Case: 1:21-cv-05104 Document #: 15 Filed: 02/10/22 Page 1 of 18 PageID #:49

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

Charles Strow, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Case No.: 1:21-cv-05104 Judge Steven C. Seeger

Plaintiff,

– against –

B&G Foods, Inc.,

Defendant.

MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANT B&G FOODS, INC.'S

MOTION TO DISMISS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRO	ODUCT	'ION 1		
BACK	GROU	ND 1		
	A.	The Parties		
	B.	Butter		
	C.	Cooking Spray 2		
	D.	The Label on Crisco [®] Butter No-Stick Spray		
	E.	Plaintiff's Causes of Action		
ARGUMENT				
I. PLAINTIFF'S CLAIMS ARE IMPLAUSIBLE				
	А.	The No-Stick Spray's Label Discloses the Obvious: It Contains No Butter7		
	B.	Plaintiff's Alternative Theory, That the Product Is Misleadingly Marketed as a		
		Butter Alternative, Also Fails		
	C.	The Nutrition Information Comparison Chart Is Not Misleading12		
II.	THE C	COMPLAINT SHOULD BE DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE		
CONC	CLUSIO	N13		

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

Page(s)

CASES

Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662 (2009)
<i>Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly</i> , 550 U.S. 544 (2007)
<i>Bowring v. Sapporo U.S.A., Inc.,</i> 234 F. Supp. 3d 386 (E.D.N.Y. 2017)11
Campbell v. Drink Daily Greens, LLC, 2018 WL 4259978 (E.D.N.Y. Sept. 4, 2018)
Davis v. G.N. Mortg. Corp., 396 F.3d 869 (7th Cir. 2005)9, 10, 11
Hayes v. General Mills, Inc., No. 19-cv-05626, 2021 WL 32077499
<i>Ibarrola v. Kind, LLC,</i> 83 F. Supp. 3d 751 (2015)10
Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife, 504 U.S. 555 (1992)9
Runnion v. Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago & NW Ind., 786 F.3d 510 (7th Cir. 2015)16
<i>Tellabs, Inc. v. Makor Issues & Rights, Ltd.,</i> 551 U.S. 308 (2007)
<i>TransUnion v. Ramirez</i> , 141 S.Ct. 2190 (2021)9
<i>Zahora v. Orgain LLC</i> , No. 21 C 705, 2021 WL 5140504
STATUTES
21 U.S.C. § 337(a)

RULES

Fed. R. Evid. 201(b)(1)	
REGULATIONS	
21 C.F.R. § 101.22	

Defendant B&G Foods, Inc. ("B&G Foods") respectfully submits its Motion to Dismiss.

INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff claims that he was injured because he thought that Crisco[®] brand Butter No-Stick Spray contained butter. (First Amended Complaint ("FAC"). ¶¶ 1-3.) Plaintiff does not explain how he could actually believe that butter—a solid—could fit through the tiny aperture of the spray nozzle on an aerosol can, or why he would believe the product was made from butter when the label he purported to read and rely on says "Buttery Flavor For Your Food <u>Without</u> <u>The Butter</u>" (emphasis added), and the words "Natural & Artificial Flavor" appear next to the word "Butter." The No-Stick Spray is not stored in the refrigerator section, like butter, and the very words on the package Plaintiff claims misled him compare the fat and calorie content of the No-Stick spray against the fat and calorie content of butter.

The allegations in the FAC do not state a claim. *Twombly* and *Iqbal* enable the Court to use its common sense when evaluating such pleadings, and it is implausible—indeed, impossible—that Plaintiff was misled. Such cases have no business clogging up the federal courts. Plaintiff's claims do not address social wrongs; they are fictional harms churned up by a lawyer. This action should be dismissed with prejudice under Rule 12(b)(6).

BACKGROUND

A. The Parties

B&G Foods, including its subsidiaries and predecessor companies, is a 130-year-old American food company that makes a variety of high quality, shelf-stable and frozen packaged foods. B&G Foods owns the Crisco[®] brand, which created the first shortening product made of plant-based oils. Plant-based oils offer many advantages to butter and other animal fats that consumers desire, including being shelf stable, tolerant of high heat, and resistant to rancidity.

DOCKET A L A R M



Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

Real-Time Litigation Alerts



Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

Advanced Docket Research



With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

Analytics At Your Fingertips



Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

Advanced out-of-the-box PTAB and TTAB analytics are always at your fingertips.

API

Docket Alarm offers a powerful API (application programming interface) to developers that want to integrate case filings into their apps.

LAW FIRMS

Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS

Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.