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14 *Attorneys for Plaintiff*

15
16 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
 17 **SOUTHERN DIVISION**

18 JOAN WISEMAN,

19
20 *Plaintiff,*

21 vs.

22 COOK MEDICAL INCORPORATED
 23 a/k/a COOK MEDICAL, INC. ;
 COOK INCORPORATED; and
 24 COOK GROUP, INC.,

25
26 *Defendants.*

27
28 **Case No. 8:16-cv-01542**

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

1. **STRICT LIABILITY FAILURE TO WARN**
2. **STRICT LIABILITY DESIGN DEFECT**
3. **NEGLIGENCE**
4. **NEGLIGENCE *PER SE***
5. **BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY**
6. **BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY**
7. **VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA**

**LAW PROHIBITING
CONSUMER FRAUD AND
UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE
TRADE PRACTICES**
8. LOSS OF CONSORTIUM
9. PUNITIVE DAMAGES

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff Joan Wiseman, by and through her undersigned attorney, brings this action against the Defendants, Cook Medical Incorporated a/k/a Cook Medical Inc., Cook Incorporated, and Cook Group Incorporated. (collectively, the “Defendants”) and allege as follows: This is an action for damages relating to Defendants’ development, testing, assembling, manufacturing, packaging, labeling, preparing, distribution, marketing, supplying, and/or selling the defective product sold under the name “inferior vena cava filter” (hereinafter “IVC filter”).

PARTIES

1. Plaintiff Joan Wiseman a citizen of California and resided in and continues to reside in Huntington Beach, California.

2. On or about January 11, 2008, Plaintiff underwent placement of a Cook Celect® IVC Filter at Hoag Memorial Presbyterian Hospital in Newport Beach, California.

3. The Cook Celect® IVC Filter subsequently failed, two limbs fractured and one arm of the filter fractured, embolized and lodged in the right side of her

1 heart; the filter also migrated and perforated her inferior vena cava walls and
2 protruding into her right kidney. Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer
3 significant medical expenses, pain and suffering, loss of enjoyment of life,
4 disability, scarring, disfigurement and other losses. Plaintiff will require ongoing
5 medical care.
6
7

8 4. Plaintiff was caused to undergo extensive medical care as a result of
9 the failure of the Cook Celect® IVC Filter manufactured by the Cook Defendants.
10 Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer significant medical expenses, pain
11 and suffering, loss of enjoyment of life, disability, scarring, disfigurement and other
12 losses.
13
14

15 5. Defendant Cook Medical Incorporated a/k/a Cook Medical, Inc. is an
16 Indiana Corporation with a principal place of business located at 750 Daniels Way,
17 Bloomington, Indiana 47404. Defendant Cook Medical Incorporated a/k/a Cook
18 Medical, Inc. regularly conducts business in the United States to include the State of
19 Indiana, and is authorized to do so and is a citizen of Indiana.
20
21

22 6. Defendant Cook Incorporated is the parent company of defendant
23 Cook Medical Incorporated a/k/a Cook Medical, Inc. and is an Indiana Corporation
24 with a principal place of business located at 750 Daniels Way, P.O. Box 489,
25 Bloomington, Indiana 47402. Defendant Cook Incorporated regularly conducts
26
27
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1 business in the United States to include the State Indiana, and is authorized to do so
2 and is a citizen of Indiana.
3

4 7. Defendant Cook Group, Inc. is the parent company of Defendant
5 Cook Medical Incorporated and Cook Incorporated and is an Indiana Corporation
6 with a principal place of business located at 750 Daniels Way, P.O. Box 1608,
7 Bloomington, Indiana 47402. Defendant Cook Group Inc. regularly conducts
8 business in the United States to include the State of Indiana, and is authorized to do
9 so and is a citizen of Indiana.
10
11

12 8. Defendant William Cook Europe APS is based in Bjaeverskov,
13 Denmark and regularly conducts business in the United States to include the State
14 Indiana, and is authorized to do so.
15

16 9. Hereinafter, each of the above Defendants shall be collectively referred to as
17 "Cook."
18

19 10. At all times alleged herein, the Cook defendants include any and all
20 parent companies, subsidiaries, affiliates, divisions, franchises, partners, joint
21 ventures, and organizational units of any kind, their predecessors, successors and
22 assigns and their officers, directors, employees, agents, representatives and any and
23 all other persons acting on their behalf.
24
25

26 11. Cook develops, manufactures, sells and distributes medical devices
27 for use in various medical applications including endovascular cardiology, and
28

1 surgical products throughout the United States and around the world. Cook's
2 products at issue in this matter include the Cook Celect[®] Vena Cava Filter, the
3
4 Gunther Tulip[®] Vena Cava Filter, and Celect Platinum[®] IVC Filter all of which are
5 used for the prevention of recurrent pulmonary embolism via placement in the vena
6
7 cava.

8 **STATEMENT OF JURISDICTION**

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10 12. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1332
11 because the Plaintiff and the Defendants are citizens of different states, and the
12 amount in controversy exceeds seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00),
13
14 excluding interest and costs and there is complete diversity of citizenship between
15 Plaintiff and Defendant.

16
17 13. The Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendants under 28
18 U.S.C. §1391, as all Defendants regularly conduct business in the state of
19 California. Further, Defendants are present and doing business within this state and
20
21 have continuous and systematic contacts in this state. Defendant's activities
22 include: marketing, advertising, promoting, distributing, and receiving substantial
23 compensation and profits from sales and other acts that caused or contributed to the
24 harm giving rise to this action. Defendants also made or caused to be made material
25 omissions and misrepresentations and breaches of warranties in California to
26
27 Plaintiff.
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4 **VENUE**

5 14. Venue is proper in this Court under 28 U.S.C. § 1391, as a substantial
6 part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred within this judicial
7 district and the Defendants regularly conduct business in this District.
8

9 15. A substantial amount of activity giving rise to the claims occurred in
10 this District, and Defendants may be found within this District. Therefore, venue is
11 proper in this jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1391.
12
13

14 **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

15 16. Defendants design, research, develop, manufacturer, test, market,
16 advertise, promote, distribute, and sell products that are sold to and marketed to
17 prevent, among other things, recurrent pulmonary embolism via placement in the
18 vena cava. Defendant's products include, the Cook Celect Vena Cava Filter and the
19 Gunther Tulip Filter (hereinafter "Cook Filters"), which are introduced via a coaxial
20 introducer sheath system.
21
22

23 17. The Cook Filters are collectively referred to herein as the Cook
24 Filters.
25
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1 18. Defendants sought Food and Drug Administration (“FDA”) approval
2 to market the Cook Filter’s and/or its components under Section 510(k) of the
3
4 Medical Device Amendment.

5 19. Section 510(k) allows marketing of medical devices if the device is
6
7 substantially equivalent to other legally marketed predicate devices without formal
8 review for the safety or efficacy of the said device. The FDA explained the
9
10 difference between the 510(k) process and the more rigorous “premarket approval”
11 process in an amicus brief filed with the Third Circuit in *Horn v. Thoratec Corp.*,
12 376 F.3d 163, 167 (3d Cir.2004):

13
14 A manufacturer can obtain an FDA finding of “substantial
15 equivalence” by submitting a premarket notification to the
16 agency in accordance with section 510(k)...A device found to
17 be ‘substantially equivalent’ to a predicate device is said to be
18 “cleared” by FDA (as opposed to “approved” by the agency
19 under a [premarket approval]). A pre-market notification
20 submitted under 510(k) is thus entirely different from a [pre-
21 market approval] which must include data sufficient to
22 demonstrate that the device is safe and effective. (Emphasis in
23 original).

24 20. In *Medtronic, Inc. v. Lohr*, 518 U.S. 470,478-79 (1996), the Supreme
25 Court similarly described the 510(k) process, observing:

26 If the FDA concludes on the basis of the [manufacturer’s]
27 §510(k) notification that the device is ‘substantially equivalent’
28 to a pre-existing device, it can be marketed without further
regulatory analysis...The §510(k) notification process is by no
means comparable to the [premarket approval] process; in
contract to the 1,200 hours necessary to complete a PMA
review, the §510(k) review is completed in average of 20

1 hours...Section §510(k) notification requires little information,
2 rarely elicits a negative response from the FDA, and gets
3 process quickly.

4 21. An IVC filter, like the Cook Filter's, is a device designed to filter
5 blood clots (called "thrombi") that travel from the lower portions of the body to the
6 heart and lungs. IVC filters may be designed to be implanted, either temporarily or
7 permanently, within the vena cava.
8

9 22. The inferior vena cava is a vein that returns blood to the heart from
10 the lower portion of the body. In certain people, and for various reasons, thrombi
11 travel from vessels in the legs and pelvis, through the vena cava into the lungs.
12 Often these thrombi develop in the deep leg veins. The thrombi are called "deep
13 vein thrombosis" or DVT. Once the thrombi reach the lungs they are considered
14 "pulmonary emboli" or PE. An IVC filter, like the Cook IVC Filters, is designed to
15 prevent thromboembolic events by filtering or preventing blood clots/thrombi from
16 traveling to the heart and/or lungs.
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21 23. The Cook Celect® IVC Filter was sold and marketed as a
22 **temporary/retrievable filter**, and is based on the Gunther Tulip® IVC Filter,
23 which is was initially cleared as a permanent filter, and later cleared as a retrievable
24 filter.
25
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1 24. The Cook Celect[®] Vena Cava Filter has four (4) anchoring struts for
2 fixation and eight (8) independent secondary struts to improve self-centering and
3 clot trapping.
4

5 25. On or about January 11, 2008, Joan Wiseman was diagnosed with an
6 extensive thrombosis at Hoag Hospital Presbyterian in Newport Beach, California.
7 It was determined that she would be implanted with a temporary/retrievable IVC
8 Filter known as the Cook Celect[®] IVC Filter which was designed, manufactured,
9 marketed, distributed and sold by Cook. The Cook Celect[®] IVC Filter was
10 implanted into Joan Wiseman on January 11, 2008. There were no complications at
11 the time of implantation.
12
13
14

15 26. On September 5, 2015, Joan Wiseman received a call from Dr. John
16 Brown with the results from her CT scan informing her that the Cook Celect[®] IVC
17 Filter was defective and recommended consulting a doctor regarding removal.
18
19

20 27. On October 30, 2015, Joan Wiseman presented at Stanford University
21 Medical Center for a complex IVC filter retrieval of her Cook Celect[®] IVC Filter.
22 At this time, it was determined that the Cook Celect[®] IVC Filter had migrated,
23 apex of the filter tilted medially, perforated through her right renal vein into to her
24 right kidney, two of the filter limbs had fracture, and one of the fractured pieces
25 migrated inferiorly into the posterior retroperitoneum, the other fracture arm resides
26
27
28

1 in the right ventricle of Joan Wiseman's heart. As such, the decision was made to
2 remove the Cook Celect® IVC Filter.
3

4 28. The body of the Cook Celect® IVC Filter was removed including one
5 of the two the fractured limbs; still, one fractured arm remains lodged in the right
6 ventricle of Joan Wiseman's heart.
7

8 29. On November 18, 2015, another effort at removal of the fractured arm
9 was endeavored by doctors at Stanford University Medical Center and subsequently
10 abandoned due to the complexity of the injury and the inability to retrieve the
11 fractured arm.
12

13 30. At all times relevant hereto the Cook Filters were widely advertised
14 and promoted by the Defendants as a safe and effective treatment for prevention of
15 recurrent pulmonary embolism via placement in the vena cava. At all times
16 relevant hereto, Defendants knew its Cook Filters were defective and knew that
17 defect was attributable to the design's failure to withstand the normal anatomical
18 and physiological loading cycles exerted *in vivo*.
19
20
21

22 31. In a retrospective review of all Cook Gunther Tulip Filters and Cook
23 Celect Filters retrieved between July 2006 and February 2008 was performed. 130
24 filter retrievals were attempted but in 33 cases, the standard retrieval technique
25 failed. The authors concluded that "unsuccessful retrieval was due to significant
26 endothelialization and caval penetration" and that "hook endothelialization is the
27
28

1 main factor resulting in failed retrieval and continues to be a limitation with these
2 filters.” O Doody, et al.; “Assessment of Snared-Loop Technique When Standard
3 Retrieval of Inferior Vena Cava Filters Fail” Cardiovasc Intervent Radiol (Sept 4,
4 2008 Technical Note).

5
6
7 32. In another retrospective review of 115 patients who underwent Cook
8 Celect IVC Filter insertion between December 2005 and October 2007. While filter
9 insertion was successful in all patients, the authors also concluded that “[f]ailed
10 retrieval secondary to hook endothelialization continues to be an issue with this
11 filter.” O Doody, et al; Journal of Medical Imaging and Radiation Oncology “Initial
12 Experience in 115 patients with the retrievable Cook Celect vena cava filter” 53
13 (2009) 64-68 (original article).

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16
17 33. In a review of clinical data related to 73 patients who had Celect IVC
18 Filter implanted between August 2007 and June 2008, the authors found that the
19 Celect IVC Filter was related to a high incidence of caval filter leg penetration.
20 Immediately after fluoroscopy-guided filter deployment in 61 patients, four filters
21 (6.5%) showed significant tilt. Follow-up abdominal CT in 18 patients
22 demonstrated filter related problems in 7 (39%), which included penetration of filter
23 legs in 4 and fracture/migration of filter components in 1.

24
25
26
27 34. In a study of Gunther Tulip and Celect IVC Filters implanted between
28 July 2007 and May of 2009 reported by Cardiovascular Interventional Radiology

1 electronically on March 30, 2011 and published by journal in April 2012, one
2 hundred percent of the Cook Celect filters and Gunther Tulip filters imaged after 71
3 days of implant caused some degree of filter perforation of the venal caval wall.
4 Durack JC, et al, Cardiovasc Intervent Radiol “Perforation of the IVC: rule rather
5 than the exception after longer indwelling times for the Gunther Tulip and Celect
6 Retrievable Filters,” 2012 Apr.; 35(2):299-308. Epub 2011 Mar 30. Defendants
7 knew or should have known that their IVC filters were more likely than not to
8 perforate the vena cava wall.
9
10
11

12 35. This same study reported that tilt was seen in forty percent of the
13 implanted Gunther Tulip and Celect IVC Filters. Defendants knew or should have
14 known that their IVC filters were more likely than not tilt.
15
16

17 36. While not inclusive of all medical studies published during the
18 relevant time period, the above references show that the Defendants failed to
19 disclose to physicians, patients or Plaintiff that its Cook Filters **were subject to**
20 **breakage, tilt, unable to be removed and migration** even though they knew or
21 should have known the same was true.
22
23

24 37. At all times relevant hereto, the Defendants continued to promote the
25 Cook Filter as safe and effective even when inadequate clinical trials had been
26 performed to support long or short to safety and/or efficacy.
27
28

1 38. The Defendants concealed the known risks and failed to warn of
2 known or scientifically knowable dangers and risks associated with the Cook
3 Filters, as aforesaid.
4

5 39. The Defendants failed to disclose to physicians, patients, or Plaintiff
6 that it's Cook Filter was subject to not being removed/retrieved once the risk for
7 pulmonary emboli has passed thus placing patients at risk for injury due to breakage
8 and migration or risk of perforation and damage to the vena cava wall. These
9 patients also require lifetime anticoagulation medication(s) and are at high risk for
10 hemorrhage.
11
12

13
14 40. The Cook Filters are constructed of conichrome.

15 41. The Defendants specifically advertise the conichrome construction of
16 the filter as a frame which "reduces the risk of fracture."
17

18 42. The failure of the Cook Filters is attributable, in part, to the fact that
19 the Cook Filters suffer from a design defect causing it to be unable to withstand the
20 normal anatomical and physiological loading cycles exerted *in vivo*.
21

22 43. At all times relevant hereto the Defendants failed to provide sufficient
23 warnings and instructions that would have put Plaintiff(s) and the general public on
24 notice of the dangers and adverse effects caused by implantation of the Cook
25 Filters, including, but not limited to the design's failure to withstand the normal
26 anatomical and physiological loading cycles exerted *in vivo*.
27
28

1 44. The Cook Filters were designed, manufactured, distributed, sold
2 and/or supplied by the Defendant, and was marketed while defective due to the
3 inadequate warnings, instructions, labeling, and/or inadequate testing in light of
4 Defendant's knowledge of the products failure and serious adverse events.
5

6
7 45. That at all times relevant hereto, the officers and/or directors of the
8 Defendants named herein participated in, authorized and/or directed the production
9 and promotion of the aforementioned products when they knew or should have
10 known of the hazardous and dangerous propensities of the said products, and
11 thereby actively participated in the tortuous conduct that resulted in the injuries
12 suffered by the Plaintiff.
13
14

15 **PLAINTIFF'S CAUSES OF ACTION**

16 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

17 **STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY – FAILURE TO WARN**

18
19
20 46. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation of this
21 Complaint as if set forth in full in this cause of action.

22
23 47. Cook IVC Filters were defective and unreasonably dangerous when
24 they left the possession of the Defendants in that they contained warnings
25 insufficient to alert consumers, including Plaintiff, of the dangerous risks associated
26 with the subject product, including but not limited to the risk of tilting, perforation,
27
28

1 fracture and migration which are associated with and did cause serious injury and/or
2 death.
3

4 48. Information provided by Cook to the medical community and to
5 consumers concerning the safety and efficacy of its IVC Filters did not accurately
6 reflect the serious and potentially fatal adverse events Plaintiff could suffer.
7

8 49. At all times relevant hereto, the Cook IVC Filters were dangerous and
9 presented a substantial danger to patients who were implanted with the Cook IVC
10 Filter, and these risks and dangers were known or knowable at the times of
11 distribution and implantation in Plaintiff. Ordinary consumers would not have
12 recognized the potential risks and dangers the Cook IVC Filter posed to patients,
13 because its use was specifically promoted to improve health of such patients.
14
15

16 50. Had adequate warnings and instructions been provided, Plaintiff
17 would not have been implanted with Cook IVC Filters, and would not have been at
18 risk of the harmful injuries described herein. The Defendants failed to provide
19 warnings of such risks and dangers to the Plaintiff and their medical providers as
20 described herein. Neither Plaintiff, nor Plaintiff's physicians knew, nor could they
21 have learned through the exercise of reasonable care, the risks of serious injury
22 and/or death associated with and/or caused by Cooks' IVC Filters.
23
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1 51. Defendants knew or had knowledge that the warnings that were given
2 failed to properly warn of the increased risks of serious injury and/or death
3 associated with and/or caused by Cook IVC Filters.
4

5 52. Plaintiff, individually and through her implanting physicians,
6 reasonably relied upon the skill, superior knowledge and judgment of the
7 Defendants.
8

9 53. Defendants had a continuing duty to warn Plaintiff and their
10 physicians of the dangers associated with the subject product.
11

12 54. Safer alternatives were available that were effective and without risks
13 posed by Cooks IVC Filters.
14

15 55. As a direct and proximate result of the Cook IVC Filter's defects, as
16 described herein, Plaintiff suffered permanent and continuous injuries, pain and
17 suffering, disability and impairment. Plaintiff has suffered emotional trauma, harm
18 and injuries that will continue into the future. Plaintiff has lost her ability to live a
19 normal life, and will continue to be so diminished into the future. Furthermore,
20 Plaintiff have lost earnings and will continue to lose earnings into the future and
21 have medical bills both past and future related to care because of the Cook IVC
22 Filter's defects.
23
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25

26 56. By reason of the foregoing, Defendant is liable to the Plaintiff for
27 damages as a result of its failure to warn and/or adequately warn the Plaintiff and
28

1 healthcare professionals about the increased risk of serious injury and death caused
2 by their defective IVC filter.
3

4 **WHEREFORE**, plaintiff Joan Wiseman demands judgment against the
5 Defendants Cook Medical Incorporated a/k/a Cook Medical, Inc., Cook
6 Incorporated, and Cook Group, Inc. for whatever amount he may be entitled,
7 together with costs of this action. This jurisdictional amount exceeds seventy-five
8 thousand dollars (\$75,000.01+).
9
10

11 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

12 **STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY – DESIGN DEFECT**

13
14 57. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation of this
15 Complaint as if set forth in full in this cause of action.
16

17 58. Defendants have a duty to provide adequate warnings and instructions
18 for its products including its IVC Filters, to use reasonable care to design a product
19 that is not unreasonably dangerous to users.
20

21 59. At all times relevant to this action, Defendants designed, tested,
22 manufactured, packaged, labeled, marketed, distributed, promoted and sold its IVC
23 Filters, placing the devices into the stream of commerce.
24

25 60. At all times relevant to this action, Cook's IVC Filters were designed,
26 tested, inspected, manufactured, assembled, developed, labeled, sterilized, licensed,
27 marketed, advertised, promoted, sold, packaged, supplied and/or distributed by
28

1 Defendants in a condition that was defective and unreasonably dangerous to
2 consumers, including Plaintiff.
3

4 61. Cook IVC Filters are defective in their design and/or formulation in
5 that they are not reasonably fit, suitable, or safe for its intended purpose and/or its
6 foreseeable risks exceed the benefits associated with its design and formulation.
7

8 62. Cook IVC Filters were expected to reach, and did reach, users and/or
9 consumers, including Plaintiff, without substantial change in the defective and
10 unreasonably dangerous condition in which they were manufactured and sold.
11

12 63. Physicians implanted as instructed via the Instructions for Use and in
13 a foreseeable manner as normally intended, recommend, promoted, and marketed
14 by the Defendants. Plaintiff received and utilized Cook IVC Filters in a foreseeable
15 manner as normally intended recommend, promoted, and marketed by the
16 Defendants.
17
18

19 64. Cook IVC Filters were and are unreasonably dangerous in that, as
20 designed, it failed to perform safely when used by ordinary consumers, including
21 Plaintiff, including when it was used as intended and in a reasonably foreseeable
22 manner.
23
24

25 65. Cook IVC Filters were and are unreasonably dangerous and defective
26 in design or formulation for their intended use in that, when they left the hands of
27 the manufacturers and/or supplier, they posed a risk of serious vascular and other
28

1 serious injury which could have been reduced or avoided, inter alia, by the adoption
2 of feasible reasonable alternative design. There were safer alternative designs for
3 the like product.
4

5 66. Cook IVC Filters were insufficiently tested and caused harmful
6 adverse events that outweighed any potential utility.
7

8 67. Cook IVC Filters, as manufactured and supplied, were defective due
9 to inadequate warnings, and/or inadequate clinical trials, testing, and study, and
10 inadequate reporting regarding the results of the clinical trials, testing and study.
11

12 68. Cook IVC Filters, as manufactured and supplied, were defective due
13 to its no longer being substantially equivalent to its predicate device with regard to
14 safety and effectiveness.
15

16 69. Cook IVC Filters as manufactured and supplied by the defendants are
17 and were defective due to inadequate post-marketing warnings or instructions
18 because, after Defendants knew or should have known of the risk of injuries from
19 use and acquired additional knowledge and information confirming the defective
20 and dangerous nature of its IVC Filters, Defendants failed to provide adequate
21 warnings to the medical community and the consumers, to whom Defendant was
22 directly marketing and advertising; and further, Defendant continued to
23 affirmatively promote its IVC Filters as safe and effective and as safe and effective
24 as its predicate device.
25
26
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1 70. As a direct and proximate result of the Cook IVC Filters' defects, as
2 described herein, Plaintiff has suffered permanent and continuous injuries, pain and
3 suffering, disability and impairment. Plaintiff has suffered emotional trauma, harm
4 and injuries that will continue into the future. Plaintiff has lost her ability to live a
5 normal life, and will continue to be so diminished into the future. Furthermore,
6 Plaintiff has lost earnings and will continue to lose earnings into the future and has
7 medical bills both past and future related to care because of the IVC filter's defect.
8
9
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11 71. By reason of the foregoing, Defendant is liable to the Plaintiff for
12 damages as a result of its failure to warn and/or adequately warn the Plaintiff and
13 healthcare professionals about the increased risk of serious injury and death caused
14 by their defective IFC filters.
15
16

17 **WHEREFORE**, the Plaintiff Joan Wiseman demands judgment against the
18 Defendants Cook Medical Incorporated a/k/a Cook Medical, Inc., Cook
19 Incorporated, and Cook Group, Inc. for whatever amount he may be entitled,
20 together with costs of this action. This jurisdictional amount exceeds seventy-five
21 thousand dollars (\$75,000.01+).
22
23

24 **THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION**

25 **NEGLIGENCE**

26 72. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation of this
27 Complaint as if set forth in full in this cause of action.
28

1 73. At all times relevant to this cause of action, the Cook Defendants were
2 in the business of designing, developing, manufacturing, marketing and selling
3 sophisticated medical devices, including its Cook IVC Filters.
4

5 74. At all times relevant hereto, the Cook Defendants were under a duty
6 to act reasonably to design, develop, manufacture, market and sell a product that did
7 not present a risk of harm or injury to the Plaintiff and to those people receiving its
8 Cook IVC Filters.
9
10

11 75. At the time of manufacture and sale of the Cook IVC Filters, the Cook
12 Defendants knew or reasonably should have known the Cook IVC Filter:
13

- 14 a. was designed and manufactured in such a manner so as to present
15 an unreasonable risk of fracture of portions of the device, as
16 aforesaid;
- 17 b. was designed and manufactured so as to present an unreasonable
18 risk of migration of the device and/or portions of the device, as
19 aforesaid; and/or
- 20 c. was designed and manufactured to have unreasonable and
21 insufficient strength or structural integrity to withstand normal
22 placement within the human body.
- 23 d. was designed and manufactured so as to present an unreasonable
24 risk of perforation and damage to the vena caval wall.

25 76. Despite the aforementioned duty on the party of the Cook Defendants
26 they committed one or more breaches of their duty of reasonable care and were
27 negligent in:
28

- 1 a. unreasonably and carelessly failing to properly warn of the dangers
2 and risks of harm associated with the Cook IVC Filter, specifically
3 its incidents fracture, migration, perforation and other failure;
- 4 b. unreasonably and carelessly manufactured a product that was
5 insufficient in strength or structural integrity to withstand the
6 foreseeable use of normal placement within the human body;
- 7 c. unreasonably and carelessly designed a product that was
8 insufficient in strength or structural integrity to withstand the
9 foreseeable use of normal placement within the human body; and
- 10 d. unreasonably and carelessly designed a product that presented a risk
11 of harm to the Plaintiff and others similarly situated in that it was
12 prone to fail.

13 77. As a direct and proximate result of the Cook IVC Filters' defects, as
14 described herein, Plaintiff suffered permanent and continuous injuries, pain and
15 suffering, disability and impairment. Plaintiff has suffered emotional trauma, harm
16 and injuries that will continue into the future. Plaintiff has lost her ability to live a
17 normal life, and will continue to be so diminished into the future. Furthermore,
18 Plaintiff has lost earnings and will continue to lose earnings into the future and has
19 medical bills both past and future related to care because of the Cook IVC Filters'
20 defects.
21
22
23

24 78. By reason of the foregoing, Defendant is liable to the Plaintiff for
25 damages as a result of its failure to warn and/or adequately warn the Plaintiff and
26
27
28

1 healthcare professionals about the increased risk of serious injury and death caused
2 by their defective IVC filters.
3

4 **WHEREFORE**, the Plaintiff Joan Wiseman demands judgment against the
5 Defendants Cook Medical Incorporated a/k/a Cook Medical, Inc., Cook
6 Incorporated, and Cook Group, Inc. for whatever amount he may be entitled,
7 together with costs of this action. This jurisdictional amount exceeds seventy-five
8 thousand dollars (\$75,000.01+).
9
10

11 **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

12 **NEGLIGENCE PER SE**

13
14 (Violation of 21 U.S.C. §§321, 331, 352 and 21 C.F.R. §§1.21, 801, 803, 807, 820)

15 79. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation of this
16 Complaint as if set forth in full in this cause of action.
17

18 80. At all times herein mentioned, Defendants had an obligation not to
19 violate the law, including the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and the
20 applicable regulations, in the manufacture, design, testing, production, processing,
21 assembling, inspection, research, promotion, advertising, distribution, marketing,
22 promotion, labeling, packaging, preparation for use, consulting, sale, warning and
23 post-sale warning and other communications of the risks and dangers of Cook IVC
24 Filters.
25
26
27
28

1 81. By reason of its conduct as alleged herein, Cook violated provisions
2 of statutes and regulations, including but not limited to, the following:
3

4 a. Defendants violated the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C.
5 §§331 and 352, by misbranding its Cook IVC Filters;
6

7 b. Defendants violated the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, 21 U.S.C.
8 §§ 321 in making statements and/or representations via word, design,
9 device or any combination thereof failing to reveal material facts with
10 respect to the consequences that may result from the use of Cook IVC
11 Filters to which the labeling and advertising relates;
12

13 c. Defendants violated the 21 C.F.R. §1.21 in misleading the consumers and
14 patients by concealing material facts in light of representations made
15 regarding safety and efficacy of its Cook IVC Filters;
16

17 d. Defendants violated the 21 C.F.R. §801 in mislabeling its Cook IVF
18 Filters as to safety and effectiveness of its products and by failing to
19 update its label to reflect post-marketing evidence that Cook IVC Filters
20 were associated with an increased risk of injuries due to tilting, fracture,
21 migration and perforation;
22

23 e. Defendants violated the 21 C.F.R. §803 by not maintaining accurate
24 medical device reports regarding adverse events of tilting, fracture,
25
26
27
28

1 migration and perforation and/or misreporting these adverse events
2 maintained via the medical device reporting system;

3
4 f. Defendants violated the 21 C.F.R. §807 by failing to notify the FDA
5 and/or the consuming public when its Cook IVC Filters were no longer
6 substantially equivalent with regard to safety and efficacy with regard to
7 post-marketing adverse events and safety signals;

8
9 g. Defendants violated the 21 C.F.R. §820 by failing to maintain adequate
10 quality systems regulation including, but not limited to, instituting
11 effective corrective and preventative actions
12

13
14 **WHEREFORE**, the Plaintiff Joan Wiseman demands judgment against the
15 Defendants Cook Medical Incorporated a/k/a Cook Medical, Inc., Cook
16 Incorporated, and Cook Group, Inc. for whatever amount he may be entitled,
17 together with costs of this action. This jurisdictional amount exceeds seventy-five
18 thousand dollars (\$75,000.01+).
19

20
21 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

22 **BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY**

23
24 82. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation of this
25 Complaint as if set forth in full in this cause of action. Plaintiff, through their
26 medical providers, purchased a Cook IVC Filter from the Cook Defendants.
27
28

1 83. At all times to this cause of action, the Cook Defendants were
2 merchants of goods of the kind including medical devices and vena cava filters (i.e.,
3 Cook IVC Filters).

4
5 84. At the time and place of sale, distribution and supply of the Cook IVC
6 Filter to Plaintiff, the Defendants expressly represented and warranted in their
7 marketing materials, both written and orally, and in the IFUs, that the Cook IVC
8 Filter was safe, well-tolerated, efficacious, and fit for its intended purpose and was
9 of marketable quality, that it did not produce any unwarned-of dangerous side
10 effects, and that it was adequately tested.

11
12 85. At the time of Plaintiff's purchase from Defendants, the Cook IVC
13 Filters were not in a merchantable condition and Defendants breached its expressed
14 warranties, in that:

- 15
16
17
18 a. It was designed in such a manner so as to be prone to a
19
20 unreasonably high incident of fracture, perforation of vessels and
21
22 organs, and/or migration;
- 23 b. It was designed in such a manner so as to result in a unreasonably
24
25 high incident of injury to the organs of its purchaser; and
- 26 c. It was manufactured in such a manner so that the exterior surface of
27
28 the Cook Filter was inadequately, improperly and inappropriately
designed causing the device to weaken and fail.

1
2 86. As a direct and proximate result of the Cook IVC Filters' defects, as
3 described herein, Plaintiff has suffered permanent and continuous injuries, pain and
4 suffering, disability and impairment. Plaintiff has suffered emotional trauma, harm
5 and injuries that will continue into the future. Plaintiff has lost her ability to live a
6 normal life, and will continue to be so diminished into the future. Furthermore,
7 Plaintiff has lost earnings and will continue to lose earnings into the future and has
8 medical bills both past and future related to care because of the IVC filter's defect.
9
10

11
12 87. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants are liable to the Plaintiff for
13 damages as a result of its breach express warranty.
14

15 **WHEREFORE**, the Plaintiff Joan Wiseman demands judgment against the
16 Defendants Cook Medical Incorporated a/k/a Cook Medical, Inc., Cook
17 Incorporated, and Cook Group, Inc. for whatever amount he may be entitled,
18 together with costs of this action. This jurisdictional amount exceeds seventy-five
19 thousand dollars (\$75,000.01+).
20

21
22 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

23 **BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY**

24
25 88. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation of this
26 Complaint as if set forth in full in this cause of action.
27
28

1 89. At all relevant and material times, Defendants manufactured,
2 distributed, advertised, promoted, and sold its IVC Filters.
3

4 90. At all relevant times, the defendants intended its IVC Filters be
5 used in the manner that Plaintiff in fact used them.
6

7 91. Defendant impliedly warranted its IVC Filters to be of
8 merchantable quality, safe and fit for the use for which the Defendants
9 intended them and Plaintiff in fact used.
10

11 92. Defendants breached its implied warranties as follows:

- 12 a. Defendants failed to provide the warning or instruction and/or an
13 adequate warning or instruction which a manufacturer exercising
14 reasonable care would have provided concerning that risk, in light
15 of the likelihood that its Cook IVC Filters would cause harm;
16
17 b. Defendants manufactured and/or sold its Cook IVC Filters and said
18 filters did not conform to representations made by the Defendant
19 when it left the Defendant's control;
20
21 c. Defendants manufactured and/or sold its Cook IVC Filters which
22 were more dangerous than an ordinary consumer would expect
23 when used in an intended or reasonably foreseeable manner, and the
24 foreseeable risks associated with the Cook Filter design or
25 formulation exceeded the benefits associated with that design.
26
27
28

1 These defects existed at the time the product left the Defendant's
2 control; and

3
4 d. Defendants manufactured and/or sold its Cook IVC Filters when it
5 deviated in a material way from the design specifications, formulas
6 or performance standards or from otherwise identical units
7 manufactured to the same design specifications, formulas, or
8 performance standards, and these defects existed at the time the
9 product left the Defendant's control.
10
11

12 93. Further, Defendants' marketing of its Cook IVC Filters was false
13 and/or misleading.
14

15 94. Plaintiff through her attending physicians relied on these
16 representations in determining which IVC filter to use for implantation in the
17 Plaintiff.
18

19 95. Defendants' filters were unfit and unsafe for use by users as it posed
20 an unreasonable and extreme risk of injury to persons using said products, and
21 accordingly Defendants breached their expressed warranties and the implied
22 warranties associated with the product.
23
24

25 96. The foregoing warranty breaches were a substantial factor in causing
26 Plaintiff's injuries and damages as alleged.
27
28

1 97. As a direct and proximate result of the Cook IVC Filters' defects, as
2 described herein, Plaintiff has suffered permanent and continuous injuries, pain and
3 suffering, disability and impairment. Plaintiff has suffered emotional trauma, harm
4 and injuries that will continue into the future. Plaintiff has lost her ability to live a
5 normal life, and will continue to be so diminished into the future. Furthermore,
6 Plaintiff has lost earnings and will continue to lose earnings into the future and has
7 medical bills both past and future related to care because of the IVC filter's defect.
8
9
10

11 98. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants are liable to the Plaintiff for
12 damages as a result of its breaches of implied warranty.
13

14 **WHEREFORE**, the Plaintiff Joan Wiseman demands judgment against the
15 Defendants Cook Medical Incorporated a/k/a Cook Medical, Inc., Cook
16 Incorporated, and Cook Group, Inc. for whatever amount he may be entitled,
17 together with costs of this action. This jurisdictional amount exceeds seventy-five
18 thousand dollars (\$75,000.01+).
19
20

21 **SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

22 **VIOLATION OF CALIFORNIA LAW PROHIBITING CONSUMER**

23 **FRAUD AND UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES**

24 99. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation of this
25 Complaint as if set forth in full in this cause of action.
26
27
28

1 100. Defendants had a statutory duty to refrain from unfair or deceptive
2 acts or practices in the sale and promotion of Cook's IVC Filter to Plaintiff.
3

4 101. Defendants engaged in unfair, unconscionable, deceptive,
5 fraudulent and misleading acts or practices in violation of all states' consumer
6 protection laws, identified below.
7

8 102. Through its false, untrue and misleading promotion of Cook's IVC
9 Filters, Defendants induced Plaintiff to purchase and/or pay for the
10 purchase of Cook's IVC Filters.
11

12 103. Defendants misrepresented the alleged benefits and characteristics
13 of Cook's IVC Filters; suppressed, omitted, concealed, and failed to disclose
14 material information concerning known adverse effects of Cook's IVC Filters;
15 misrepresented the quality and efficacy of Cook's IVC Filters as compared to
16 much lower-cost alternatives; misrepresented and advertised that Cook's' IVC
17 Filters was of a particular standard, quality, or grade that it was not;
18 misrepresented Cook's IVC Filters in such a manner that later, on disclosure of
19 the true facts, there was a likelihood that Plaintiff would have opted for an
20 alternative IVC Filter or method of preventing pulmonary emboli.
21
22
23
24

25 104. Defendants' conduct created a likelihood of, and in fact caused,
26 confusion and misunderstanding. Defendants' conduct misled, deceived and
27 damaged Plaintiff, and Defendants' fraudulent, misleading and deceptive conduct
28

1 was perpetrated with an intent that Plaintiff rely on said conduct by purchasing
2 and/or paying for purchases of Cook's IVC Filters. Moreover, Defendants
3
4 knowingly took advantage of Plaintiff who was reasonably unable to protect her
5 interests due to ignorance of the harmful adverse effects of the Cook's IVC Filter.
6

7 105. Defendants' conduct was willful, outrageous, immoral, unethical,
8 oppressive, unscrupulous, unconscionable and substantially injurious to Plaintiff
9 and offends the public conscience.
10

11 106. Plaintiff purchased Cook's IVC Filter primarily for personal, family,
12 or household purposes.
13

14 107. As a result of Defendants' violative conduct, Plaintiff purchased
15 and/or paid for purchase of the Cook IVC Filter that was not made for resale.
16

17 108. Defendant engaged in unfair competition or deceptive acts or
18 practices in violation of Cal. Civ. Code § 1770, *et seq.* (the "Consumer Legal
19 Remedies Act"), and Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200 *et seq.* and § 17500 *et seq.*
20

21 **WHEREFORE**, the Plaintiff Joan Wiseman demands judgment against the
22 Defendants Cook Medical Incorporated a/k/a Cook Medical, Inc., Cook
23 Incorporated, and Cook Group, Inc. for whatever amount he may be entitled,
24 together with costs of this action. This jurisdictional amount exceeds seventy-five
25 thousand dollars (\$75,000.01+).
26
27
28

1 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

2 **LOSS OF CONSORTIUM**

3
4 109. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation of this
5 Complaint as if set forth in full in this cause of action.

6
7 110. At all times relevant hereto the Plaintiff's spouse ("Spouse
8 Plaintiff") and/or family members ("Family Member Plaintiff") have suffered
9 injuries and losses as a result of the Plaintiff's injuries.
10

11 111. For the reasons set forth herein, Spouse Plaintiff and/or Family
12 Member Plaintiff have necessarily paid and have become liable to pay for
13 medical aid, treatment, and medications, and will necessarily incur further
14 expenses of a similar nature in the future as a proximate result of the Defendant's
15 misconduct.
16

17
18 112. For the reasons set forth herein, Spouse Plaintiff and/or Family
19 Member Plaintiff have suffered and will continue to suffer the loss of her loved
20 ones' support, companionship, services, society, love, and affection.
21

22 113. For Spouse Plaintiff, Plaintiff alleges her marital relationship has
23 been impaired and depreciated, and the marital association between husband and
24 wife has been altered.
25

26
27 114. Spouse Plaintiff and/or Family Member Plaintiff have suffered
28 great emotional pain and mental anguish.

1 115. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' misconduct,
2 Spouse Plaintiff and/or Family Member Plaintiff have sustained injuries and
3
4 damages alleged herein and other damages to be proved at trial.

5 116. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants are liable to Spouse Plaintiff
6
7 and/or Family Member Plaintiff for damages as a result of its misconduct.

8 **WHEREFORE**, the Plaintiff Joan Wiseman demands judgment against the
9
10 Defendants Cook Medical Incorporated a/k/a Cook Medical, Inc., Cook
11 Incorporated, and Cook Group, Inc. for whatever amount he may be entitled,
12
13 together with costs of this action. This jurisdictional amount exceeds seventy-five
14 thousand dollars (\$75,000.01+).

15 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

16 **PUNITIVE DAMAGES**

17
18 117. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges each and every allegation of this
19
20 Complaint as if set forth in full in this cause of action.

21 118. At all times material hereto, Defendants knew or should have known
22
23 that it's Cook IVC Filter were inherently dangerous with respect to the risk of
24 tilt, fracture, migration and/or perforation.

25 119. At all times material hereto, Defendants attempted to misrepresent
26
27 and did knowingly misrepresent facts concerning the safety of its Cook IVC
28 Filters.

1 120. Defendants' misrepresentations included knowingly withholding
2 material information from the medical community and the public, including
3 Plaintiff's physicians, concerning the safety of its Cook IVC Filter. The
4 Defendant's conduct was willful, wanton, and undertaken with a conscious
5 indifference to the consequences that consumers of their product faced, including
6 Plaintiff.
7
8

9 121. At all times material hereto, Defendants knew and recklessly
10 disregarded the fact that its Cook IVC Filters have an unreasonably high rate of
11 tilt, fracture, migration and/or perforation.
12
13

14 122. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Defendant continued to market its
15 Cook IVC Filters aggressively to consumers, including Plaintiff, without
16 disclosing the aforesaid side effects.
17

18 123. Defendants knew of its' IVC Filters' lack of warnings regarding the
19 risk of fracture, migration, and/or perforation, but it intentionally concealed
20 and/or recklessly failed to disclose that risk and continued to market, distribute,
21 and sell its Filters without said warnings so as to maximize sales and profits at
22 the expense of the health and safety of the public, including Plaintiff, in
23 conscious disregard of the foreseeable harm caused by Cook's IVC Filters.
24
25
26
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28

1 124. Defendants' intentional and/or reckless failure to disclose
2 information deprived Plaintiff's physicians of necessary information to enable
3 her to weigh the true risks of using Cook IVC Filters against its benefits.
4

5 125. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' willful, wanton,
6 careless, reckless, conscious, and deliberate disregard for the safety and rights of
7 consumers including Plaintiff, have suffered and will continue to suffer severe
8 and permanent physical and emotional injuries, as described with particularity,
9 above. Plaintiff has endured and will continue to endure pain, suffering, and loss
10 of enjoyment of life; and have suffered and will continue to suffer economic loss,
11 including incurring significant expenses for medical care and treatment and lost
12 wages.
13
14
15
16

17 126. Defendants' aforesaid conduct was committed with knowing,
18 conscious, careless, reckless, willful, wanton, and deliberate disregard for the
19 safety and rights of consumers including Plaintiff, thereby entitling Plaintiff to
20 punitive damages in an amount appropriate to punish Defendants and deter them
21 from similar conduct in the future.
22
23

24 **PRAYER FOR DAMAGES**

25 The Plaintiff Joan Wiseman demands judgment against the Defendants Cook
26 Medical Incorporated a/k/a Cook Medical, Inc., Cook Incorporated, and Cook
27 Group, Inc., for whatever amount he may be entitled, including punitive damages
28

1 if deemed applicable, together with costs of this action. The jurisdictional amount
2 exceeds seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.01+).
3

4 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

5 The Plaintiff respectfully requests a trial by jury in the above case as to all
6 issues.
7

8
9
10 Date: August 22, 2016

Respectfully Submitted,

11 **LOPEZ McHUGH**

12 By: /s/Matthew R. Lopez

13 Ramon Rossi Lopez, Bar No. 86361

14 Matthew R. Lopez, Bar No. 263134

15 -And-

16
17 Julia Reed Zaic, Bar No. 224671

18 **HEAVISIDE REED ZAIC**

19 *Attorneys for Plaintiff*
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