## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

Rachel Lumbra, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

- against -

Suja Life, LLC,

Defendant

Case No. 1:22-cv-893 (MAD/DJS)

**Class Action Complaint** 

Jury Trial Demanded

Plaintiff alleges upon information and belief, except for allegations pertaining to Plaintiff, which are based on personal knowledge:

1. Suja Life, LLC ("Defendant") manufactures, labels, and sells juices including blends of apple and beet represented as "Cold-Pressed" under the Suja brand ("Product").







- 2. Juice refers to the aqueous liquid contained in fruits and vegetables.
- 3. To obtain juice, fruits and vegetables are squeezed and/or pressed.
- 4. Such juices can be sold to consumers as "fresh" because they have not been subject to any other treatment method to extend their shelf life.
  - 5. Consumers value the sensory, nutritional, and organoleptic properties of fresh juice.
- 6. For decades, companies have described juices in ways that truthfully inform consumers of their qualities and allow for comparisons between different products.
- 7. Where juice has not been subject to treatment beyond being extracted, terms used include "fresh squeezed," "fresh pressed," and "cold-pressed."
- 8. For instance, though the apple juice below is made from "100% Freshly Pressed Apples," it prominently discloses it is "Flash Pasteurized," while the adjacent orange juice states, "Pasteurized" in large capital letters.







- 9. Other brands of cold-pressed juices prominently disclose the treatment that occurs after the juice is obtained from fruits and vegetables through being cold-pressed.
- 10. For instance, the 7-Select brand of cold-pressed juice prominently states, "Flash Pasteurized" directly beneath "Cold Pressed Juice," while the Suja product vaguely references "High Pressure Certified" in a seal at the bottom of the bottle, where consumers are unlikely to notice it and have no idea what it refers to.



11. The Product is often sold in produce aisles where groceries are sold, in proximity to juices made at those stores, though such competitor juices have not been subject to any treatment beyond being cold-pressed, which furthers the impression it is not subsequently treated.



- 12. By describing the Product as "Cold-Pressed" without any prominent, clear disclaimers of other processing steps, consumers expect it will be fresh.
- 13. However, the Product is not fresh and has more in common with juices sold in standard refrigerator cases because it is highly processed after being cold-pressed.



14. The front label purports to reference this, by the small seal stating "High Pressure Certified" at the bottom of the bottle.





- 15. No visible explanation is provided for what this term means.
- 16. Given that all juices are made by applying pressure, even if consumers notice this seal, they will believe it refers to the cold-pressing.
- 17. The back of the label refers to the component fruit and vegetables being subject to "cold pressure to keep them feeling fresh" followed by a webpage about "HPP."



### **CAN'T STOP THE BEET**

Suja is made sunny in
San Diego, where we pick
our favorite local fruits and
veggies and then chill them
out with cold pressure to
keep them feeling fresh and
tasting delicious. We bottle
up the power of plants so you
can make nutrition your bliss!

SUJAJUICE.COM/HPP

- 18. HPP refers to high pressure processing, a non-thermal treatment method to preserve juice for up to 60 days.
- 19. Juice subjected to this treatment method is no longer fresh, and it is misleading to describe such a juice as "cold-pressed" without an equivalent and conspicuous disclosure of this processing step.
  - 20. Defendant makes other representations and omissions with respect to the Product



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