Case 2:21-cv-09507 Document 1 Filed 12/08/21 Page 1 of 40 Page ID #:1



Plaintiff Pharmavite LLC ("Pharmavite") hereby alleges as follows against

defendants Bausch & Lomb Incorporated ("Bausch & Lomb") and PF Consumer

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Healthcare 1 LLC ("PF Consumer Healthcare 1") (collectively, "Defendants"): NATURE OF THE ACTION

Patent No. 8,603,522 ("the '522 Patent").

1. This case concerns Defendants' attempts to monopolize the eye health

supplement market and to keep competing products, including Pharmavite's Nature Made® Vision supplement, off the market. Defendants have done so by filing a sham patent infringement lawsuit against Pharmavite; making false and misleading claims about Bausch & Lomb's PreserVision® products, including making unlawful disease claims; and/or misusing and misrepresenting the scope of Defendants' United States

2. Pharmavite brings this action asserting claims for monopolization, attempted monopolization, and conspiracy to monopolize in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 2.

Pharmavite also brings this action for a declaratory judgment that (a) it does not infringe, either directly or indirectly, any claim of the '522 Patent; (b) the claims of the '522 Patent are invalid for failure to comply with the requirements for patentability set forth in Title 35 of the United States Code and related judicial doctrines, including without limitation, 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and/or 112 and/or obviousness-type double patenting; and (c) the claims of the '522 Patent are unenforceable due to at least patent misuse. This action is necessary to resolve an actual, justiciable, and continuing controversy between Pharmavite and Defendants regarding the non-infringement, invalidity, and unenforceability of the '522 Patent.

### THE PARTIES

- 4. Plaintiff Pharmavite LLC is a California limited liability company with its principal place of business in West Hills, California.
- 5. On information and belief, defendant Bausch & Lomb is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of New York, with a principal place of business at 1400 North Goodman Street, Rochester, NY 14609. On information and belief,

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Bausch & Lomb conducts business within the State of California and has a registered agent in California.

6. On information and belief, defendant PF Consumer Healthcare 1 is a limited liability company organized and existing under the laws of Delaware and having a place of business at 1209 Orange Street, Corporation Trust Center, Wilmington, DE, 19801. On information and belief, PF Consumer Healthcare 1 conducts business within the State of California and has a registered agent in California.

### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 7. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-2202, 1331-1332, 1338(a), and 1367(a), and the doctrine of pendent jurisdiction.
- 8. Pharmavite's claims arose in this District, and Pharmavite or its agents may be found or transact affairs in this District. In addition, on information and belief, Bausch & Lomb has conducted business in this District by marketing, selling, advertising, and promoting its product called PreserVision®, and Defendants have conducted business in this District by misusing the '522 Patent and expired United States Patent No. 6,660,297 ("the '297 Patent"), thereby causing, or likely to cause, harm to Pharmavite in this District. Defendants have further filed a patent infringement lawsuit lacking any good faith basis in an unquestionably improper venue (the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware) against Pharmavite, causing Pharmavite harm in this District. On information and belief, Bausch & Lomb has attempted to and has willfully and unlawfully maintained a monopoly in the eye health supplement market throughout the United States, including in this District, and PF Consumer Healthcare 1 has conspired with Bausch & Lomb to do so, causing Pharmavite injury in this District and attempting to exclude Pharmavite' Nature Made® Vision supplement from the U.S. market, including in this District. Accordingly, on information and belief, Defendants are subject to personal jurisdiction in California.
  - 9. Venue in this District is appropriate under 28 U.S.C. § 1391.



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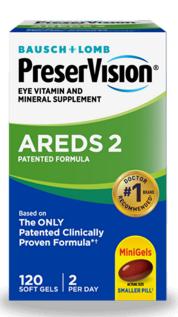
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### **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

### A. The Parties' Dietary Supplements

- 10. Pharmavite manufactures, largely in California, Nature Made® brand vitamins and dietary supplements. Nature Made® vitamins and dietary supplements are "The #1 Pharmacist Recommended Vitamin and Mineral Supplement Brand." Among Pharmavite's dietary supplements is a product called Nature Made® Vision AREDS 2 ("Nature Made® Vision supplement"), which helps support an individual's healthy vision and eye function.
- 11. Defendant Bausch & Lomb has a line of "eye vitamin and mineral supplements" called PreserVision®. PreserVision® packaging states that the supplements contain the AREDS 2 Formula, as shown in Figures 1, 2, and 3 below (true and correct copies of the PreserVision® products taken from the PreserVision.com website, <a href="https://www.preservision.com/eyecare-professionals/the-areds-formula/">https://www.preservision.com/eyecare-professionals/the-areds-formula/</a>, on December 8, 2021):



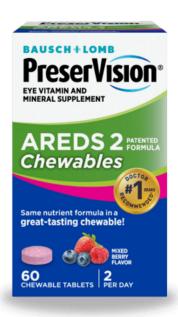




Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3

12. The AREDS 2 Formula is a combination of vitamins and minerals—*i.e.*, vitamin C, vitamin E, copper, zinc, lutein, and zeaxanthin—in specific amounts that the National Eye Institute ("NEI") of the United States Department of Health and Human

Services' National Institutes of Health ("NIH") studied in a clinical trial known as AREDS 2.

13. Bausch & Lomb's PreserVision® AREDS 2 products directly compete with Pharmavite's Nature Made® Vision supplement.

### B. Defendants' Patents

- 14. Defendants claim to be joint owners of the '522 Patent, entitled "Nutritional Supplement to Treat Macular Degeneration." Attached as Exhibit A is the form and content of the '522 Patent. Pharmavite does not concede the truth or admissibility of any statement made within the '522 Patent.
- 15. The '522 Patent is a continuation of an abandoned patent application, which in turn is a continuation of the now-expired '297 Patent, which, on information and belief, also had been owned jointly by Defendants. Attached as Exhibit B is the form and content of the '297 Patent. Pharmavite does not concede the truth or admissibility of any statement made within the '297 Patent.
- 16. The enforceable term of a United States patent begins on the date the patent issues and ends 20 years from the date on which the application for the patent was filed, absent certain exceptions. The application for the '297 Patent was filed on March 23, 2001, and the patent issued on December 9, 2003. Thus, the enforceable term of the '297 Patent ended March 23, 2021.
- 17. The expired '297 Patent included "composition" claims, which Defendants have previously alleged cover the AREDS 2 formulation itself. For patents claiming a composition, anyone using or selling the claimed composition in the United States during the patent's enforceable term can be held liable as an infringer. The owner of a valid composition patent is therefore able to prevent the sale of the claimed composition in the United States, regardless of how the composition is to be used.
- 18. Thus, during the enforceable term of the '297 Patent, Bausch & Lomb could assert the patent to exclude any competing AREDS 2 formulation from the market, to the extent the '297 Patent was valid and covered the AREDS 2 formula.



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