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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

DEONN MORGAN, LYDIA ZEPEDA,  
SOPHIA IVY, KELLY OKOROCHA, and  
JENNIFER ZIELINSKI, individually and on  
behalf of themselves and all others similarly  
situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Apple Inc.,

Defendant.

Case No. 4:17-cv-5277

(JURY TRIAL DEMANDED)

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**

1 CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT

2 1. Plaintiffs Deonn Morgan, Lydia Zepeda, Sophia Ivy, Kelly Okorochoa, Jennifer  
3 Zielinski (“Plaintiffs”), on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, bring this Class  
4 Action Complaint against defendant Apple Inc. (“Apple” or “Defendant”) and in support allege as  
5 follows:

6 NATURE OF THIS ACTION

7 2. Plaintiffs challenge Defendant’s actions in connection with their marketing,  
8 advertising and sale of the defective Powerbeats 2 and Powerbeats 3 headphones (“Powerbeats”).

9 3. In widespread advertising and marketing campaigns, Apple touts that its costly  
10 Powerbeats (which retail for \$199.95) are “**BUILT TO ENDURE**” and are the “**BEST**  
11 **HEADPHONES FOR WORKING OUT.**” Apple repeatedly emphasizes that its Powerbeats are  
12 “**Sweat & Water Resistant,**” and employs world-famous professional athletes, including LeBron  
13 James and Serena Williams, to promote its Powerbeats in commercials as heavy-duty headphones  
14 suited for workouts that can withstand rough treatment and exposure to the elements. In numerous  
15 places, including the packaging of the headphones, Defendant represents that Powerbeats 2 have a  
16 six-hour rechargeable battery and the Powerbeats 3 have a twelve-hour battery life.

17 4. But these costly headphones are neither “built to endure” nor “sweat & water  
18 resistant” and certainly do not have a battery that lasts for six or twelve hours. Instead, these shoddy  
19 headphones contain a design defect that causes the battery life to diminish and eventually stop  
20 retaining a charge. Often, after minimal usage, sometimes only days or weeks, the Powerbeats stop  
21 accepting a charge and the indicator light blinks red. Then, the Powerbeats will either not power on  
22 at all, or will only power on for minutes at a time. Upon information and belief, thousands of users  
23 have experienced this identical defect with their Powerbeats after less than a year of use.

24 5. Plaintiffs and many consumers like them have all experienced the same defect—  
25 rapidly diminishing battery life and eventual failure to retain a charge—after using the Powerbeats  
26 during exercise or other light activity. But despite numerous consumer complaints, Apple has not  
27 publicly acknowledged the defect or attempted to fix it. Instead, when consumers attempt to take  
28 advantage of Apple’s one-year warranty and return the Powerbeats for a new pair, Apple sends

1 replacement Powerbeats that often contain the exact same defect. Many consumers, including  
2 Plaintiffs Deonn Morgan, Jennifer Zielinski, Sophia Ivy, and Kelly Okorochoa, have been through  
3 several pairs of Powerbeats only to experience the same defect each time. Consumers are therefore  
4 caught in a vicious cycle: use, malfunction, replacement, repeat.

5 6. Apple continues to promote and market its faulty Powerbeats, and continues to profit  
6 handsomely from their sale. In so doing, Apple has defrauded the public and cheated its consumers,  
7 including Plaintiffs.

8 7. The Powerbeats' purportedly long-lasting battery is a material feature of the product.  
9 Powerbeats do not work, and are worthless, unless they are able to retain a charge and the batteries  
10 of the Powerbeats are able to last for a reasonable amount of time.

11 8. Reasonable consumers expect that high-end Bluetooth headphones will continue to  
12 function after minimal use. Reasonable consumers, including Plaintiffs, would not have purchased  
13 Powerbeats had they known they contained defects that would cause the battery life to rapidly  
14 diminish and eventually fail to charge entirely.

15 9. As a result of the defect in the Powerbeats, Plaintiffs and the proposed class have  
16 suffered damages. They purchased Powerbeats that they would not otherwise have bought had they  
17 known of the existence of the defect. Moreover, they bought defective Powerbeats that are not  
18 worth the price that they paid.

19 **THE PARTIES**

20 10. Plaintiff Jennifer Zielinski is a resident of New Providence, Pennsylvania.

21 11. Plaintiff Kelly Okorochoa is a resident of Lake Charles, Louisiana.

22 12. Plaintiff Sophia Ivy is a resident of Brandon, Florida.

23 13. Plaintiff Lydia Zepeda is a resident of Corona, California.

24 14. Plaintiff Deonn Morgan is a resident of Oakland, California.

25 15. Defendant Apple is a California corporation with its headquarters and principal place  
26 of business in Cupertino, California. Apple designs, manufactures and markets a range of personal  
27 computers, mobile communication and media devices, portable digital music players, and personal  
28 electronics, including headphones. Apple sells its products globally through its retail stores, online

1 stores, direct sales force, wholesalers, retailers, and value-added resellers. As of January 2016,  
2 Apple had over 450 retail stores. In May 2014, Apple bought Beats Music and Beats Electronics for  
3 approximately \$3 billion. Beats Electronics manufactured popular headphones, speakers, and audio  
4 software.

5 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

6 16. This Court has original jurisdiction over this civil action under 28 U.S.C. § 1332(d)  
7 because this action is a class action filed under Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the  
8 amount in controversy exceeds \$5,000,000 and there are members of the Class who are citizens of a  
9 different state than the Defendant Apple.

10 17. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because Apple is a  
11 resident of Cupertino, California, which is located in this District. Additionally, venue is proper in  
12 this District because Named Plaintiff Deonn Morgan resides and purchased the product at issue in  
13 this lawsuit in Oakland, California, a city within this District.

14 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

15 18. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and the class defined as follows:

16 All persons residing in the United States who purchased Powerbeats 2  
17 or Powerbeats 3 headphones primarily for personal, family or  
18 household purposes, and not for resale.

19 19. In the alternative, Plaintiffs Deonn Morgan and Lydia Zepeda brings this action on  
20 behalf of themselves and the members of a subclass comprised of:

21 All persons residing in the State of California who purchased  
22 Powerbeats 2 or Powerbeats 3 headphones primarily for personal,  
23 family or household purposes, and not for resale.

24 20. In the alternative, Plaintiff Jennifer Zielinski brings this action on behalf of herself  
25 and the members of a subclass comprised of:

26 All persons residing in the State of Pennsylvania who purchased  
27 Powerbeats 2 or Powerbeats 3 headphones for primarily personal,  
28 family or household purposes, and not for resale.

1           21. In the alternative, Plaintiff Kelly Okorochoa brings this action on behalf of himself  
2 and the members of a subclass comprised of:

3                   All persons residing in the State of Louisiana who purchased  
4                   Powerbeats 2 or Powerbeats 3 headphones for primarily personal,  
5                   family or household purposes, and not for resale.

6           22. In the alternative, Plaintiff Ivy Sophia brings this action on behalf of herself and the  
7 members of a subclass comprised of:

8                   All persons residing in the State of Florida who purchased Powerbeats  
9                   2 or Powerbeats 3 headphones for primarily personal, family or  
10                   household purposes, and not for resale.

11           23. The questions here are ones of common or general interest class that there is a well-  
12 defined community of interest among the class members. These questions predominate over  
13 questions that may affect only individual class members because Apple has acted on grounds  
14 generally applicable to the class. Such common legal or factual questions include, but are not  
15 limited to:

- 16           a. Whether the Powerbeats are defective;
- 17           b. Whether the Powerbeats are defectively designed and/or manufactured;
- 18           c. Whether Apple's claim that the Powerbeats are "sweat & water resistant" is  
19           deceptive;
- 20           d. Whether Apple's claim that the Powerbeats 2 has a 6 hour rechargeable battery is  
21           deceptive;
- 22           e. Whether Apple's claim that the Powerbeats 3 has up to 12 hours of battery life is  
23           deceptive;
- 24           f. Whether Apple's claim that the Powerbeats are "BUILT TO ENDURE" is deceptive;
- 25           g. Whether Apple's claim that the Powerbeats are durable enough to withstand  
26           "working out" is deceptive;
- 27           h. Whether Apple breached express warranties relating to the Powerbeats;
- 28           i. Whether Apple breached the implied warranty of merchantability relating to the  
Powerbeats;

- 1 j. Whether Apple was unjustly enriched by receiving moneys in exchange for
- 2 Powerbeats that were defective;
- 3 k. Whether Apple should be ordered to disgorge all or part of the ill-gotten profits it
- 4 received from the sale of the defective Powerbeats;
- 5 l. Whether Plaintiffs and the class are entitled to damages, including compensatory,
- 6 exemplary, and statutory damages, and the amount of such damages;
- 7 m. Whether Apple should be enjoined from selling and marketing its defective
- 8 Powerbeats; and
- 9 n. Whether Apple engaged in unfair, unconscionable, or deceptive trade practices by
- 10 selling and/or marketing defective Powerbeats.

11 24. Members of the class and subclasses are so numerous that joinder is impracticable.

12 While the exact number of class members is unknown to Plaintiffs, it is believed that the class

13 comprises thousands of members geographically disbursed throughout the United States.

14 25. It is impracticable to bring Class members' individual claims before the Court. Class

15 treatment permits a large number of similarly situated persons or entities to prosecute their common

16 claims in a single forum simultaneously, efficiently, and without the unnecessary duplication of

17 evidence, effort, expense, or the possibility of inconsistent or contradictory judgments that

18 numerous individual actions would engender. The benefits of the class mechanism, including

19 providing injured persons or entities with a method for obtaining redress on claims that might not be

20 practicable to pursue individually, substantially outweigh any difficulties that may arise in the

21 management of this class action.

22 26. Plaintiffs' claims are typical of the members of the class and all subclasses, as all

23 members of the class are similarly affected by Apple's actionable conduct. Plaintiffs and all

24 members of the class purchased defective Powerbeats—defects that make the Powerbeats worthless.

25 In addition, Apple's conduct that gave rise to the claims of Plaintiffs and members of the class (*i.e.*

26 delivering defective Powerbeats, making false claims with respect to the Powerbeats, and breaching

27 warranties respecting the Powerbeats) is the same for all members of the class.

28

1 27. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the class because they  
2 have no interests antagonistic to, or in conflict with, the class that Plaintiffs seeks to represent.  
3 Furthermore, Plaintiffs have retained counsel experienced and competent in the prosecution of  
4 complex class action litigation.

5 28. Plaintiffs know of no difficulty to be encountered in this action that would preclude  
6 its maintenance as a class action.

7 29. Apple has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the class,  
8 thereby making appropriate final injunctive relief or corresponding declaratory relief with respect to  
9 the class as a whole.

10 **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

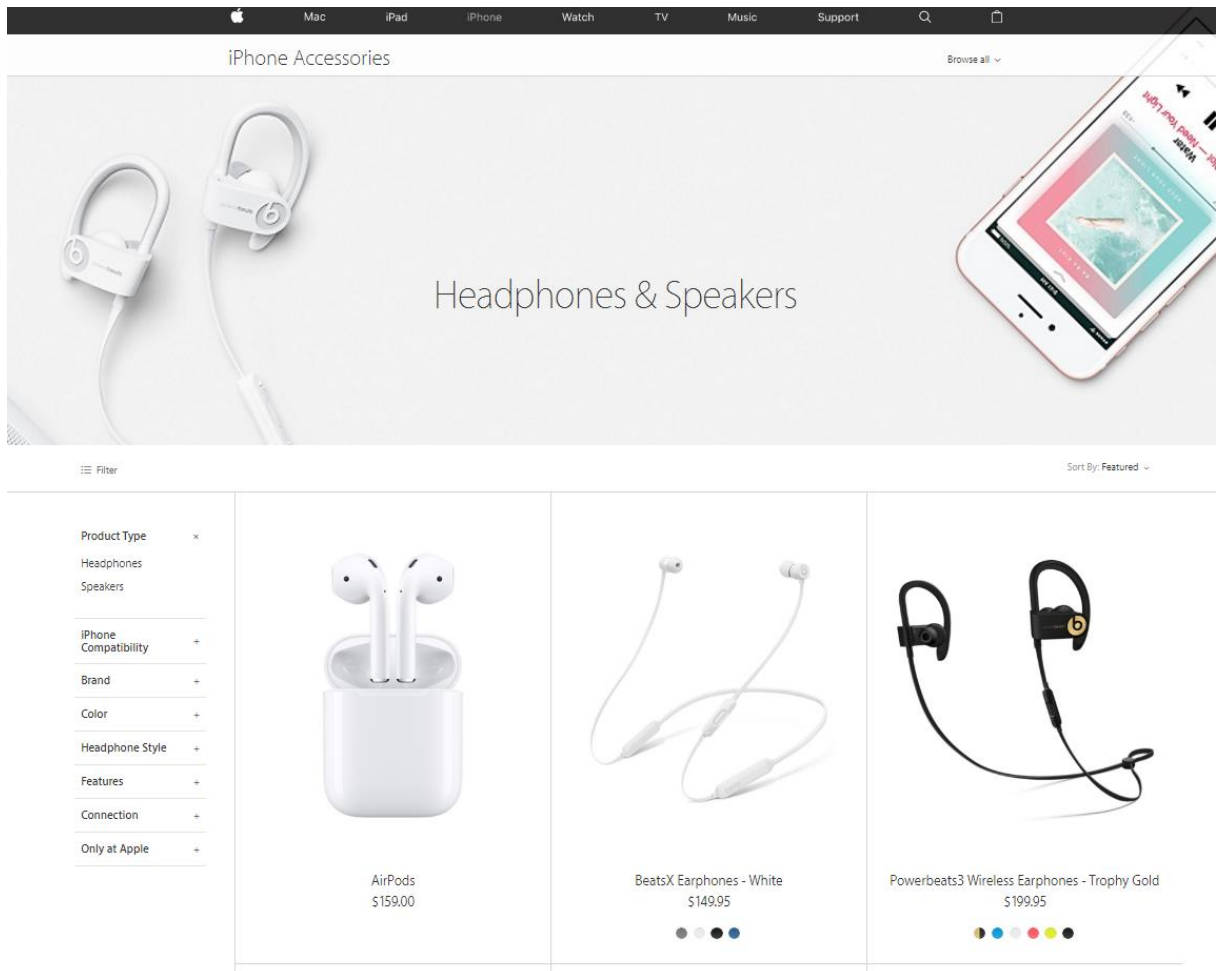
11 30. The high-end headphone industry is a huge market, predicted to exceed \$25 billion  
12 in sales by 2024. From the beginning in 2006, Dr. Dre's Beats headphones have dominated that  
13 market. Endorsed by celebrities such as LeBron James and Lady Gaga, Beats headphones  
14 catapulted in popularity and quickly became a must-have status symbol. By 2014, the eight-year-old  
15 company, Beats Electronics, had seized 60% of the \$100-plus headphone market share. Around that  
16 time, when asked which headphones they next planned to purchase, 46% of all teens reported they  
17 planned to buy Beats. Recognizing the company as a potential source of substantial revenue in a  
18 growing market, Apple acquired Beats Music and Beats Electronics for approximately \$3 billion in  
19 May 2014.

20 31. The Powerbeats 2 and Powerbeats 3 are two types of wireless Bluetooth headphones  
21 in the Apple/Beats line. LeBron James is, in fact, credited as a co-creator of Powerbeats. And when  
22 the company sold to Apple in 2014, Mr. James reportedly received \$30 million in cash and stock for  
23 his role in developing and promoting the Beats headphones.

24 32. The Powerbeats 2 were released in June 2014, and the Powerbeats 3 replaced its  
25 older version in October 2016. According to at least one published comparison of the two  
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1 headphones, “the two [headphones] are virtually identical.”<sup>1</sup> Indeed, “[t]hese Beats headphones  
 2 share almost every feature.” *Id.*

3 33. Apple aggressively markets the Powerbeats 3. On Apple’s website, on the “Music  
 4 Accessories” page, the Powerbeats 3 headphones are the third product listed.



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 22 34. Apple pushed the sale of Powerbeats in conjunction with the sale of its iPhone 7. The  
 23 iPhone 7—unlike all previous iPhones and unlike every other brand of smartphone sold—does not  
 24 include a headphone jack and therefore requires the use of Bluetooth headphones. Although Apple  
 25 unveiled the iPhone 7 in September 2016, and intended to unveil its own Bluetooth headphones, the

26  
 27 <sup>1</sup> Lauren Schwahn, *Powerbeats3 Wireless vs. Powerbeats2 Wireless*, Nerdwallet (September 29,  
 28 2016) <https://www.nerdwallet.com/blog/shopping/powerbeats3-wireless-vs-powerbeats2-wireless-headphones-comparison/>.



1 AirPods, simultaneously, reported manufacturing problems delayed the release of the AirPods until  
2 December 2016, causing consumers in the interim to scramble to find a replacement. That  
3 replacement was very often Powerbeats, which were sold by Apple and cell phone carriers,  
4 including AT&T and Verizon.

5 35. Apple's aggressive marketing is effective. As of July 2016, Beats brought in more  
6 revenue from Bluetooth headphones than any other company in the market. In terms of revenue,  
7 Beats controlled nearly half of the Bluetooth headphone market. And in terms of unit sales, Beats  
8 controlled over a quarter of the market.

9 36. Beats are also highly profitable for Apple. From Apple's perspective, Beats are a  
10 perfect combination: cheap to make, but expensive to buy. By way of example, a recent article in  
11 the Motley Fool estimates Beats Solo headphones cost Apple only \$16.89 to make—yet they retail  
12 for \$199.95. *This is a markup of over 1000%.*

13 37. Because Beats are cheaply constructed, despite the high price tag, they repeatedly  
14 break.

15 38. Additionally, Apple misrepresents the amount of time the Powerbeats' battery can  
16 work without needing to recharge. Apple represents that both the Powerbeats 2 and the Powerbeats  
17 3 have batteries that can respectively last for 6 to 12 hours of use without recharging.

18 39. The Beats' webpage states:

19 Powerbeats<sup>2</sup> Wireless have a rechargeable battery that offers  
20 6 hours of playback time. Average time to fully charge your  
21 earphones is 90 minutes.

1           40.     The Powerbeats 2 box states that Powerbeats 2 have a “6 Hour Rechargeable  
2 Battery.”



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1 41. Beats' and Apple Store's websites also represent that Powerbeats 3 have batteries  
2 that can be used without charging for hours.

3 **Power meets endurance**

4 Bring on the hours of training because Powerbeats3 Wireless are now powered for the long haul  
5 with the efficiency of the Apple W1 chip. With up to 12 hours of battery life and an optimized  
6 design for improved comfort and immersive sound, you're free to push through the most  
7 challenging workouts. Sweat and water resistance provides the necessary durability for  
8 strenuous workouts and weather.

8 42. The front of the Powerbeats 3 box further represents that Powerbeats 3 have a battery  
9 that can power up to 12 hours of playback.



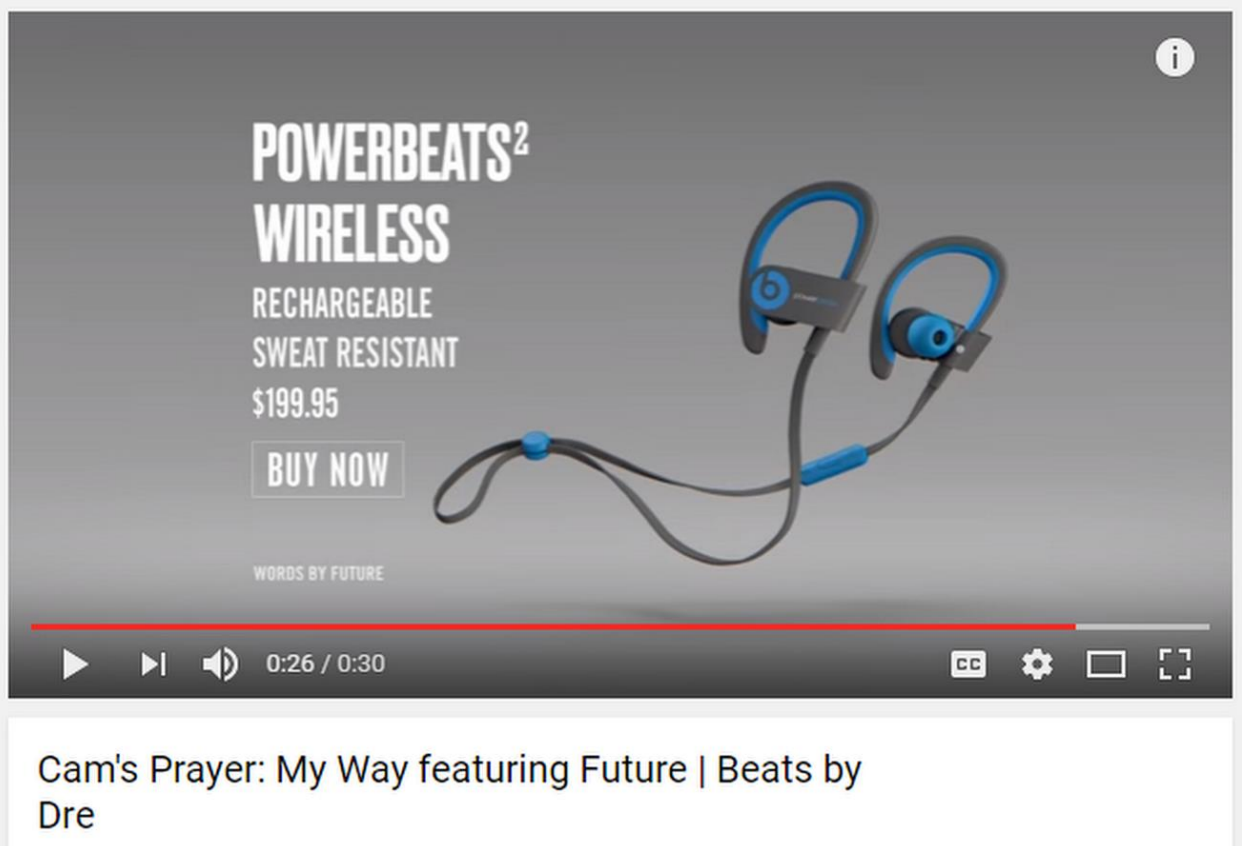
20 43. Despite Apple's and Beat's representations, neither the Powerbeats 2 nor the  
21 Powerbeats 3 headphones have a battery that can be consistently used for 6 or 12 hours,  
22 respectively, without further charging.

23 44. In addition to deceptive misrepresentations regarding Powerbeats' battery life, **Apple**  
24 **specifically markets Powerbeats as "sporty" and intended for use while working out.** Apple  
25 boasts on the Beats homepage: **"BEST HEADPHONES FOR WORKING OUT:**  
26 **POWERBEATS3 WIRELESS."** But those representations are false and misleading because  
27 Powerbeats malfunction during exercise in part because they are not sweat or water resistant.

28

1 45. Indeed, Apple makes several representations designed to promote the idea that  
2 Powerbeats are water and sweat-resistant and can be used while working out. In big bold letters on  
3 the Powerbeats 3 homepages, Apple claims: “**Sweat & Water Resistant.**” Apple elaborates, “Rain,  
4 sweat or shine-these water resistant earphones push you further and handle tough training.”

5 46. Commercials further reiterate how the Powerbeats 2 are “SWEAT RESISTANT”



1 47. One of the advertisements actually depicts a user spraying water all over herself (and  
2 her Powerbeats) during a workout:



13 48. Other advertisements show professional athletes drenched in sweat, using their  
14 Powerbeats:





1 49. Apple’s advertisements of the Powerbeats uniformly emphasize their “sportiness.”  
 2 Apple claims the Powerbeats 2 were “inspired by LeBron James,” were “designed with . . . the  
 3 athlete in mind,” and are “sweat and water resistant.”

**POWERBEATS<sup>2</sup> WIRELESS**  
 PERFORMANCE. POWER. FREEDOM.

**RISE TO PERFECTION**  
 Records are meant to be broken. Inspired by LeBron James, Powerbeats<sup>2</sup> Wireless was designed to defy the ordinary while catapulting athletes towards their relentless pursuit of perfection. Lightweight and engineered with the power of dual-driver acoustics, the reimagined wireless earphones deliver the premium sound and performance needed to propel you through rigorous workouts. Backed by the King himself, the next level of performance, power, and freedom has arrived.

**MORE FREEDOM. MORE POWER.**  
 From the street to the court, Powerbeats<sup>2</sup> Wireless gives you the freedom to take your workout anywhere. Wireless Bluetooth gives you the ability to connect up to 30 feet to your Bluetooth enabled device—allowing you to move freely and stay focused on your workout. A rechargeable battery with 6-hour playback gives you the power to endure to the end. If you’re on empty, a 15-minute quick charge delivers an extra hour of non-stop playback.

**DESIGNED TO ENDURE**  
 Don’t let sweat stop you. Powerbeats<sup>2</sup> Wireless is IPX4 sweat and water resistant from the ear bud to the tangle free cable wrap around, with over-molding on the RemoteTalk™ control wrap around cable for a no-slip grip when changing volume, switching tracks, and making hands free calls.

**MUSIC YOU CAN FEEL**  
 Add power to your workout playlist. Dual-driver acoustics power music through each ear bud delivering a great listening experience with a customized fit.

**DESIGNED TO PERFORM**  
 We designed it with you, the athlete, in mind. Powerbeats<sup>2</sup> Wireless is lightweight and compact with a flexible earhook, providing a comfortable and secure fit.

**WHAT'S IN THE BOX**

- Powerbeats<sup>2</sup> Wireless earphones with RemoteTalk™ wrap around cable
- Hard shell carrying case
- Universal micro USB cable
- Cable management clip
- Quick Start Guide

**DETAILS**  
 Priced at \$199.95, Powerbeats<sup>2</sup> Wireless comes in Black, Red, and White. Available at [beatsbydre.com](http://beatsbydre.com).

1           50.     And on the Amazon Powerbeats 2 page, Apple again claims the Powerbeats  
2 headphones are meant for workouts:

3                     Powerbeats<sup>2</sup> Wireless was designed to defy the ordinary while  
4 catapulting athletes towards unparalleled performance. Lightweight  
5 and engineered with the power of dual-driver acoustics, the  
6 reimaged wireless earphones deliver the premium sound and  
7 performance needed to propel you through rigorous workouts.

8                     **BUILT TO ENDURE**

9                     Don't let sweat stop you. Powerbeats<sup>2</sup> Wireless is IPX4 sweat and  
10 water resistant from the earbud to the tangle-free wrap around cable,  
11 with over-molding on the RemoteTalk<sup>TM</sup> for a no-slip grip when  
12 changing volume, switching tracks, and making hands-free

13           51.     But a virtually unending stream of consumer complaints puts the lie to Apple's  
14 advertising. One consumer succinctly summarized the problem:

15                     These are NOT SWEAT PROOF... Mine stopped working after 6.5  
16 months ... replacement worked for another 4 months ... and got those  
17 replaced which lasted 5 months ... warranty expired on replacements  
18 after 3 months ... so now I'm stuck with a dud ... expected better from  
19 Beats !

20           52.     Indeed, as that consumer rightfully points out, the problem is *not only* that Apple  
21 sells a defective product—and that Apple misleadingly and deceptively markets that product as  
22 “sweat and water resistant” when it is demonstrably not—it is that Apple attempts to cover up the  
23 defect rather than acknowledge or fix it. When consumers complain about the Powerbeats'  
24 malfunction, Apple either gives them the run-around, or sends them another pair of headphones  
25 under the warranty—which often contain the exact same defect. Several users (including Deonn  
26 Morgan, Jennifer Zielinski, Sophia Ivy, and Kelly Okorocho) have gone through multiple pairs of  
27 Powerbeats only to experience the exact same defect every time: after minimal use, the Powerbeats  
28 fail to maintain a charge.

          53.     Contrary to Apple's repeated misrepresentations, neither the Powerbeats 2 nor the  
Powerbeats 3 were “**BUILT TO ENDURE.**” Instead, the Powerbeats' batteries last for shorter and  
shorter periods of time over the first weeks and months of use, eventually rendering them useless.

1 The Powerbeats contain a common design and/or manufacturing defect that cause them to fail to  
2 retain a charge after minimal use, particularly after exercise.

3 54. As a result of this glaring defect, on Apple's own website from March 23, 2016<sup>2</sup> the  
4 Powerbeats 2 headphone received an average of 2 stars out of 5 based on 589 consumers' reviews.  
5 Of the 589 reviews, 379 gave the Powerbeats 2 a 1 star rating. Many of those customers complain  
6 about the failure to hold a charge and battery defects:

7 These work great for 1-4 months. I purchased mine in NOV  
8 2015 and my husbands in DEC 2015. We work out at the gym  
9 2-3 times per week and loved these. My husband's pair  
10 stopped working in March 2016 and mine in April 2016. They  
11 will not turn on even after appropriately charged. Such as  
12 disappointment.

11 \* \* \*

12 Spent close to \$300 - after one month it wouldn't charge, it  
13 would light but wouldn't turn on. Apple replaced it with  
14 another pair, same thing happened to it after 6 weeks! I  
15 wanted an exchange for a different brand but they wouldn't do  
16 it w/out sending it for repair to beats. Save yourself the  
17 headache and do not buy this garbage

17 \* \* \*

18 My wife bought me the Powerbeats2 Wireless headphones last  
19 year for my workouts at the gym. Today, I'm on my 4th  
20 Powerbeats2 Wireless headphones, not because I wanted to  
21 purchase more, because each one had a power issue within 2-3  
22 months. Ultimately, each of these headphones, which I had to  
23 return and request a new one, worked fine for the first few  
24 weeks but stopped working after 2 months or so. I believe the  
25 sweat-proof design is flawed and the headphones cannot  
26 withstand heavy sweating from an intense workout.

24 \* \* \*

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27 <sup>2</sup> March 23, 2016 version of Apple's webpage archived on the Way Back Machine at  
28 <http://web.archive.org/web/20160323182928/http://www.apple.com/shop/product/MHBE2AM/A/beats-powerbeats2-wireless-in-ear-headphones>



1 These headphones are an enormous waste of money. The first  
2 set I purchased worked well for a few months, then would not  
3 charge. I tried the recommended fixes (resetting, downloading  
4 the beats updater) which did not work. After receiving a  
5 replacement set from Apple, the new set lasted for one use.  
6 Now I have a \$200 pair of non-functioning headphones. At  
7 least they look cool.

8 \* \* \*

9 I have gone through several pairs of these headphones as they  
10 continue to die (will not charge and then will not power up). Each  
11 time I have brought them to the Apple Store for repair, and am  
12 given a new unit. I use them for air travel and exercise - what they  
13 are advertised for... Yet they continue to die after a few week's  
14 use. For the price, this is highly frustrating and not worth the  
15 investment.

16 \* \* \*

17 1 month and they won't turn on. Based on the reviews I have seen  
18 here, this is a common problem, but for a quality product that i spent  
19 \$200 on, I would expect a lot more. Very frustrating.

20 \* \* \*

21 These headphones are garbage. I got them and two months later they  
22 will charge, or at least show it is charged. They turn on and at exactly  
23 45 seconds cut off.

24 \* \* \*

25 Now on 3rd replacement pair... same story with each, after  
26 about a month just stops turning on despite full charge. Once  
27 can be put down to chance but three times together with all the  
28 other reviews means an inherent flaw...

55. Consumers have slammed the Powerbeats 3 repeatedly, giving the headphones an average of 1.5 stars out of 5, based on 676 reviews on Apple's website.<sup>3</sup> In fact, 480 out of 676

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<sup>3</sup> Powerbeats3 Wireless Earphones – Black (September 11, 2017) <https://www.apple.com/us-hed/shop/product/ML8V2LL/A/powerbeats3-wireless-earphones-black?fnode=081ea5e3f76c4a3f14bb86ce2703beb8c183ca6d1d1e68b8fd5dc36c280d12408dfc899a77eb2cee26ed3a135692a5fca5991677f954f6a554c46cd3caf41936c73a28ef083fc0794746900f05d7>

1 consumers have given the headphones a one-star rating. (In contrast, the Apple brand AirPods  
2 earphones have 557 reviews with only 40 consumers giving the earphones a one star rating.) A  
3 common theme emerges among consumers' complaints: the Powerbeats are not sweat resistant and  
4 contain a defect causing them to fail to retain a charge.

5 I was willing to give them a chance ... God, I was so wrong! 3 pairs  
6 later I said "enough is enough, gimme my money back!" The minute  
7 you sweat, these headphones DIE. Complete lie that they are sweat  
8 and water resistant. They're advertised as working out headphones,  
9 utter garbage. I wish they worked, because the sound was actually  
really good. But the material is rubbish. Apple you should be  
ashamed. Just disgustingly bad. I would give this a zero star rating.  
Avoid this product at all costs! Thank me later!

10 \* \* \*

11  
12 Not worth it at all. I am on my 5th replacement. They work for about  
13 a week or two than die and will not power on. Forget the 12 hour life,  
I get 30-45 minutes out of each charge.

14 \* \* \*

15  
16 2 sets died already within the first month. The sweat proof statement  
is a fat lie.

17 \* \* \*

18  
19 4<sup>th</sup> replacement. I have had to send mine in and were replaced  
20 all for exactly the same issue. They just don't charge anymore.  
Each time it gets replaced with a new one and lasts about 1 or  
21 2 months, then it happens gain. Bad quality product this is.

22 \* \* \*

23  
24 This product is terrible, it stopped working just after 2 weeks of  
buying it. It wont [sic] turn on and no light when charged, it's not  
25 sweat resistant because if it is it should be still in working order.

26 \* \* \*

27  
28 bcd8f6a848f9d54ceaf8faa7b3746fa2fc31c69b2d5986534f4053227860e1ed11b47e15fetc14cf9b9e1  
82b03e51bb711aa

1 I'm in total agreement with all the comments. im [sic] currently  
2 waiting for apple to ship me my 3rd pair. same as everyone  
3 else... sweat a little and they just die, dont charge, dont connect to my  
4 phone...nothing. dont believe the hype. if these next ones go out on  
me also, im done with beats!

5 \* \* \*

6 My first pair last less than a month before they malfunctioned  
7 (wouldn't charge up, couldn't be recognized by laptop). Asked at the  
8 retailer whether he'd seen problems with the model. His answer was  
9 vague enough to have me a little worried.  
10 2nd pair just died and I have experienced all the various problems  
11 mentioned in these posts, most werr recoverable, but as of yesterday  
12 they will not power down after charging and so are flat when I want  
to use them, also not able to pair with phone or recognised by laptop  
(even is connected by cable). Resetting the unit achieves nothing. i so  
want these to work but clearly they do not and clearly it is a design  
flaw. Poorly implemented product. Not sure why Apple is not acting.  
Class action anyone?

13  
14 56. Similarly, on Beats' own website, the Powerbeats 3 headphones have received only a  
15 2.02 out of 5 rating from 125 customers.<sup>4</sup> Again, many of these customers complain vociferously  
16 about the same failure to hold a charge and battery defects:

17 I am a big user of all Apple product, which is why I bought these - but  
18 I couldn't be more disappointed in this product. After 10 days of use,  
19 the battery completely died and would not hold a charge. Even after  
20 trying multiple charge sources/wires. On top of that, the support from  
Apple to return these was even more off putting. I am embarrassed  
and disappointed that Apple sells this in their stores - the quality of  
this item is sub-par at best. I will not be supporting Beats products  
anymore. First and last time buyer.

22 \* \* \*

23 Great product whilst working. However after 6 months of use, they  
24 suddenly stopped charging. I would plug the power in and the power  
25 light flash's red for about 10 counts and then turns off. I cant get them  
26 to power up. I found apple a little complex and slow to get warranty  
issues fixed in the past, so hoping that this is easier this time. Check

27 <sup>4</sup> Powerbeats3 Wireless (September 11, 2017) [https://www.beatsbydre.com/earphones/powerbeats3-](https://www.beatsbydre.com/earphones/powerbeats3-wireless)  
28 [wireless](https://www.beatsbydre.com/earphones/powerbeats3-wireless).

1 on the web, plenty of people reporting the same issue with the power  
2 beats ear plugs.

3 \* \* \*

4 I am currently on my second pair which I might add, have stopped  
5 working. My first pair was great until they would constantly shut off.  
6 To my surprise the 2nd pair did the same thing. I also had the  
7 Powerbeats wireless / and they did the exact same thing. I do not  
8 recommend these if you are using them to work out.

9 57. Even editorial reviews of the product have identified the problem. On CNET.com,  
10 for example, the review of the Powerbeats 3 headphones mentions the numerous consumer  
11 complaints:

12 One other point to note: we've heard plenty of anecdotal reports from  
13 owners of the Powerbeats2 Wireless that they weren't the most  
14 durable in-ear headphones you could buy. The Amazon user rating of  
15 3.5 out of 5 stars (from almost 5,000 people) reflects this, too. Beats  
16 says the new model is more durable, but the company didn't specify  
17 what's changed on that front.

18 **THE EXPERIENCES OF THE NAMED PLAINTIFFS**

19 **A. Deonn Morgan**

20 58. Deonn Morgan purchased Powerbeats 2 for her teenage son at a Best Buy Store in  
21 December 2015 for \$149.99 before taxes.

22 59. Prior to her purchase in December 2015, Ms. Morgan saw commercials for the  
23 Powerbeats headphones in which professional athletes, including LeBron James, were using the  
24 headphones while engaging in rigorous exercise. She relied on Apple's representations that  
25 Powerbeats were both "sweat & water resistant," "built to endure," and could be used for hours  
26 without recharging. Ms. Morgan purchased her headphones in reliance on these misrepresentations.

27 60. Ms. Morgan's First Set of Powerbeats 2 stopped working and became unusable in  
28 less than six months. In May 2016, Ms. Morgan used her Best Buy warranty to return and replace  
her defective Powerbeats 2 headphones. Just a few months later, Ms. Morgan's second set of  
Powerbeats headphones malfunctioned. In or around November 2016 Ms. Morgan contacted and

1 returned her headphones to Apple, who sent her a third pair of Powerbeats headphones. Ms.  
2 Morgan's third set of Powerbeats 2 headphones began to malfunction soon after receipt and use.

3 61. Had Ms. Morgan known of the Powerbeats' failure to hold a charge and battery  
4 defects, she would not have purchased them, or would have paid significantly less for them.

5 62. Additionally, had Ms. Morgan known Powerbeats were not "sweat & water  
6 resistant," did not have a battery that would last 6 hours, and/or were not "built to endure," she  
7 would not have purchased them or would have paid significantly less for them.

8 **B. Lydia Zepeda**

9 63. Lydia Zepeda purchased her Powerbeats 3 from Costco in May of 2017 for \$149.99  
10 before taxes.

11 64. Ms. Zepeda purchased her Powerbeats 3 to listen to music while working out at the  
12 gym. She believed Powerbeats 3 would suit that purpose after seeing Apple's representations that  
13 the Powerbeats 3 were sweat and water resistant. She also purchased the Powerbeats 3 believing  
14 Apple's representations that the Powerbeats 3's batteries could last for 12 hours of use. Ms. Zepeda  
15 relied on Apple's misrepresentations regarding the characteristics of the Powerbeats 3 when making  
16 her purchase at Costco.

17 65. Ms. Zepeda was able to use her headphones for 7 weeks before they began failing to  
18 retain a charge, eventually failing to turn on at all.

19 66. Ms. Zepeda called Apple to request a replacement pair of headphones, but Apple  
20 representatives told her that the headphones were not covered by the manufacturer's warranty.  
21 Apple refused to replace the headphones.

22 67. Had Ms. Zepeda known of the Powerbeats' failure to hold a charge and battery  
23 defects, she would not have purchased them or would have paid significantly less for them.

24 68. Additionally, had Ms. Zepeda known Powerbeats were not "sweat & water  
25 resistant," did not have a battery that would last 12 hours, and/or were not suitable to use while  
26 exercising, she would not have purchased them.

27  
28

1           **C.     Sophia Ivy**

2           69.     Sophia Ivy purchased her Powerbeats 2 headphones from the Home Shopping  
3 Network in a four part installment plan for \$199.95 before taxes in December 2014.

4           70.     Ms. Ivy purchased the headphones to work out and speak on the phone on a wireless  
5 headset. She purchased the Powerbeats 2 under the belief that the headphones were suitable for  
6 working out and were durable. Ms. Ivy relied on Apple’s misrepresentations that the Powerbeats  
7 headphones were sweat and water resistant when deciding to purchase the Powerbeats 2  
8 headphones. She also relied on Apple’s representations that the Powerbeats would hold a charge for  
9 six hours.

10          71.     Ms. Ivy’s Powerbeats broke after four months of use. In April of 2014, Ms. Ivy’s  
11 Powerbeats would not hold a charge for longer than a few minutes. Eventually, the headphones  
12 would fail to turn on.

13          72.     Ms. Ivy contacted Apple, who sent her a replacement pair of Powerbeats 2. The  
14 replacement Powerbeats 2 failed within 10 months. The replacement Powerbeats 2 failed to hold a  
15 charge and would not stay on.

16          73.     Ms. Ivy received numerous replacement Powerbeats 2 headphones that also failed to  
17 work as warranted. Ms. Ivy continued contacting Apple as the numerous replacement Powerbeats 2  
18 headphones Apple sent her continued to fail to charge or would fail to turn on due to a defect in the  
19 headphones.

20          74.     Ms. Ivy requested a refund for her defective Powerbeats 2 headphones, but Apple  
21 representatives told her they would only send replacement Powerbeats 2 headphones.

22          75.     Had Ms. Ivy known that the Powerbeats 2 contained the failure to hold a charge and  
23 battery defects, she would not have purchased them or would have paid significantly less for them.

24          76.     Had Ms. Ivy known Powerbeats 2 were not “sweat & water resistant,” did not have a  
25 battery that would last 6 hours, and/or were not suitable to use while exercising, she would not have  
26 purchased them or would have paid significantly less for them.

27  
28

1           **D.     Jennifer Zielinski**

2           77.     Jennifer Zielinski purchased a pair of Powerbeats 2 headphones in April of 2016  
3 from a T-Mobile store for \$199.99 before taxes.

4           78.     Ms. Zielinski purchased the Powerbeats 2 headphones because she wanted a pair of  
5 wireless headphones that could withstand sweat from an aerobic workout. Ms. Zielinski relied on  
6 Apple’s representations that the Powerbeats 2 were sweat and water resistant and were headphones  
7 durable enough to withstand rigorous exercise when purchasing the headphones. Ms. Zielinski also  
8 relied on Apple’s representations that the battery of the Powerbeats 2 could last for six hours when  
9 purchasing the headphones.

10          79.     Within approximately 3 weeks of purchase, Ms. Zielinski’s Powerbeats 2  
11 headphones would not charge and would not turn on. Ms. Zielinski returned to the T-Mobile Store  
12 and received a replacement pair of Powerbeats 2 headphones.

13          80.     Within approximately 3 months of receiving the replacement pair of Powerbeats 2,  
14 Ms. Zielinski’s replacement Powerbeats 2 stopped charging and would not turn on. Ms. Zielinski  
15 went to an Apple store, where she received another replacement set of Powerbeats 2s.

16          81.     Ms. Zielinski received multiple additional replacement Powerbeats 2 headphones  
17 from Apple after each would proceed to fail in the same way: failing to hold a charge and  
18 eventually failing to turn on.

19          82.     When Ms. Zielinski requested that Apple honor its one year manufacturer’s  
20 warranty, Apple representatives told Ms. Zielinski that Powerbeats 2 cannot not withstand heavy  
21 sweating.

22          83.     Had Ms. Zielinski known that the Powerbeats 2 contained the failure to hold a charge  
23 and battery defects, she would not have purchased them or paid significantly less for them.

24          84.     Had Ms. Zielinski known Powerbeats 2 were not “sweat & water resistant,” did not  
25 have a battery that would last 6 hours, and/or were not suitable to use while exercising, she would  
26 not have purchased them or paid significantly less for them.

27  
28





1 members be arbitrary or unfair. Indeed, in the Terms of Service on the Beats website, Apple  
2 declares that, “You agree that all matters relating to your access to or use of the Site and/or Service,  
3 including all disputes, will be governed by the laws of the United States and by the laws of the State  
4 of California without regard to its conflicts of laws provisions.” Although the Terms of Service do  
5 not directly apply to this dispute—because it does not relate to consumers’ access to or use of the  
6 Beats website—this provision demonstrates Apple’s awareness and agreement that California law  
7 should apply to most disputes between consumers and Apple relating to the Beats product line.

8 95. Alternatively, Plaintiffs plead state law claims from each respective state where each  
9 named plaintiff resides to govern the state subclass each Named Plaintiff represents.

10 **CAUSES OF ACTION**

11  
12 **A. EXPRESS WARRANTY CLAIMS**

13 **COUNT I**  
14 **(Breach of Express Warranty—Magnuson Moss Warranty Act—**  
15 **On Behalf of the Nationwide Class and Each Subclass)**

16 96. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate each and every allegation set forth above as if  
17 fully written herein.

18 97. Powerbeats are consumer products as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 2301(1).

19 98. Plaintiffs and Class Members are consumers as defined in 15 U.S.C. § 2301(3).

20 99. Apple is a supplier and warrantor as defined in 15 U.S.C. §§ 2301(4) and (5).

21 100. Apple provided Plaintiffs and Class Members with “written warranties” within the  
22 meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 2301(6).

23 101. Apple breached the express warranty by refusing to honor the express warranty to  
24 replace or repair, free of charge, any defective Powerbeats and by instead providing Plaintiffs and  
25 the Class with only a temporary fix: new or refurbished Powerbeats which contained the same  
26 defect. At no time has Apple offered a permanent or adequate repair or replacement of the defective  
27 Powerbeats.

28

1 102. Additionally, by advertising that Powerbeats are “Sweat & Water Resistant,” Apple  
2 expressly warranted to Plaintiffs and Class members that the Powerbeats would continue to work,  
3 even after exposure to moisture.

4 103. Moreover by advertising that Powerbeats 2 had a rechargeable battery with 6 hour  
5 playback and the Powerbeats 3 had a 12 hour battery life, Apple expressly warranted to Plaintiffs  
6 and Class members that the Powerbeats had a battery that would last for hours when fully charged.

7 104. Such statements became the basis of the bargain for Plaintiffs and other Class  
8 members because such statements are among the facts a reasonable consumer would consider  
9 material in the purchase of high-end sport headphones.

10 105. Apple breached this express warranty by delivering Powerbeats that do not deliver as  
11 promised and fail to withstand minimal amounts of moisture and fail to retain their charge for six or  
12 twelve hours.

13 106. At the time the Powerbeats were sold, Apple knew of the defects they possessed and  
14 offered an express warranty with no intention of honoring said warranties with respect to the known  
15 defects.

16 107. Despite repeated demands by Plaintiffs and Class Members that Apple repair or  
17 replace the defective Powerbeats, Apple has refused to provide a permanent fix. Apple’s refusal to  
18 provide an adequate repair or replacement violates 15 U.S.C. § 2304.

19 108. Apple was afforded a reasonable opportunity to cure its breach of the express  
20 warranty, but failed to do so.

21 109. As a direct and proximate result of Apple’s breach of its express written warranties,  
22 Plaintiffs and Class Members have been damaged in an amount to be proven at trial.

23 **COUNT II**  
24 **(Express Warranty—**  
25 **On Behalf of Nationwide Class, and in the Alternative and the California Subclass)**

26 110. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate each and every allegation set forth above as if  
27 fully written herein.

28 111. Apple’s one-year warranty states:

1 Your Apple-branded or Beats-branded hardware product (“Product”) is  
2 warranted against defects in materials and workmanship for a period of  
3 ONE (1) YEAR from the date of original retail purchase (“Warranty  
4 Period”) when used in accordance with Apple’s user manuals (refer  
5 to <https://www.apple.com/support/country>). Under this warranty, you will  
6 be able to direct your claims to Apple even in situations where you  
7 purchased the Apple Product from a third party. If a defect arises during  
8 the Warranty Period, Apple, at its option will (1) repair the Product at no  
9 charge using new parts or parts that are equivalent to new in performance  
10 and reliability, (2) exchange the Product with a product with equivalent  
11 functionality formed from new and/or previously used parts that are  
12 equivalent to new in performance and reliability or with your consent, a  
13 product that is at least functionally equivalent to the product it replaces, or  
14 (3) refund the original purchase price.

9 112. Apple violated this express warranty by repeatedly failing to repair or replace  
10 Plaintiffs’ defective Powerbeats, and instead providing Plaintiffs and the Class with only a  
11 temporary fix: new or used Powerbeats that contained the same defect.

12 113. Additionally, by advertising that Powerbeats are “Sweat & Water Resistant,” Apple  
13 expressly warranted to Plaintiffs and Class members that the Powerbeats would continue to work,  
14 even after exposure to moisture.

15 114. Furthermore, by advertising that Powerbeats 2 had a rechargeable battery with 6 hour  
16 playback and the Powerbeats 3 had a 12 hour battery life, Apple expressly warranted to Plaintiffs  
17 and Class members that Powerbeats’ battery would last for hours and would not die without the  
18 ability to turn on.

19 115. Such statements became the basis of the bargain for Plaintiffs and other Class  
20 members because such statements are among the facts a reasonable consumer would consider  
21 material in the purchase of high-end sport headphones.

22 116. Apple breached this express warranty by delivering Powerbeats that do not deliver as  
23 promised, do not have a battery that can last 6 or 12 hours, and fail to withstand minimal amounts of  
24 moisture.

25 117. As a result of the foregoing breaches of express warranty, Plaintiffs and the Class  
26 have been damaged in that they purchased Powerbeats that could not perform as warranted; did not  
27 receive the benefit of the bargain of their Powerbeats purchase; and did not receive an adequate  
28 repair or replacement headphones under Apple’s one-year warranty.

1 118. Plaintiffs and the class seek all damages permitted by law in an amount to be  
2 determined at trial.

3  
4 **COUNT III**  
5 **(In the Alternative, Breach of Express Warranty on Behalf of Pennsylvania Subclass under 13**  
6 **Pa. Stat. and Cons. Stat. Ann. § 2313 and the Florida Subclass Under Fla. Stat. Ann. §**  
7 **672.313)**

8 119. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate each and every allegation set forth above as if  
9 fully written herein.

10 120. Apple's one-year warranty states:

11 Your Apple-branded or Beats-branded hardware product ("Product") is  
12 warranted against defects in materials and workmanship for a period of  
13 ONE (1) YEAR from the date of original retail purchase ("Warranty  
14 Period") when used in accordance with Apple's user manuals (refer  
15 to <https://www.apple.com/support/country>). Under this warranty, you will  
16 be able to direct your claims to Apple even in situations where you  
17 purchased the Apple Product from a third party. If a defect arises during  
18 the Warranty Period, Apple, at its option will (1) repair the Product at no  
19 charge using new parts or parts that are equivalent to new in performance  
20 and reliability, (2) exchange the Product with a product with equivalent  
21 functionality formed from new and/or previously used parts that are  
22 equivalent to new in performance and reliability or with your consent, a  
23 product that is at least functionally equivalent to the product it replaces, or  
24 (3) refund the original purchase price.

25 121. Apple violated this express warranty by repeatedly failing to repair or replace  
26 Plaintiffs' defective Powerbeats, and instead providing Plaintiffs and the Class with only a  
27 temporary fix: new or refurbished Powerbeats which contained the same defect.

28 122. By advertising that Powerbeats are "Sweat & Water Resistant," Apple expressly  
warranted to Plaintiffs and Class members that the Powerbeats would continue to work, even after  
exposure to moisture.

123. By advertising that Powerbeats 2 had a rechargeable battery with 6 hour playback  
and the Powerbeats 3 had a 12 hour battery life, Apple expressly warranted to Plaintiffs and Class

1 members that Powerbeats' battery would last for hours and would not die without the ability to turn  
2 on.

3 124. Such statements became the basis of the bargain for Plaintiffs and other Class  
4 members because such statements are among the facts a reasonable consumer would consider  
5 material in the purchase of high-end sport headphones.

6 125. Apple breached this express warranty by delivering Powerbeats that do not deliver as  
7 promised, fail to withstand minimal amounts of moisture, and neither has a battery that lasts for  
8 hours without recharging.

9 126. Plaintiffs Sophia Ivy and Jennifer Zielinski relied on Apple's express warranties  
10 regarding the characteristics and qualities of the Powerbeats.

11 127. As a result of the foregoing breaches of express warranty, Plaintiffs and the Class  
12 have been damaged in that they purchased Powerbeats that could not perform as warranted; did not  
13 receive the benefit of the bargain of their Powerbeats purchase; and did not receive an adequate  
14 repair or replacement headphones under Apple's one-year warranty.

15 128. Plaintiffs and the class seek all damages permitted by law in an amount to be  
16 determined at trial.

17 **B. IMPLIED WARRANTY CLAIMS**

18 **COUNT IV**

19 **(Breach of the California Song-Beverly Act – Implied Warranty of Merchantability—**  
20 **On Behalf of Nationwide Class and California Subclass)**

21 129. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate each and every allegation set forth above as if  
22 fully written herein.

23 130. The Powerbeats are a "consumer good" within the meaning of Cal. Civ. Code §  
24 1791(a).

25 131. Plaintiffs and members of the Class are "buyers" within the meaning of Cal. Civ.  
26 Code § 1791(b).

27 132. Apple is a "manufacturer" of the Powerbeats within the meaning Cal. Civ. Code §  
28 1791(j).

1 133. Apple impliedly warranted to Plaintiffs and Class members that its Powerbeats were  
2 “merchantable” within the meaning of Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1791.1(a) and 1792; however, the  
3 Powerbeats do not have the quality that a buyer would reasonably expect, and were therefore not  
4 merchantable.

5 134. Cal. Civ. Code § 1791.1(a) states:

6 “Implied warranty of merchantability” or “implied warranty that  
7 goods are merchantable” means that the consumer goods meet each of  
8 the following:

9 (1) Pass without objection in the trade under the contract description;

10 (2) Are fit for the ordinary purposes for which such goods are used;

11 (3) Are adequately contained, packaged, and labeled; and

12 (4) Conform to the promises or affirmations of fact made on the  
13 container or label.

14 135. The Powerbeats would not pass without objection in the trade because they do not  
15 perform as warranted because they fail to maintain a charge after minimal use.

16 136. Similarly, the Powerbeats’ failure to maintain a charge after minimal use renders  
17 them unfit for ordinary purposes for which such goods are used.

18 137. The Powerbeats are not adequately contained, packaged, and labeled because the  
19 labeling represents that they are sweat & water resistant, which they are not.

20 138. Moreover, the Powerbeats are not adequately contained, packaged, and labeled  
21 because the labeling represents that they have a battery that can last 6 or 12 hours, when the battery  
22 does not last nearly that long.

23 139. For the same reason, the Powerbeats do not conform to the promises or affirmations  
24 of fact made on the container or label.

25 140. Apple thus breached the implied warranty of merchantability.

26 141. Notice of breach is not required because Plaintiffs and the other Class members did  
27 not purchase their Powerbeats directly from Apple.  
28

1 142. As a direct and proximate result of Apple’s breach of the implied warranty of  
2 merchantability, Plaintiffs and the other Class members did not receive the benefit of their bargain  
3 and received goods with a defect that substantially impairs their value to Plaintiffs and Class  
4 members. Plaintiffs and Class members were damaged as a result of the defect in the Powerbeats,  
5 the product’s malfunctioning, and the nonuse of their Powerbeats.

6 143. Pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1791.1(d) & 1794, Plaintiffs and Class members are  
7 entitled to damages and other legal and equitable relief including, at their election, the purchase  
8 price of their Powerbeats or the overpayment or diminution in value of their Powerbeats.

9 144. Pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 1794, Plaintiffs and the other Class members are  
10 entitled to costs and attorneys’ fees.

11  
12 **COUNT V**  
13 **(Violation of 15 U.S.C. § 2301 *et seq.*: The Magnuson-Moss**  
14 **Warranty Act—Implied Warranty—**  
15 **On Behalf Of the Nationwide Class and All State Subclasses)**

16 145. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate each and every allegation set forth above as if  
17 fully written herein.

18 146. Plaintiffs bring this claim on behalf of the nationwide class and all of the subclasses.

19 147. The Powerbeats are “consumer products” within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 2301.

20 148. Plaintiffs and members of the class are “consumers” within the meaning of 15 U.S.C.  
21 § 2301 because they are persons entitled under applicable state law to enforce against the warrantor  
22 the obligations of its express and implied warranties.

23 149. Apple is a “supplier” of the consumer products to consumers and a “warrantor”  
24 within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 2301.

25 150. Section 2310(d)(1) of Chapter 15 of the United States Code provides a cause of  
26 action for any consumer who is damaged by the failure of a warrantor to comply with a written or  
27 implied warranty.  
28

1 151. Apple made written and implied warranties regarding the Powerbeats to Plaintiffs  
2 and members of the class within the meaning of 15 U.S.C. § 2301. Apple provided Plaintiffs and  
3 other class members with an implied warranty of merchantability within the meaning of the  
4 Magnuson-Moss Warranty Act, 15 U.S.C. § 2301(7).

5 152. Apple breached the implied warranty of merchantability because the Powerbeats  
6 were not fit for the ordinary purpose in which such goods are used. Specifically, the Powerbeats  
7 contained a defect that caused them not to retain a charge, particularly after use during exercise,  
8 rendering the Powerbeats unusable for their ordinary purpose.

9  
10 153. Pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 2310(e), Plaintiffs are entitled to bring this class action and  
11 are not required to give Apple notice and an opportunity to cure until such time as the Court  
12 determines the representative capacity of Plaintiffs pursuant to Rule 23 of the Federal Rules of Civil  
13 Procedure.

14 154. Plaintiffs' individual claims place into controversy an amount equal to or exceeding  
15 \$25.00. The amount in controversy of this entire action exceeds the sum of \$50,000.00, exclusive of  
16 interest and costs, computed on the basis of all claims to be determined in this lawsuit. Plaintiffs,  
17 individually and on behalf of the other Class members, seek all damages permitted by law,  
18 including diminution in value of their vehicles, in an amount to be proven at trial.

19  
20 155. In addition, pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 2310(d)(2), Plaintiffs and the other Class  
21 members are entitled to recover a sum equal to the aggregate amount of costs and expenses  
22 (including attorneys' fees based on actual time expended) determined by the Court to have  
23 reasonably been incurred by Plaintiffs and the other Class members in connection with the  
24 commencement and prosecution of this action.

25  
26 156. Further, Plaintiffs and the Class are also entitled to equitable relief under 15 U.S.C. §  
27 2310(d)(1) and damages as a result of Apple's violation of their written and/or implied warranties.  
28



COUNT VI

**(In the Alternative Implied Warranty of Merchantability on Behalf of the State Subclasses for Pennsylvania Under 13 Pa. Con. Stat. Ann. § 2314 and Florida Under Fla. Stat. Ann. § 672.314)**

157. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate each and every allegation set forth above as if fully written herein.

158. Apple is a “merchant” of headphones because Apple is a retail seller of electronic products and accessories and routinely sell a wide variety of headphones.

159. Apple is also the manufacturer of Powerbeats headphones.

160. Plaintiffs and members of the Class are “buyers” of the Powerbeats headphones because they purchased their headphones for personal use.

161. Apple impliedly warranted to Plaintiffs and Class members that its Powerbeats were “merchantable” within the common meaning of “merchantability” expressed in 13 Pa. Con. Stat. Ann. § 2314 and Fla. Stat. Ann. §672.314.

162. 13 Pa. Con. Stat. Ann. § 2314 and Fla. Stat. Ann. §672.314 require that merchantable goods:

- (1) pass without objection in the trade under the contract description; and
- (2) in the case of fungible goods, are of fair average quality within the description; and
- (3) are fit for the ordinary purposes for which such goods are used; and
- (4) run, within the variations permitted by the agreement, of even kind, quality and quantity within each unit and among all units involved; and
- (5) are adequately contained, packaged, and labeled as the agreement may require; and
- (6) conform to the promises or affirmations of fact made on the container or label if any.

163. The Powerbeats would not pass without objection in the trade because they do not perform as warranted—they fail to maintain a charge after minimal use.

164. Similarly, the Powerbeats’ failure to maintain a charge after minimal use renders them unfit for ordinary purposes for which such goods are used.

165. The Powerbeats are not adequately contained, packaged, and labeled because the labeling represents that they are sweat & water resistant and have a battery which can last for up to 6 or 12 hours when the Powerbeats are in use, which are qualities they do not have.

166. For the same reason, the Powerbeats do not conform to the promises or affirmations of fact made on the container or label.

1 167. Apple thus breached the implied warranty of merchantability.

2 168. Notice of breach is not required because Plaintiffs and the other Class members did  
3 not purchase their Powerbeats directly from Apple.

4 169. As a direct and proximate result of Apple's breach of the implied warranty of  
5 merchantability, Plaintiffs and the other Class members did not receive the benefit of their bargain  
6 and received goods with a defect that substantially impairs their value to Plaintiffs and Class  
7 members. Plaintiffs and Class members were damaged as a result of the defect in the Powerbeats,  
8 the product's malfunctioning, and the nonuse of their Powerbeats.

9  
10 **COUNT VII**  
11 **(In the Alternative, Breach of Warranty Against Redhibitory Defects—**  
12 **On Behalf of the Louisiana Subclass)**

13 170. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate each and every allegation set forth above as if  
14 fully written herein.

15 171. La. Civ. Code. Ann. art. 2520 states:

16 A defect is redhibitory when it renders the thing useless, or its use so inconvenient  
17 that it must be presumed that a buyer would not have bought the thing had he known  
18 of the defect. The existence of such a defect gives a buyer the right to obtain rescission  
19 of the sale.

20 A defect is redhibitory also when, without rendering the thing totally useless, it  
21 diminishes its usefulness or its value so that it must be presumed that a buyer would  
22 still have bought it but for a lesser price. The existence of such a defect limits the  
23 right of a buyer to a reduction of the price.

24 172. Plaintiffs' and class members' headphones were rendered useless when the defect  
25 within the Powerbeats headphones prevented them from turning on before a year of use had  
26 elapsed.

27 173. Had Plaintiff Okorochoa and class members known that the Powerbeats' defect could  
28 stop them from being turned on after being used for a year or less, Plaintiff and class members  
would have only purchased the Powerbeats at a lesser fee, if at all.

174. Under La. Civ. Code. Ann. art. 2545, "A seller who knows that the thing he sells has  
a defect but omits to declare it, or a seller who declares that the thing has a quality that he knows it

1 does not have, is liable to the buyer for the return of the price with interest from the time it was  
2 paid, for the reimbursement of the reasonable expenses occasioned by the sale and those incurred  
3 for the preservation of the thing, and also for damages and reasonable attorney fees” minus credit  
4 for the use of the redhibitory product.

5 175. Apple is a seller of Powerbeats presumed to be aware of their redhibitory defects  
6 under Louisiana law. Pursuant to La. Civ. Code. Ann. art. 2545, Apple “is deemed to know that the  
7 thing [it] sells has a redhibitory defect when [it] is a manufacturer of that thing.”

8 176. Apple breached their warranty against redhibitory products when it sold Powerbeats  
9 that would fail to turn on within one year of use or less.

10 177. Plaintiffs and the class seek all damages permitted by law in an amount to be  
11 determined at trial.

12 **C. CONSUMER PROTECTION STATUTE CLAIMS**

13 **COUNT VIII**  
14 **(Violation Of the CLRA—On Behalf of Nationwide Class)**

15 178. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate each and every allegation set forth above as if  
16 fully written herein.

17 179. Apple is a “person” as defined by the CLRA. Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(c).

18 180. Plaintiffs and Class members are “consumers” within the meaning of the CLRA, as  
19 defined by Cal. Civ. Code § 1761(d), who purchased one or more pairs of Powerbeats.

20 181. The CLRA prohibits “unfair or deceptive acts or practices undertaken by any person  
21 in a transaction intended to result or which results in the sale or lease of goods or services to any  
22 consumer[.]” Cal. Civ. Code § 1770(a).

23 182. Apple has engaged in unfair or deceptive trade practices that violated Cal. Civ. Code  
24 § 1770(a), as described above and below, by, among other things, failing to disclose the defective  
25 nature of the Powerbeats, representing that the Powerbeats had characteristics and benefits that they  
26 do not have (e.g., durability, endurance, battery life, that they are sweat and water resistant, the  
27 ability to use during workouts), representing that the Powerbeats were of a particular standard,  
28

1 quality, or grade when they were of another, and advertising Powerbeats with the intent not to sell  
2 them as advertised. *See* Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1770(a)(5), (a)(7), (a)(9).

3 183. Apple knew, should have known, or was reckless in not knowing that its products  
4 did not have the qualities, characteristics, and functions it represented, warranted, and advertised  
5 them to have.

6 184. Plaintiffs and Class members are reasonable consumers who expected that their  
7 Powerbeats would work as represented.

8 185. As a result of Apple's conduct and unfair or deceptive acts or practices, Plaintiffs  
9 and Class members suffered actual damages in that the Powerbeats do not function as represented  
10 and are not worth the amount paid and Apple has deprived Plaintiffs and Class members the benefit  
11 of the bargain.

12 186. Plaintiffs and the Class seek an order enjoining Defendant's unfair or deceptive acts  
13 or practices, equitable relief, an award of attorneys' fees and costs under Cal. Civ. Code § 1780(e).

14 187. Pursuant to Section 1782(d) of the CLRA, Plaintiffs reserve the right to amend this  
15 Complaint to include a request for damages under the CLRA pursuant to Section 1782(a) of the  
16 CLRA within thirty (30) days after the commencement of this cause of action for injunctive relief.  
17 *See* Ex. A.

18  
19 **COUNT IX**  
**(Violation Of the UCL—On Behalf of Nationwide Class)**

20 188. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate each and every allegation set forth above as if  
21 fully written herein.

22 189. California Business & Professions Code § 17200 prohibits acts of "unfair  
23 competition," including any "unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business act or practice" and "unfair,  
24 deceptive, untrue or misleading advertising." Apple's conduct related to the sale of its defective  
25 Powerbeats violated each of this statute's three prongs.

26 190. Apple committed an unlawful business act or practice in violation of Cal. Bus. &  
27 Prof. Code § 17200, *et seq.*, by their violations of the Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ.  
28 Code § 1750, *et seq.*, as set forth above, by the acts and practices set forth in this Complaint.

1 191. Apple committed unfair business acts and practices in violation of Cal. Bus. & Prof.  
2 Code § 17200, *et seq.*, when it sold Powerbeats that contained a defect causing them to fail to  
3 maintain a charge after minimal use; when it represented that the Powerbeats withstand sweat and  
4 water, when in fact they cannot; and, when in response to requests for replacement Powerbeats  
5 under Apple’s warranty, Apple sent consumers headphones that contained the same defect.

6 192. Apple committed fraudulent business acts and practices in violation of Cal. Bus. &  
7 Prof. Code § 17200, *et seq.*, when it affirmatively and knowingly misrepresented that the  
8 Powerbeats were durable and would withstand sweat and water, when in fact they cannot; and,  
9 when in response to requests for replacement Powerbeats under Apple’s warranty, Apple sent  
10 consumers headphones that contained the same defect. Apple’s representations and concealment of  
11 the defect are likely to mislead the public with regard to the true defective nature of the Powerbeats.

12 193. As a direct and proximate result of Apple’s unfair and deceptive practices, Plaintiffs  
13 and Class members suffered and will continue to suffer actual damages.

14 194. As a result of its unfair and deceptive conduct, Apple has been unjustly enriched  
15 and should be required to disgorge its unjust profits and make restitution to Plaintiffs and Class  
16 members pursuant to Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17203 and 17204.

17 195. Legal remedy alone will be insufficient to fully redress Plaintiffs’ injuries and stop  
18 Apple from continuing in its unfair and deceptive conduct. Therefore, Plaintiffs and the Class seek  
19 equitable relief, including an order enjoining Apple’s unfair or deceptive acts or practices, and an  
20 award of attorneys’ fees and costs under Cal. Code of Civ. Proc. § 1021.5.

21 **COUNT X**  
22 **(In the Alternative, Violation of Florida Consumer Protection Laws—**  
23 **On Behalf of Florida Subclass)**

24 196. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate each and every allegation set forth above as if  
25 fully written herein.

26 197. Fla. Stat. Ann. § 501.204(1) prohibits “Unfair methods of competition,  
27 unconscionable acts or practices, and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any  
28 trade or commerce are hereby declared unlawful.”

198. Apple engaged in unfair and deceptive acts in violation of Fla. Stat. Ann. § 501.204

1 when Apple represented that the Powerbeats withstand sweat and water, when in fact they cannot;  
2 when Apple represented that the Powerbeats have a battery that can last for hours without  
3 recharging, when in fact they cannot; and, when in response to requests for replacement Powerbeats  
4 under Apple's warranty, Apple sent consumers headphones that contained the same defect.

5 199. Plaintiff Sophia Ivy and members of the class relied on Apple's misrepresentations  
6 when purchasing her Powerbeats headphones. Had she known that those misrepresentations were  
7 false, she and members of the class would not have purchased her Powerbeats headphones.

8 200. Plaintiffs and the class seek all damages permitted by law in an amount to be  
9 determined at trial.

10 **COUNT XI**  
11 **(In the Alternative, Violation of Pennsylvania Consumer Protection Laws—**  
12 **On Behalf of Pennsylvania Subclass)**

13 201. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate each and every allegation set forth above as if  
14 fully written herein.

15 202. 73 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 201-3 declares "unfair methods of competition" and "unfair or  
16 deceptive acts or practices" unlawful. "Unfair methods of competition" and "unfair or deceptive  
17 acts or practices" are defined by 73 Pa. Stat. Ann. §202-2(4) as "Representing that goods... have...  
18 characteristics... uses, [or] benefits...that they do not have."

19 203. Apple engaged in unlawful "unfair or deceptive acts or practices" and violated 73 Pa.  
20 Stat. Ann. § 201-3 when it represented that the Powerbeats were water resistant and sweat proof,  
21 when in fact they are not; when it represented that Powerbeats had a battery that would retain a  
22 charge for hours, when in fact it could not; and when it represented that it would offer a  
23 replacement, repair, or refund for defective Powerbeats if the product broke within a year of  
24 purchase, when instead it provided similarly defective Powerbeats as a replacements.

25 204. 73 Pa. Stat. Ann. §201-9.2(a) states:

26 Any person who purchases or leases goods or services primarily for  
27 personal, family or household purposes and thereby suffers any  
28 ascertainable loss of money or property, real or personal, as a result of  
the use or employment by any person of a method, act or practice  
declared unlawful by section 31 of this act, may bring a private action to

1 recover actual damages or one hundred dollars (\$100), whichever is  
2 greater. The court may, in its discretion, award up to three times the  
3 actual damages sustained, but not less than one hundred dollars (\$100),  
4 and may provide such additional relief as it deems necessary or proper.  
5 The court may award to the plaintiff, in addition to other relief provided  
6 in this section, costs and reasonable attorney fees.

7  
8  
9  
10 205. Plaintiffs and members of the class purchased Powerbeats for their personal use.

11 206. Plaintiffs and members of the class suffered an ascertainable loss of money where  
12 they purchased Powerbeats under the misconception that the Powerbeats were sweat proof, water  
13 resistant, and had a battery that could last for hours without recharging, when in fact they had none  
14 of those characteristics.

15 207. Plaintiffs and members of the class relied on Apple's misrepresentations regarding  
16 the Powerbeats' characteristics when deciding to purchase the headphones. Had they known that the  
17 Powerbeats did not possess the characteristics Apple represented it had, they would have paid  
18 significantly less for the Powerbeats, if they would have purchased them at all.

19 208. As a result, Apple violated 73 Pa. Stat. Ann. § 201-3 and Plaintiffs are entitled to all  
20 damages to be determined by law.

21 **D. COMMON LAW CLAIMS**

22 **COUNT XIII**  
23 **(Common Law Fraud—On Behalf of Nationwide Class)**

24 209. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate each and every allegation set forth above as if  
25 fully written herein.

26 210. Apple engaged in fraudulent and deceptive conduct. As described above, Apple's  
27 conduct defrauded Plaintiffs and Class members, by intentionally leading them to believe, through  
28 affirmative misrepresentations, omissions, suppressions, and concealments of material fact, that the  
Powerbeats possessed important characteristics that they in fact do not possess—namely that they  
are sweat and water resistant—and inducing their purchases.

211. Apple's intentional and material misrepresentations included, among other things, its  
advertising, marketing materials and messages, and other standardized statements claiming the  
Powerbeats are designed for use during workouts, and built to withstand sweat and water.

1 212. The foregoing misrepresentations were uniform across all Class members.

2 213. The same extensive and widespread advertising campaign was promoted nationwide,  
3 and all of the promotional materials contained the same material representations regarding the  
4 Powerbeats' ability to be used during exercise and ability to withstand sweat and water.

5 214. These representations were false, as detailed herein. Apple knew the representations  
6 were false when it made them and thereby intended to defraud purchasers.

7 215. Apple's actions constitute "actual fraud" within the meaning of Cal. Civ. Code §  
8 1572 because Apple did the following with the intent to deceive Plaintiffs and Class members and  
9 to induce them to enter into their contracts:

- 10 a. Suggested that the Powerbeats can withstand sweat and water and heavy exercise, even  
11 though it knew this to be not true;
- 12 b. Positively asserted that the Powerbeats are sweat & water resistant in a manner not  
13 warranted by the information available to Apple;
- 14 c. Asserted that Powerbeats were "built to endure" and had a battery that could last for hours  
15 without recharging when they knew this to be false;
- 16 d. Asserted that Powerbeats 2 had a rechargeable battery with 6 hour playback and the  
17 Powerbeats 3 had a 12 hour battery life;
- 18 e. Suppressed the true nature of the Powerbeats' defect from Plaintiffs and Class members;
- 19 f. Promised it would deliver Powerbeats that could withstand sweat, water, and heavy  
20 workouts, with no intention of so doing; and
- 21 g. Promised it would deliver Powerbeats that could play sound for 6 to 12 hours, with no  
22 intention of so doing.

23 216. Apple's actions, listed above, also constituted "deceit" as defined by Cal. Civ. Code  
24 § 1710 because Apple willfully deceived Plaintiffs and Class members with intent to induce them  
25 to alter their positions to their detriment by purchasing defective Powerbeats.

26 217. Apple's fraud and concealment was also uniform across all Class members; Apple  
27 concealed from everyone the true nature of the failure to hold a charge and battery defects present  
28 in the Powerbeats.





1 226. Plaintiffs and members of the Class suffered damages as a result of Apple’s breach.

2 227. Apple’s breach proximately caused damages to Plaintiffs and members of the Class.

3 **COUNT XV**  
4 **(Unjust Enrichment)**

5 228. Plaintiffs re-allege and incorporate each and every allegation set forth above as if  
6 fully written herein.

7 229. Plaintiffs and members of the class conferred a benefit upon Apple. Namely,  
8 Plaintiffs and members of the class paid money to Apple for the Powerbeats.

9 230. Apple, however, retained that benefit under circumstances that make it unjust and  
10 inequitable for Apple to retain it without paying Plaintiffs and members of the class the value  
11 thereof. Specifically, Apple retained that benefit despite the fact that the Powerbeats were  
12 defective.

13 231. When purchasing their Powerbeats, Plaintiffs and Class members reasonably  
14 believed that the Powerbeats would perform as advertised and as warranted and would continue to  
15 work and maintain a charge, even after exercise.

16 232. Plaintiffs and Class members received less than what they paid for in that the  
17 Powerbeats fail to maintain a charge after minimal use and therefore do not deliver as promised.

18 233. Plaintiffs and Class members conferred a benefit on Apple by purchasing the  
19 Powerbeats. Had Plaintiffs and Class members known about Powerbeats’ defect—which resulted  
20 in the Powerbeats becoming unusable within one year of purchase—they would not have  
21 purchased the Powerbeats or would have paid significantly less for them.

22 234. Apple should therefore be required to disgorge all profits, benefits, and other such  
23 compensation it obtained through its wrongful conduct.

24  
25 **REQUESTS FOR RELIEF**

26 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs, on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated,  
27 respectfully request that this Court:

28 A. Certify the Class pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 382;

- 1 B. Award damages, including compensatory, exemplary, and statutory damages, to  
2 Plaintiffs and the class in an amount to be determined at trial;
- 3 C. Grant restitution to Plaintiffs and the class and require Apple to disgorge its ill-gotten  
4 gains;
- 5 D. Permanently enjoin Apple from engaging in the wrongful and unlawful conduct  
6 alleged herein;
- 7 E. Award punitive damages, to the extent permitted by law, in an amount to be  
8 determined at trial;
- 9 F. Award Plaintiffs and the class their expenses and costs of suit, including reasonable  
10 attorneys' fees to the extent provided by law;
- 11 G. Award Plaintiffs and the class pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the highest  
12 legal rate to the extent provided by law; and
- 13 H. Award all such further relief as the Court deems appropriate.

14 **JURY DEMAND**

15 Plaintiffs hereby demands a jury trial in the instant action.

16  
17 Dated: September 12, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

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19 \_\_\_\_\_  
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