



# CIVIL CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT

## (CIS)

Use for initial Law Division  
Civil Part pleadings (not motions) under Rule 4:5-1  
**Pleading will be rejected for filing, under Rule 1:5-6(c),  
if information above the black bar is not completed or  
if attorney's signature is not affixed.**

FOR USE BY CLERK'S OFFICE ONLY

PAYMENT TYPE: CK CG CA
CHG/CK NO.
AMOUNT:
OVERPAYMENT:
BATCH NUMBER:

ATTORNEY/PRO SE NAME Alan C. Milstein, Esquire		TELEPHONE NUMBER (856) 662-0700	COUNTY OF VENUE CAMDEN
FIRM NAME (if applicable) Sherman, Silverstein, Kohl, Rose & Podolsky, P.A.		DOCKET NUMBER (When available)	
OFFICE ADDRESS Fairway Corporate Center, 4300 Haddonfield Road, Suite 311, Pennsauken, NJ 08109		DOCUMENT TYPE COMPLAINT	
		JURY DEMAND <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
NAME OF PARTY (e.g., John Doe, Plaintiff) Plaintiff Judy McGuriman, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated		CAPTION Judy McGuriman, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, Plaintiffs, v. Menu Foods, Limited, t/a Menu Foods, Defendant	
CASE TYPE NUMBER (See reverse side for listing) 699	IS THIS A PROFESSIONAL MALPRACTICE CASE? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO IF YOU HAVE CHECKED "YES," SEE N.J.S.A. 2A:53A-27 AND APPLICABLE CASE LAW REGARDING YOUR OBLIGATION TO FILE AN AFFIDAVIT OF MERIT.		
RELATED CASES PENDING? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	IF YES, LIST DOCKET NUMBERS		
DO YOU ANTICIPATE ADDING ANY PARTIES (arising out of same transaction or occurrence)? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	NAME OF DEFENDANT'S PRIMARY INSURANCE COMPANY, IF KNOWN <input type="checkbox"/> NONE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN		

**THE INFORMATION PROVIDED ON THIS FORM CANNOT BE INTRODUCED INTO EVIDENCE.**

CASE CHARACTERISTICS FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING IF CASE IS APPROPRIATE FOR MEDIATION			
DO PARTIES HAVE A CURRENT, PAST OR RECURRENT RELATIONSHIP? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	IF YES, IS THAT RELATIONSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE <input type="checkbox"/> FRIEND/NEIGHBOR <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (explain) <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILIAL <input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS		
DOES THE STATUTE GOVERNING THIS CASE PROVIDE FOR PAYMENT OF FEES BY THE LOSING PARTY? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO			
USE THIS SPACE TO ALERT THE COURT TO ANY SPECIAL CASE CHARACTERISTICS THAT MAY WARRANT INDIVIDUAL MANAGEMENT OR ACCELERATED DISPOSITION:			
	DO YOU OR YOUR CLIENT NEED ANY DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	IF YES, PLEASE IDENTIFY THE REQUESTED ACCOMMODATION:	
WILL AN INTERPRETER BE NEEDED?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	IF YES, FOR WHAT LANGUAGE:	
ATTORNEY SIGNATURE 			

2007 JUN 20 PM 4:14



# CIVIL CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT (CIS)

Use for initial pleadings (not motions) under *Rule 4:5-1*

**CASE TYPES** (Choose one and enter number of case type in appropriate space on the reverse side.)

**Track I — 150 days' discovery**

- 151 NAME CHANGE
- 175 FORFEITURE
- 302 TENANCY
- 399 REAL PROPERTY (other than Tenancy, Contract, Condemnation, Complex Commercial or Construction)
- 502 BOOK ACCOUNT (debt collection matters only)
- 505 OTHER INSURANCE CLAIM (INCLUDING DECLARATORY JUDGMENT ACTIONS)
- 506 PIP COVERAGE
- 510 UM or UIM CLAIM
- 511 ACTION ON NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENT
- 512 LEMON LAW
- 801 SUMMARY ACTION
- 802 OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT (SUMMARY ACTION)
- 999 OTHER (Briefly describe nature of action)

**Track II — 300 days' discovery**

- 305 CONSTRUCTION
- 509 EMPLOYMENT (other than CEPA or LAD)
- 599 CONTRACT/COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION
- 603 AUTO NEGLIGENCE – PERSONAL INJURY
- 605 PERSONAL INJURY
- 610 AUTO NEGLIGENCE – PROPERTY DAMAGE
- 699 TORT – OTHER

**Track III — 450 days' discovery**

- 005 CIVIL RIGHTS
- 301 CONDEMNATION
- 602 ASSAULT AND BATTERY
- 604 MEDICAL MALPRACTICE
- 606 PRODUCT LIABILITY
- 607 PROFESSIONAL MALPRACTICE
- 608 TOXIC TORT
- 609 DEFAMATION
- 616 WHISTLEBLOWER / CONSCIENTIOUS EMPLOYEE PROTECTION ACT (CEPA) CASES
- 617 INVERSE CONDEMNATION
- 618 LAW AGAINST DISCRIMINATION (LAD) CASES

**Track IV — Active Case Management by Individual Judge / 450 days' discovery**

- 156 ENVIRONMENTAL/ENVIRONMENTAL COVERAGE LITIGATION
- 303 MT. LAUREL
- 508 COMPLEX COMMERCIAL
- 513 COMPLEX CONSTRUCTION
- 514 INSURANCE FRAUD
- 701 ACTIONS IN LIEU OF PREROGATIVE WRITS

**Mass Tort (Track IV)**

- |                                           |                                |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 240 REDUX/PHEN-FEN (formerly "DIET DRUG") | 271 ACCUTANE                   |
| 241 TOBACCO                               | 272 BEXTRA/CELEBREX            |
| 248 CIBA GEIGY                            | 274 RISPERDAL/SEROQUEL/ZYPREXA |
| 264 PPA                                   | 601 ASBESTOS                   |
| 266 HORMONE REPLACEMENT THERAPY (HRT)     | 619 VIOXX                      |
| 268 MANUFACTURED GAS PLANT (MGP)          |                                |

If you believe this case requires a track other than that provided above, please indicate the reason on Side 1, in the space under "Case Characteristics."

Please check off each applicable category:

Verbal Threshold

Putative Class Action

Title 59

SHERMAN, SILVERSTEIN, KOHL, ROSE & PODOLSKY, P.A.

By: Alan C. Milstein

By: John M. Hanamirian

Fairway Corporate Center

4300 Haddonfield Road, Suite 311

Pennsauken, NJ 08109

Telephone: 856-662-0700

Facsimile: 856-488-4744

- and -

MEREDITH, COHEN, GREENFOGEL & SKIRNICK, P.C.

By: Daniel B. Allanoff

Architects Building

22nd Floor

17th and Sansom Streets

Philadelphia, PA 19103

Telephone: 212-240-0020

Facsimile: 215-569-0958

*Attorneys for the Plaintiff, and the Class*

2007 MAR 20 PM 4: 14

JUDY McGURIMAN, individually  
and on behalf of all others similarly  
situated,

Plaintiffs,

v.

MENU FOODS LIMITED, t/a MENU  
FOODS,

Defendant.

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY  
LAW DIVISION  
CAMDEN COUNTY

DOCKET NO.:

**CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT AND JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

Plaintiff Judy McGuriman, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated, by and through her chosen attorney, Alan C. Milstein of Sherman, Silverstein, Kohl, Rose & Podolsky, P.A., by way of Complaint against defendant Menu Foods Limited, t/a Menu Foods (“Menu Foods”), hereby says, states, and avers as follows:

**THE PARTIES**

1. Ms. McGuriman is an individual with a residence address at 616 Wimbledon Lane, Hatfield, PA 19440.

2. The remaining class members are numerous dog and cat owners with residence addresses throughout the United States of America.

3. Menu Foods is a Canadian business entity with a principal place of business in Canada at 8 Falconer Drive, Streetsville, Ontario L5N 1B1 and a principal place of business in North America at 9130 Griffith Morgan Lane, Pennsauken, NJ 08110-3211.

4. Most of the products manufactured by Menu Foods that are destined for the United States market are manufactured at its Pennsauken location.

5. Some products are also manufactured at Menu Foods' Emporia, Kansas and North Sioux City, South Dakota locations.

#### VENUE

6. Venue is proper in Camden County because the cause of action pled herein arose in Camden County, and Menu Foods is a resident of Camden County, among other reasons. See R. 4:3-2.

#### ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS

##### I.

7. Very recently, Menu Foods took down the majority of the content on its Internet web site, including content regarding its locations and the value of the "Menu Foods Income Fund," the investment fund that holds a controlling interest in Menu Foods.

8. Nevertheless, through the use of the "Internet Wayback Machine," located at <http://www.archive.org>, important information regarding Menu Foods has been located.

9. According to Menu Foods' archived web site, it is "the leading North American private-label/contract manufacturer of wet pet food products sold by supermarket retailers, mass

merchandisers, pet specialty retailers and other retail and wholesale outlets” and further claims that it “currently produces more than one billion containers per year.”

10. Also according to Menu Foods’ archived web site, Menu Foods’ management has enacted a “Code of Ethical Conduct,” providing, among other things, that “We are committed to full and honest communications with our customers about Menu’s products and services.”

11. As Menu Foods’ current web site reveals, it presently manufactures cat food products for a great number of private labels (Americas Choice, Preferred Pets, Authority, Best Choice, Companion, Compliments, Demoulas Market Basket, Eukanuba, Fine Feline Cat, Food Lion, Foodtown, Giant Companion, Hannaford, Hill Country Fare, Hy-Vee, Iams, Laura Lynn, Li’l Red, Loving Meals, Meijer’s Main Choice, Nutriplan, Nutro Max Gourmet Classics, Nutro Natural Choice, Paws, Pet Pride, Presidents Choice, Price Chopper, Priority US, Save-A-Lot, Schnucks, Science Diet Feline Savory Cuts, Sophistacat, Special Kitty Canada, Special Kitty US, Springfield Prize, Sprout, Wegmans, Weis Total Pet, Western Family US, White Rose, and Winn Dixie) and dog food products for a still greater number of private labels (Americas Choice, Preferred Pets, Authority Award, Best Choice, Big Bet, Big Red, Bloom, Wegmans Bruiser, Cadillac, Companion, Demoulas Market Basket, Eukanuba, Food Lion, Giant Companion, Great Choice, Hannaford, Hill Country Fare, Hy-Vee, Iams, Laura Lynn, Loving Meals, Meijers Main Choice, Mighty Dog Pouch, Mixables, Nutriplan, Nutro Max, Nutro Natural Choice, Nutro Ultra, Nutro, Ol’Roy Canada, Ol’Roy US, Paws, Pet Essentials, Pet Pride - Good n Meaty, Presidents Choice, Price Chopper, Priority Canada, Priority US, Publix, Roche Brothers, Save-A-Lot, Schnucks, Shep Dog, Springfield Prize, Sprout, Stater Brothers, Weis Total Pet, Western Family US, White Rose, Winn Dixie, and Your Pet).

12. Menu Foods' recent filings with the Canadian Securities Administrators reveals that the fund controlling Menu Foods is worth between \$100,000,001.00 and \$500,000,000.00.

## II.

13. Between December 3, 2006 and March 6, 2007, due to the failure of Menu Foods and/or its agents to exercise due care, dog and cat food manufactured by Menu Foods at its Pennsauken and Emporia locations became tainted by contaminated wheat gluten.

14. Menu Foods' management was aware of this fact well prior to March 16, 2007, and Menu Foods took internal, but not external, action as a result.

15. Menu Foods knew that its customers had a strong emotional attachment to their pets and would be devastated by the death and injuries that were going to result.

16. Nevertheless, Menu Foods failed to timely advise the public of the fact of the contamination, whether through a recall or otherwise.

## III.

17. For the previous six years, Ms. McGuriman purchased dog food bearing the brand name Ol'Roy for her dog.

18. This dog food was manufactured by Menu Foods at its Pennsauken location, and distributed by Menu Foods to Wal-Mart.

19. Four weeks ago, Ms. McGuriman's dog began demonstrating symptoms of kidney failure, including extreme thirst and frequent urination.

20. Worried, Ms. McGuriman took her dog to veterinarian Paul Wagner for diagnosis and treatment, which is ongoing.

21. To date, Dr. Wagner has charged Mrs. McGuriman a total of \$260.00 for his treatment of Ms. McGuriman's dog.

#### IV.

22. On Friday, March 16, 2007, Menu Foods announced a recall of 60,000,000 units of Menu Foods' dog and cat food, on the ground that they were tainted with contaminated wheat gluten.

23. On March 19, 2007, the United States Food and Drug Administration issued a statement revealing that at least ten pets in the United States of America have died as a result of Menu Foods' tainted pet food, and that it expects this death toll to rise.

#### **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

24. Ms. McGuriman brings this lawsuit both individually and on behalf of all other persons similarly situated (collectively, "Class").

25. The Class is defined as follows:

All persons who have suffered a financial loss as a result of (a) the willful and wanton failure of Menu Foods and/or its agents to exercise due care in the manufacture of Menu Foods' dog and cat food at Menu Foods' Pennsauken, New Jersey and Emporia, Kansas plants between December 3, 2006 and March 6, 2007, and (b) the willful and wanton failure of Menu Foods to timely disclose to the public that its dog and cat food had become tainted by contaminated wheat gluten.

Specifically excluded from the proposed Class is Menu Foods, its officers, directors, employees and representatives, and the Judge assigned to this matter.

26. This action is brought and may properly be maintained as a class action pursuant to R. 4:32 because it satisfies the numerosity, typicality, adequacy, predominance, and/or superiority requirements, as follows:

- Numerosity/Impracticability of Joinder: On information and belief, the Class consists of at least 20,0000 people. Menu Foods accounts for a substantial percentage of all

private label pet food sold in the United States and New Jersey, and the recall at issue involves 60,000,000 cans of pet food. As a result, the Class is so numerous that joinder of all members in a single action is impractical. The disposition of these claims through the class action mechanism will provide substantial benefits to the Class.

- Commonality and Predominance: There is a well-defined community of interest and common questions of law and fact that predominate over any questions affecting only individual members of the Class. These common legal and factual questions, which do not vary from one Class member to another, and which may be determined without reference to the individual circumstances of any Class member, include whether Menu Foods and/or its agents failed to exercise due care in the manufacture of the pet food at issue, whether Menu Foods knew, or was reckless in not knowing, that its pet food had become tainted by contaminated wheat gluten, whether Menu Foods' wrongful conduct resulted in ascertainable loss to the Class; and the amount and nature of disgorgement and restitution to be imposed for Menu Foods' improper conduct.
- Typicality of Claims: Ms. McGuriman's claims are typical of the claims of the Class because Ms. McGuriman and all Class members were injured by the same wrongful practices in which Menu Foods engaged. Ms. McGuriman's claims arise from the same practice and course of conduct that gives rise to the claims of the Class members, and are based on the same legal theories. The only difference could be the amount of damages sustained, which can be determined readily, and does not bar class certification.



- Adequacy of Representation: Ms. McGuriman is a representative who will fully and adequately protect the interests of the members of the Class, and has retained class counsel who is experienced and qualified in prosecuting class actions, including consumer and product defect class actions and other forms of complex litigation. Neither Ms. McGuriman's nor her attorneys have interests which are contrary to or conflicting with those of the Class.
- Superiority/Manageability: A class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this lawsuit, because individual litigation of the claims of all Class members is economically unfeasible and procedurally impracticable. The likelihood of individual Class members prosecuting separate claims is remote, and even if every Class member could afford individual litigation, the court system would be unduly burdened by individual litigation of such cases. Individual members of the Class do not have a significant interest in individually controlling the prosecution of separate actions, and individualized litigation would also present the potential for varying, inconsistent, or contradictory judgments and would magnify the delay and expense to all parties and to the court system resulting from multiple trials of the same factual issues. Ms. McGuriman knows of no difficulty to be encountered in the management of this action that would preclude its maintenance as a class action. Relief concerning Ms. McGuriman's rights under the laws herein alleged and with respect to the Class would be proper. Menu Foods has acted or refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final injunctive or corresponding declaratory relief with regard to the members of the Class as a whole.

**COUNT I**

**Negligence/Gross Negligence**

27. Ms. McGuriman repeats and realleges the allegations set forth above as if fully contained herein.

28. Menu Foods and/or its agents had a duty of reasonable care.

29. Menu Foods and/or its agents breached its duty in the foregoing manner, and with a willful and wanton disregard for the results of their conduct.

30. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing breach of duty, Ms. McGuriman and the Class suffered ascertainable damages.

**COUNT II**

**Violations of New Jersey Consumer Fraud Act (N.J.S.A. § 56:8-1 et seq.)**

31. The foregoing paragraphs are incorporated herein as if set forth fully at length.

32. Ms. McGuriman repeats and realleges the allegations set forth above as if fully contained herein.

33. Ms. McGuriman, the Class members, and Menu Foods are persons within the meaning of the CFA.

34. At all relevant times material hereto, Menu Foods conducted trade and commerce within the meaning of the CFA.

35. In connection with marketing and selling its pet food, Menu Foods used misrepresentations, deception, fraud, false pretense, concealment, suppression, and omission of material fact with the intent that Ms. McGuriman and the Class members rely upon such conduct.

36. Had Menu Foods timely disclosed the material information at issue regarding the wheat gluten to Ms. McGuriman and Class members, those individuals would not have purchased the pet food, and would not have suffered the financial losses described herein.

37. Menu Foods, however, deemed it to be in its best interest to not disclose the information at issue, in the hopes that it would not be discovered by the public.

38. The practices of Menu Foods violate the CFA.

39. Menu Foods' unlawful conduct occurred in the United States and in New Jersey to the detriment and injury of Ms. McGuriman and Class members in the United States and New Jersey.

40. The foregoing acts, omissions and practices proximately caused the Ms. McGuriman and members of the Class to suffer ascertainable loss and to otherwise be damaged.

#### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, Ms. McGuriman prays for judgment against Menu Foods as follows on behalf of themselves and all Class members:

A. For an order certifying that this action may be maintained as a class action, appointing Ms. McGuriman and her counsel to represent the Class, and directing that reasonable notice of this action be given by Menu Foods to Class members;

B. For an order directing disgorgement or restitution of all improperly collected charges and interest obtained;

C. For general damages to be proven at the time of trial, including, but not limited to, reimbursement of (a) the purchase price of the pet food in question, (b) veterinarian's fees expended, (c) burial expenses, (d) the cost of a replacement pet, (e) incidental expenses, such as travel expenses; and such other relief as is just and proper in the circumstances presented.

- D. For treble and statutory damages;
- E. For punitive damages;
- F. For an award of costs and expenses incurred in this action;
- G. For reasonable attorneys' fees as provided by law and statute;
- H. For pre- and post-judgment interest as provided by law in amount according to proof at trial; and,
- I. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem necessary and proper.

Dated: Tuesday, March 20, 2007

SHERMAN, SILVERSTEIN, KOHL,  
ROSE & PODOLSKY, P.A.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Alan C. Milstein

- and -

MEREDITH, COHEN,  
GREENFOGEL & SKIRNICK, P.C.

By: Daniel B. Allanoff

**JURY DEMAND**

Ms. McGuriman and the Class hereby demand a trial by jury of all issues so triable.

Dated: Tuesday, March 20, 2007

SHERMAN, SILVERSTEIN, KOHL,  
ROSE & PODOLSKY, P.A.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Alan C. Milstein

**DESIGNATION OF TRIAL COUNSEL**

Pursuant to the provisions of R. 4:25-4, the Court is advised that Alan C. Milstein and Daniel B. Allanoff are hereby designated as trial counsel.

Dated: Tuesday, March 20, 2007

SHERMAN, SILVERSTEIN, KOHL,  
ROSE & PODOLSKY, P.A.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Alan C. Milstein

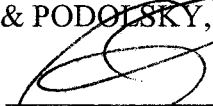
**CERTIFICATE REGARDING OTHER PROCEEDINGS AND PARTIES**

We certify in accordance with R. 4:5-1 that there are no other proceedings either pending or contemplated with respect to the matter in controversy in this action and no other parties who should be joined in this action.

Dated: Tuesday, March 20, 2007

SHERMAN, SILVERSTEIN, KOHL,  
ROSE & PODOLSKY, P.A.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Alan C. Milstein

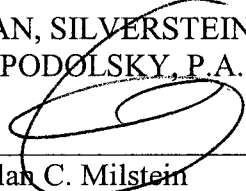
**NOTICE TO ATTORNEY GENERAL**

The undersigned attorney will serve a copy of this Complaint upon the Office of the Attorney General for the State of New Jersey, as required by the CFA, within ten (10) days of the filing of this Complaint.

Dated: Tuesday, March 20, 2007

SHERMAN, SILVERSTEIN, KOHL,  
ROSE & PODOLSKY, P.A.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
Alan C. Milstein