Sargento’s conduct is in violation of the CPPA;
- b. An order enjoining Sargento’s conduct found to be in violation of the CPPA; and

- c. An order granting Beyond Pesticides costs and disbursements, including reasonable attorneys' fees and expert fees, and prejudgment interest at the maximum rate allowable by law.

**RICHMAN LAW AND POLICY**



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Jay Shooster (D.C. Bar No. 1660410)  
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jshooster@richmanlawpolicy.com

*Counsel for Plaintiff*

# Superior Court of the District of Columbia

## CIVIL DIVISION- CIVIL ACTIONS BRANCH INFORMATION SHEET

Beyond Pesticides

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_

vs

Date: January 22, 2021

Sargento Foods Inc.

One of the defendants is being sued  
in their official capacity.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Name: <i>(Please Print)</i><br>Kim E. Richman | Relationship to Lawsuit                                    |
| Firm Name:<br>Richman Law & Policy            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Attorney for Plaintiff |
| Telephone No.:<br>(718) 705-4579              | <input type="checkbox"/> Self (Pro Se)                     |
| Six digit Unified Bar No.:<br>1022978         | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                      |

TYPE OF CASE:  Non-Jury  6 Person Jury  12 Person Jury  
Demand: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### PENDING CASE(S) RELATED TO THE ACTION BEING FILED

Case No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar #: \_\_\_\_\_

Case No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Judge: \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar#: \_\_\_\_\_

### NATURE OF SUIT: *(Check One Box Only)*

#### A. CONTRACTS

#### COLLECTION CASES

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 01 Breach of Contract        | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Under \$25,000 Pltf. Grants Consent                            | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Under \$25,000 Consent Denied |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02 Breach of Warranty        | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 OVER \$25,000 Pltf. Grants Consent                             | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 OVER \$25,000 Consent Denied  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 06 Negotiable Instrument     | <input type="checkbox"/> 27 Insurance/Subrogation  | <input type="checkbox"/> 26 Insurance/Subrogation         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 07 Personal Property         | Over \$25,000 Pltf. Grants Consent   | Over \$25,000 Consent Denied                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Employment Discrimination | <input type="checkbox"/> 07 Insurance/Subrogation  | <input type="checkbox"/> 34 Insurance/Subrogation         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Special Education Fees    | Under \$25,000 Pltf. Grants Consent  | Under \$25,000 Consent Denied                             |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> 28 Motion to Confirm Arbitration<br>Award (Collection Cases Only) |   |

#### B. PROPERTY TORTS

- |   |   |                                      |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 01 Automobile                          | <input type="checkbox"/> 03 Destruction of Private Property | <input type="checkbox"/> 05 Trespass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02 Conversion                          | <input type="checkbox"/> 04 Property Damage                 |                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 07 Shoplifting, D.C. Code § 27-102 (a) |   |                                      |

#### C. PERSONAL TORTS

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 01 Abuse of Process                      | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Invasion of Privacy                              | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 Personal Injury- (Not Automobile,<br>Not Malpractice) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02 Alienation of Affection               | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Libel and Slander                                | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Wrongful Death (Not Malpractice)                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 03 Assault and Battery                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Malicious Interference                           | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 Wrongful Eviction                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 04 Automobile- Personal Injury           | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Malicious Prosecution                            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Friendly Suit   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 05 Deceit (Misrepresentation) | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Malpractice Legal                                | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 Asbestos  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 06 False Accusation                      | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Malpractice Medical (Including Wrongful Death)   | <input type="checkbox"/> 22 Toxic/Mass Torts                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 07 False Arrest                          | <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Negligence- (Not Automobile,<br>Not Malpractice) | <input type="checkbox"/> 23 Tobacco   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 08 Fraud                                 |  | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Lead Paint  |

SEE REVERSE SIDE AND CHECK HERE IF USED

# Information Sheet, Continued

## C. OTHERS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 01 Accounting                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17 Merit Personnel Act (OEA)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 02 Att. Before Judgment                        | (D.C. Code Title 1, Chapter 6)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 05 Ejectment                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> 18 Product Liability   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 09 Special Writ/Warrants<br>(DC Code § 11-941) | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Application to Confirm, Modify,<br>Vacate Arbitration Award (DC Code § 16-4401) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Traffic Adjudication                        | <input type="checkbox"/> 29 Merit Personnel Act (OHR)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Writ of Replevin                            | <input type="checkbox"/> 31 Housing Code Regulations  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Enforce Mechanics Lien                      | <input type="checkbox"/> 32 Qui Tam   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 16 Declaratory Judgment                        | <input type="checkbox"/> 33 Whistleblower   |

## II.

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 03 Change of Name                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Libel of Information                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> 21 Petition for Subpoena<br>[Rule 28-I (b)] |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 06 Foreign Judgment/Domestic                      | <input type="checkbox"/> 19 Enter Administrative Order as<br>Judgment [ D.C. Code § | <input type="checkbox"/> 22 Release Mechanics Lien                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 08 Foreign Judgment/International                 | 2-1802.03 (h) or 32-151 9 (a)]  | <input type="checkbox"/> 23 Rule 27(a)(1)<br>(Perpetuate Testimony)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Correction of Birth Certificate                | <input type="checkbox"/> 20 Master Meter (D.C. Code §                               | <input type="checkbox"/> 24 Petition for Structured Settlement       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Correction of Marriage<br>Certificate          | 42-3301, et seq.)   | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 Petition for Liquidation                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 26 Petition for Civil Asset Forfeiture (Vehicle)  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 27 Petition for Civil Asset Forfeiture (Currency) |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 28 Petition for Civil Asset Forfeiture (Other)    |   |  |

## D. REAL PROPERTY

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 09 Real Property-Real Estate                | <input type="checkbox"/> 08 Quiet Title                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Specific Performance                     | <input type="checkbox"/> 25 Liens: Tax / Water Consent Granted           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 04 Condemnation (Eminent Domain)            | <input type="checkbox"/> 30 Liens: Tax / Water Consent Denied            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Mortgage Foreclosure/Judicial Sale       | <input type="checkbox"/> 31 Tax Lien Bid Off Certificate Consent Granted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Petition for Civil Asset Forfeiture (RP) |  |



Attorney's Signature

January 22, 2021

Date