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12 13	Attorneys for Plaintiff FOREVER 21, INC.	
14	INITED CTATES	DISTRICT COLUDT
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16 17	CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CAL	IFORNIA, WESTERN DIVISION
18	FOREVER 21, INC., a Delaware	Case No.
19	corporation,	
20	Plaintiff,	COMPLAINT FOR:
21	V.	(1) DECLARATORY JUDGMENT OF NON-INFRINGEMENT OF TRADEMARKS;
22	GUCCI AMERICA, INC., a New York	ŕ
23	corporation, and GUCCIO GUCCI S.p.A., an Italian entity,	(2) CANCELLATION OF FEDERAL TRADEMARK REGISTRATIONS;
2425	Defendants.	(3) DENIAL OF FEDERAL
26		REGISTRATION OF TRADEMARKS
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Plaintiff Forever 21, Inc. ("Forever 21") hereby states the following allegations for its Complaint against Defendants Gucci America, Inc. and Guccio Gucci S.p.A. (collectively, "Gucci").

INTRODUCTION

Forever 21 seeks protection against a threat of trademark litigation by 1. Gucci over a parallel stripe design of alternating bands colored blue-red-blue and green-red-green. The colors red, blue, and green, and stripe designs, are among the most favorite, popular and widely used colors and design features on clothing. Gucci seeks to prevent Forever 21 from using stripes with common colors on clothing and accessories sold at Forever 21. Gucci has warned Forever 21 in writing of Gucci's allegations that Forever 21 is infringing Gucci's trademark and has threatened to sue Forever 21 to recover monetary and injunctive relief. Consumers are not likely to believe any of Forever 21's items are manufactured by, or otherwise associated with, Gucci. Forever 21 is not infringing any Gucci trademark. Gucci's trademark registrations relevant to this dispute should be cancelled. Gucci's pending applications should not proceed to registration. This matter is ripe for a declaratory judgment.

PARTIES

- Plaintiff Forever 21, Inc., is a Delaware corporation, having its 2. principal place of business at 3880 N. Mission Road, Los Angeles, California 90031.
- 3. On information and belief, Defendant Gucci America, Inc. is a New York corporation, having a principal place of business at 50 Hartz Way, Secaucus, New Jersey 07094.
- 4. On information and belief, Defendant Guccio Gucci S.p.A. is an Italian entity, having its registered address at Via Tornabuoni 73/r, 50123 Florence, Italy.
- 5. On information and belief, Gucci is the owner of the claimed trademarks that Gucci has asserted against Forever 21, as set forth below.

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JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 6. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1121 and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1338, and 2201 because Count 1 is for declaratory judgment for claims involving trademarks and an actual case or controversy exists between Gucci and Forever 21, and because this action involves substantial claims arising under the Lanham Act.
- 7. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Guccio Gucci S.p.A. and Gucci America, Inc., because they conduct business in the state of California and because they have threatened legal action against a company that is headquartered in Los Angeles, California.
- Venue is appropriate in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) 8. because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Forever 21's claim have occurred in this district and a substantial part of the property that is subject to the action is situated in this district.

FOREVER 21

- 9. Forever 21 is an American success story. It began in 1984 with a single, 900-square-foot store in Los Angeles, California. It has since grown into a fashion giant whose stores are now housed in large spaces in shopping malls including several flagship stores in major cities exceeding 75,000 square feet. Today, Forever 21 is one of the most well-known specialty retailers of apparel, clothing, and accessories, operating through its online store and in over 525 retail stores throughout the United States, as well as in stores throughout the Americas, Asia, the Middle East, and the UK.
- 10. Most of the merchandise Forever 21 sells in its online and brick-andmortar stores is made exclusively for Forever 21.
- 11. Forever 21 owns numerous trademark registrations for retail store services, clothing, and fashion accessories. The well-known FOREVER 21 name appears prominently on all Forever 21 stores, on Forever 21's website, and on

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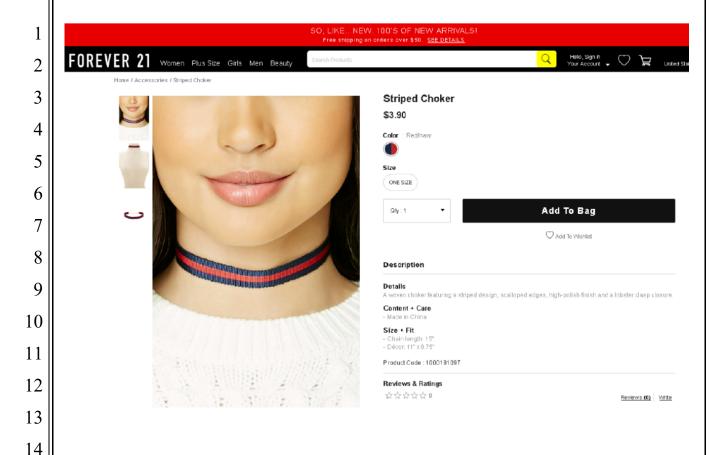
clothing Forever 21 sells. Consumers cannot purchase Forever 21's clothing items without encountering the FOREVER 21 trademark.

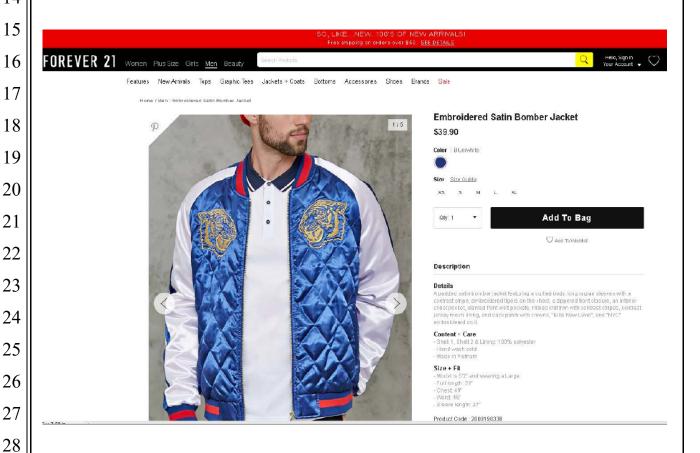
12. Forever 21 sells clothing displaying a wide variety of colors and ornamental patterns and designs. Some of the clothing Forever 21 sells has ornamental/decorative stripes. Forever 21 does not use stripes as a trademark or source identifier on any of its clothing items. Any use of stripes on clothing sold by Forever 21 is ornamental, decorative, and aesthetically functional.

THE GUCCI DEMAND LETTERS

- Forever 21 received a letter dated December 7, 2016 from Ms. Victoria 13. Galante, Junior Legal Counsel at Gucci. This December 7, 2016 letter demanded that Forever 21 cease and desist from any and all use of blue-red-blue stripes.
- Forever 21 received a second letter dated January 6, 2017 from Ms. 14. Victoria Galante, Junior Legal Counsel at Gucci. This January 6, 2017 letter contained the same demands as the December 7 letter, namely that Forever 21 cease and desist from any and all use of blue-red-blue stripes.
- 15. Forever 21 received a third letter dated February 13, 2017 from Ms. Andrea L. Calvaruso, an attorney at Kelley Drye & Warren LLP, on behalf of Gucci ("February 13 Demand Letter"). The February 13, 2017 letter demanded that Forever 21 discontinue all sales of certain clothing and accessory items with bluered-blue and green-red-green stripes.
- The specific items identified as "infringing products" in Gucci's 16. February 13 Demand Letter are pictured below:

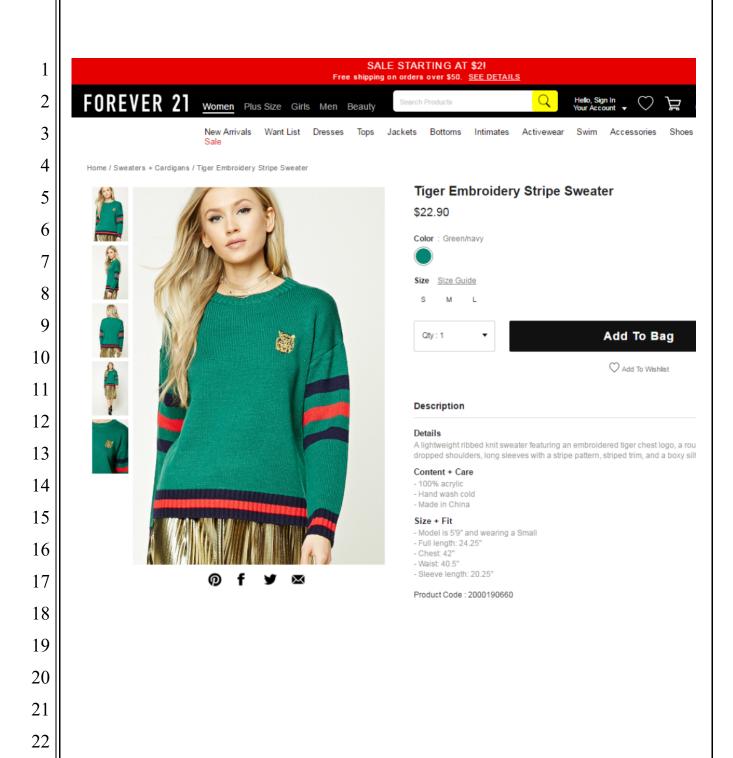
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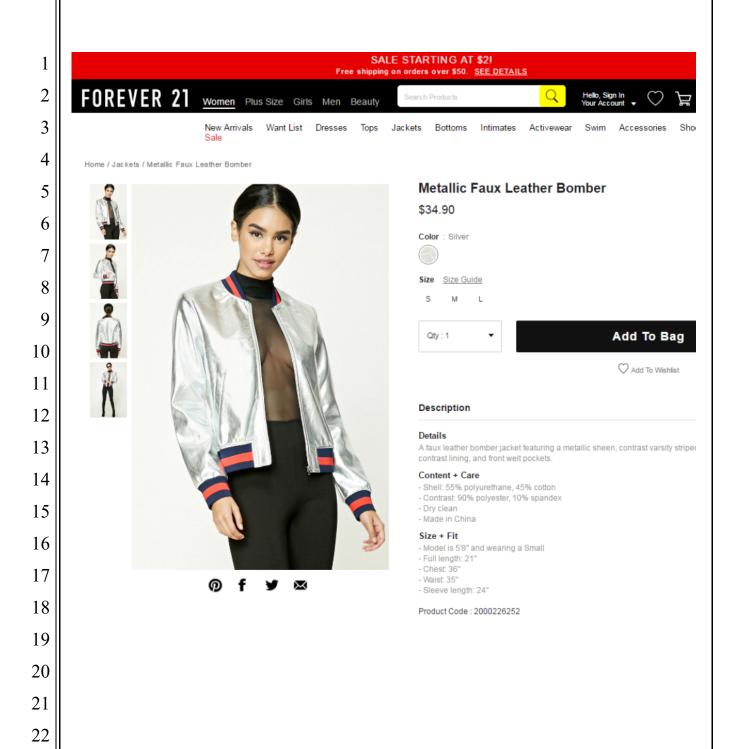
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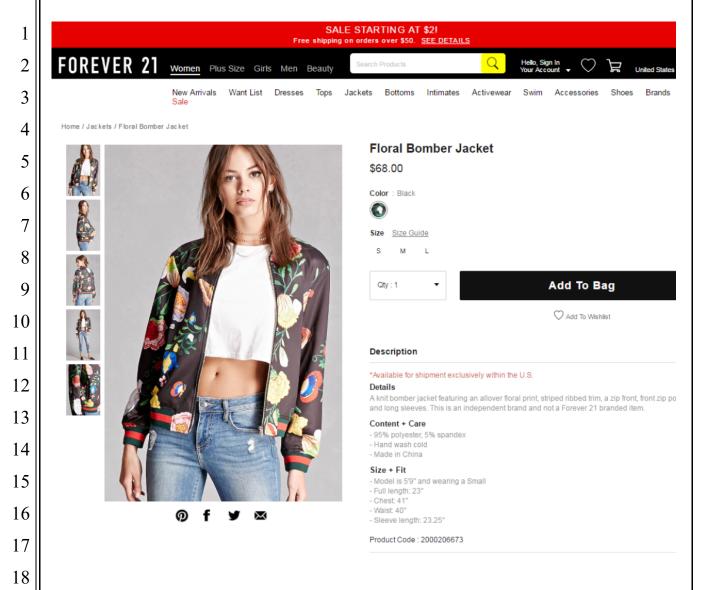
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17. Forever 21, through its Senior Corporate Counsel, Jerry Noh, responded to Gucci's February 13 Demand Letter in a letter dated March 22, 2017, in which Forever 21 denied Gucci's claims of infringement.

GUCCI'S TRADEMARK REGISTRATIONS AND APPLICATIONS

18. In its February 13 Demand Letter, Gucci asserted that each of the items pictured above (the "Striped Products") infringes Gucci's rights in various federal trademark registrations for the use of blue-red-blue and green-red-green stripes on clothing and accessory items. The registrations asserted in Gucci's February 13 Demand Letter are listed in the table below:

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1	Mark	Class: Goods
2	Reg. No. 1520796	14: [GOODS MADE OR COATED
	Reg. Date: 1/17/1989	WITH PRECIOUS METAL -NAMELY,
3		CANDLE HOLDERS,] WATCHES, [
4		CUFFLINKS, BRACELETS,
		PENDANTS, KEY RINGS,
5		PAPERWEIGHTS, EARRINGS,
6		RINGS, NECKLACES, ICE BUCKETS,
		GOBLETS, AND STYLIZED ANIMAL
7	THE MARK IS AT LEAST ONE	CONTAINERS].
8	PROMINENT STRIPE	FIRST USE: 19570000. FIRST USE IN
	CONTAINING THREE DISTINCT	COMMERCE: 19670000
9	BANDS OF COLOR, THE COLORS	
10	BEING BLUE, RED, AND THEN	
1 1	BLUE, APPEARING ON THE	
11	GOODS AND NOT CONTIGUOUS	
12	TO ANOTHER STRIPE.	
13		
13	Incontestable: 9/15/1995	
14	Renewal Date: 6/6/2008	
15	Reg. No. 4563151	18: Gym bags, wallets, cosmetic cases
	Reg. Date: 7/8/2014	sold empty.
16		FIRST USE: 19630000. FIRST USE IN
17		COMMERCE: 19630000
18		
19		
20	The color(s) Blue and Red is/are	
21	claimed as a feature of the mark. The	
22	mark consists of a stripe containing	
	three distinct bands of color with a red	
23	band in the middle of two blue bands.	
24	220 220 230 230 230 230 230 230 230 230	

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1	Mark	Class: Goods
2	Reg. No. 1495863	25: FOOTWEAR.
	Reg. Date: 7/12/1988	FIRST USE: 19590000. FIRST USE IN
3		COMMERCE: 19670000
4		
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7		
8	THE MARK IS MADE UP OF A STIPE CONTAINING THREE	
	DISTINCT BANDS OF COLOR,	
9	THE COLORS BEING BLUE, RED	
10	AND THEN BLUE.	
11		
	Incontestable: 11/7/1994	
12	Renewal Date: 3/29/2008	20 [WALL ETT] DUD GEG
13	Reg. No. 1511774	28: [WALLETS,] PURSES,
14	Reg. Date: 11/8/1988	HANDBAGS, SHOULDER BAGS, CLUTCH BAGS, TOTE BAGS [,
1.5		BUSINESS CARD CASES, CREDIT
15		CARD CASES, PASSPORT CASES,
16		COSMETIC CASES SOLD EMPTY,
17		ATTACHE CASES, VALISES,
		SUITCASES, DUFFLE BAGS,
18	THE DRAWING IS LINED FOR	NECKTIE CASES, UMBRELLAS,
19	THE COLORS BLUE AND RED.	SADDLES, BRIDLES, WALKING
20		STICKS, CANES AND KEY CASES]. FIRST USE: 19510000. FIRST USE IN
	Incontestable: 5/15/1995	COMMERCE: 19630000
21	Renewal Date: 4/30/2008	COMMERCE. 17030000
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Mark	Class: Goods
Reg. No. 4379039	25: Shorts, pants, jeans, leggings, t-shirts,
Reg. Date: 8/6/2013	polo shirts, shirts, sweaters, sweatshirts,
	dresses, skirts, swimwear, one piece
	garments for infants and toddlers, cloth
	bibs, scarves, ties, hats, gloves,
	suspenders, belts.
	FIRST USE: 19670900. FIRST USE IN
	COMMERCE: 19670900
The color(s) GREEN and RED is/are	
claimed as a feature of the mark. The	
mark consists of a stripe containing	
three distinct bands of color with a red	
band in the middle of two green	
bands.	

On information and belief, Gucci America, Inc. is the registered owner 19. of the following trademark registrations for green-red-green stripes, which were not 14 included or identified in Gucci's February 13 Demand Letter:

15	Mark	Class: Goods
16	Reg. No. 1483526	25: FOOTWEAR.
	Reg. Date: 4/5/1988	FIRST USE: 19670900. FIRST USE IN
17		COMMERCE: 19670900
18		
19		
20		
21	& i <u>III</u>	
	THE MARK IS MADE UP OF A	
22	STRIPE CONTAINING THREE	
23	BANDS OF COLOR, THE COLORS	
	BEING GREEN, RED THEN	
24	GREEN. THE MARK IS LINED	
25	FOR THE COLORS RED AND	
26	GREEN.	
26	7 (47/4004	
27	Incontestable: 6/17/1994	
20	Renewal Date: 10/25/2007	

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1	Mark	Class: Goods
2	Reg. No. 1123224	14: GOODS MADE OR COATED
	Reg. Date: 7/31/1979	WITH PRECIOUS METAL-NAMELY,
3		[CANDLE HOLDERS,] WATCHES, [
4		CUFFLINKS, BRACELETS,
		PENDANTS, KEY RINGS,
5		PAPERWEIGHTS, EARRINGS,
6		RINGS, NECKLACES, ICE BUCKETS,
		GOBLETS, STYLIZED ANIMAL
7	THE MARK IS MADE OF A	CONTAINERS AND LETTER
8	STRIPE CONTAINING THREE	OPENERS].
	DISTINCT BANDS OF COLOR	FIRST USE: 19670800. FIRST USE IN
9	BEING GREEN, RED, THEN	COMMERCE: 19670800
10	GREEN.	
1 1	GILLET V.	
11	Incontestable: 9/12/1985	
12	Renewal Date: 9/11/2008	
13	Reg. No. 1122780	18: WALLETS, PURSES,
13	Reg. Date: 7/24/1979	HANDBAGS, SHOULDER BAGS,
14		CLUTCH BAGS, TOTE BAGS, CARD
15		CASES, [PASSPORT CASES,
		COSMETIC CASES,] ATTACHE
16		CASES, VALISES, SUITCASES,
17		DUFFLES, [[NECKTIE CASES,
		UMBRELLAS, SADDLES, BRIDLES,
18	THE MADIZIC MADE UP OF A	WALKING STICKS, CANES,] AND
19	THE MARK IS MADE UP OF A	KEY CASES.
	STRIPE CONTAINING THREE	FIRST USE: 19630700. FIRST USE IN
20	DISTINCT BANDS OF COLORS,	COMMERCE: 19630700
21	THE COLORS BEING GREEN, RED	
	THEN GREEN.	
22	Incontestable: 9/13/1985	
23	Renewal Date: 1/14/2009	
	Kenewai Date. 1/14/2009	
24		

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Mark	Class: Goods
Reg. No. 4567112 Reg. Date: 7/15/2014 The color(s) GREEN and RED is/are claimed as a feature of the mark. The mark consists of a stripe containing three distinct bands of color with a red band in the middle of two green bands.	09: Eyeglasses and sunglasses and cases therefor; protective covers and cases for mobile electronic communication devices and computers; cell phone straps; computer carrying cases. FIRST USE: 20100915. FIRST USE IN
	COMMERCE: 20100915 14: Jewelry and key rings of precious metal. FIRST USE: 20100915. FIRST USE IN COMMERCE: 20100915
	18: Cosmetic cases sold empty, suitcases, luggage, duffle bags, diaper bags partly and wholly of leather; pet accessories, namely, carriers, collars and leashes.
	FIRST USE: 20100915. FIRST USE IN COMMERCE: 20100915
20. Hereinafter, the registrations	s identified in the charts above will be
collectively referred to as the "Gucci Re	gistrations."
21. On information and belief, Gucci America, Inc. is the owner of record	
for the following trademark applications for blue-red-blue and green-red-green	

for the following trademark applications for blue-red-blue and green-red-green stripes (hereinafter, the "Gucci Applications"):

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1	Mark	App. Serial No.	Class: Goods
2		87206686	25: Clothing, namely, sweaters,
3		Filing Date:	shirts, tops, jackets, coats, skirts, pants, jeans, shorts, dresses, boots,
4		10/18/2016	sandals, sneakers, belts and hats
5		Filing Basis: 1A	FIRST USE: 19740000. FIRST USE
6			IN COMMERCE: 19740000
7	The color(s) Blue and		
	Red is/are claimed as a feature of the mark. The		
8	mark consists of a stripe		
9	containing three distinct		
10	bands of color with a red band in the middle		
11	of two blue bands.		
12		87116368	24: Baby blankets.
13		Elling Date:	FIRST USE: 20160100. FIRST USE
		Filing Date: 7/26/2016	IN COMMERCE: 20160100
14		Filing Basis: 1A	
15			
16	The color(s) Blue and		
17	Red is/are claimed as a		
18	feature of the mark. The mark consists of a stripe		
19	containing three distinct		
20	bands of color with a		
	red band in the middle of two blue bands.		
21	of two blue ballas.		

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1	Mark	App. Serial No.	Class: Goods
2		87391139	09: Sunglasses; mobile phone cases;
3		Filing Doto:	cell phone straps. FIRST USE: 20040000. FIRST USE
4		Filing Date: 3/29/2017	IN COMMERCE: 20040000
5		Filing Basis: 1A	
			18: Backpacks.
6	The color(s) Blue and		FIRST USE: 20110000. FIRST USE IN COMMERCE: 20110000
7	red is/are claimed as a		IIV COMMENCE. 20110000
8	feature of the mark. The mark consists of a stripe		25: Scarves.
9	containing three distinct		FIRST USE: 20080000. FIRST USE IN COMMERCE: 20080000
10	bands of color with a		IIV COMMILICEL. 20060000
11	red band in the middle of two blue bands.		
12	or two order bands.	87116786	24: Baby blankets.
13		F.111	FIRST USE: 20160100. FIRST USE
		Filing Date: 7/26/2016	IN COMMERCE: 20160100
14		Filing Basis: 1A	
15		C	
16	The color(s) GREEN		
17	and RED is/are claimed		
18	as a feature of the mark.		
19	The mark consists of a stripe containing three		
	distinct bands of color		
20	with a red band in the		
21	middle of two green bands.		
22	vanus.		

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Mark	App. Serial No.	Class: Goods
	87390952	18: Backpacks; briefcases and messenger bags.
	Filing Date:	FIRST USE: 19680000. FIRST USE
	3/29/2017	IN COMMERCE: 19680000
	Filing Basis: 1A	
The color(s) Green and		
red is/are claimed as a		
feature of the mark. The		
mark consists of a stripe		
containing three distinct		
bands of color with a		
red band in the middle		
of two green bands.		

GUCCI'S THREATENED CLAIMS

- Gucci's February 13 Demand Letter accuses Forever 21 of trademark 22. infringement based on Forever 21's sale of the Striped Products.
- 23. In addition to demanding that Forever 21 "immediately ceas[e] any and all manufacture, importation, offering for sale, sale, shipment, advertising or display" of the Striped Products and any other products bearing designs that are "confusingly similar" to Gucci's blue-red-blue and green-red-green stripe marks, Gucci demanded in its February 13 Demand Letter that Forever 21 provide an accounting of all Striped Products sold and in inventory, as well as the identity and contact information for the persons or entities that designed, manufactured, and or distributed the Striped Products. Gucci further threatened to file an action against Forever 21 "to fully protect [Gucci's] valuable rights in the U.S. and abroad," if Forever 21 did not comply with Gucci's demands.
- Gucci's February 13 Demand Letter further stated, "We must hear from 24. you or your counsel within five (5) business days to arrange Forever 21's compliance with the foregoing."

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- To Forever 21's knowledge, Gucci has not yet filed suit against Forever 25. 21 and has not withdrawn its demand against Forever 21.
- 26. All of the Gucci Registrations feature three parallel stripes colored blue-red-blue or green-red-green.
- 27. Many clothing and accessory items adorned with decorative stripes colored blue-red-blue or green-red-green are sold by countless third parties.
- 28. Gucci should not be allowed to claim that Gucci, alone, has a monopoly on all blue-red-blue and green-red-green striped clothing and accessory items.
- 29. Consumers are not likely to be confused into believing the Striped Products sold in Forever 21's stores by Forever 21 is manufactured by, sponsored by, authorized by, or otherwise associated or affiliated with Gucci.
- Because Gucci continues to threaten to sue Forever 21 if Forever 21 30. has not caved to Gucci's demands, an immediate, justiciable case or controversy exists such that Forever 21 is entitled to seek a declaratory judgment of noninfringement.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Declaration of Non-Infringement)

- Forever 21 incorporates paragraphs 1 through 30 herein by reference. 31.
- 32. Forever 21's Striped Products display stripes in an ornamental, decorative, non-trademark manner. Additionally, or in the alternative, none of Forever 21's Striped Products is likely to cause confusion as to the source, sponsorship, or affiliation of the Forever 21 products.
- 33. Forever 21's Striped Products items do not infringe any of the Gucci Registrations or any other trademark rights owned by Gucci.
- 34. An actual, present, and justiciable controversy has arisen between Gucci and Forever 21 concerning the Striped Products. Gucci and Forever 21 have adverse legal interests. Gucci has made clear to Forever 21 Gucci's belief that its

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trademark is currently being infringed by Forever 21's Striped Products, and Forever 21 has denied any wrongdoing. The dispute between Forever 21 and Gucci is substantial, definite and immediate, and not hypothetical.

- A declaratory judgment of non-infringement should be entered in 35. Forever 21's favor regarding the blue-red-blue and green-red-green striped design.
- In order to resolve the legal and factual questions raised by Gucci and 36. to afford relief from the uncertainty and controversy which Gucci's assertions have precipitated, Forever 21 is entitled to a declaratory judgment of its rights under 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201-02.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Cancellation of Federal Registration Nos. 4379039, 4563151, and 4567112 for Lack of Secondary Meaning)

- 37. Forever 21 incorporates paragraphs 1 through 36 herein by reference.
- Forever 21 believes that it will be damaged by the continued 38. registration of Registration Nos. 4379039, 4563151, and 4567112, and hereby petitions to cancel these registrations on the grounds that the marks that are the subject of these registrations lack secondary meaning.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Cancellation of Federal Registration Nos. 1495863, 1511774, 1520796, 1483526, 1123224, 1122780, 4379039, 4563151, and 4567112 for Aesthetic Functionality)

- 39. Forever 21 incorporates paragraphs 1 through 38 herein by reference.
- 40. Forever 21 believes that it will be damaged by the continued registration of Registration Nos. 1495863, 1511774, 1520796, 1483526, 1123224, 1122780, 4379039, 4563151, and 4567112, and hereby petitions to cancel these registrations on the grounds that the marks that are the subject of these registrations are aesthetically functional.

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FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Cancellation of Federal Registration Nos. 1495863, 1511774, 1520796, 1483526, 1123224, 1122780, 4379039, 4563151, and 4567112 for Genericism)

- 41. Forever 21 incorporates paragraphs 1 through 40 herein by reference.
- 42. Forever 21 believes that it will be damaged by the continued registration of Registration Nos. 1495863, 1511774, 1520796, 1483526, 1123224, 1122780, 4379039, 4563151, and 4567112, and hereby petitions to cancel these registrations on the grounds that the marks that are the subject of these registrations are generic.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Denial of Federal Registration of Marks in USPTO Application Serial Nos. 87116786, 87206686, 87116368, 87390952, 87391139)

- Forever 21 incorporates paragraphs 1 through 42 herein by reference. 43.
- 44. Forever 21 believes that it will be damaged by the registration of the marks that are the subject of U.S. Application Serial Nos. 87116786, 87206686, 87116368, 87390952, 87391139, and hereby seeks denial of federal registration of these marks on the grounds that the marks that are the subject of these applications are not registrable for lack of secondary meaning.
- Forever 21 believes that it will be damaged by the registration of the 45. marks that are the subject of U.S. Application Serial Nos. 87116786, 87206686, 87116368, 87390952, 87391139, and hereby seeks denial of federal registration of these marks on the grounds that the marks that are the subject of these applications are not registrable because they are aesthetically functional.
- 46. Forever 21 believes that it will be damaged by the registration of the marks that are the subject of U.S. Application Serial Nos. 87116786, 87206686, 87116368, 87390952, 87391139, and hereby seeks denial of federal registration of

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these marks on the grounds that the marks that are the subject of these applications are not registrable because they are generic.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Forever 21 prays for the following relief:

- A judgment declaring that (a) the blue-red-blue and green-red-green 1. stripes on Forever 21's Striped Products are ornamental and do not serve a sourceidentifying function, and (b) Forever 21's Striped Products do not infringe any trademark rights owned by Gucci;
- A judgment declaring that Forever 21 has the right to use blue-red-blue 2. and green-red-green stripes on products sold and offered for sale by Forever 21, free from interference by Gucci, its officers, agents, employees, attorneys, privies, representatives, successors and assigns, and any and all persons acting in active concert or participation with or under authority from Gucci;
- A judgment ordering that Gucci, its officers, agents, employees, 3. attorneys, privies, representatives, successors and assigns, and any and all persons in active concert or participation with or under authority from Gucci, be permanently enjoined from:
 - a. Interfering with or threatening to interfere with the use of blue-redblue and green-red-green stripes by Forever 21, its related companies, successors or assigns, in connection with its or their business;
 - b. Instituting or prosecuting any suit or other proceeding placing in issue the right of Forever 21 or said related companies, successors or assigns to use the blue-red-blue and green-red-green stripes in connection with products sold or offered for sale by Forever 21;
- A judgment ordering the cancellation of Registration Nos. 1495863, 4. 1511774, 1520796, 1483526, 1123224, 1122780, 4379039, 4563151, and 4567112;

1	5.	A judgment ordering the denial of registration of Application Serial	
2	Nos. 87116786, 87206686, 87116368, 87390952, 87391139;		
3	6.	An award of costs in this action;	
4	7.	A finding that this case is "exceptional" within the meaning of 15	
5	U.S.C. § 11	17 and a corresponding award of attorneys' fees in Forever 21's favor;	
6	and		
7	8.	For such other, further, or different relief as the Court deems just and	
8	proper.		
9	Dated: Jun	e 26, 2017	
10		SHEPPARD, MULLIN, RICHTER & HAMPTON	
11		LLP	
12			
13		By/s/ Laura L. Chapman	
14		LAURA L. CHAPMAN	
15		Attorneys for Plaintiff	
16		FOREVER 21, INC.	
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 -20 Case No.

 SMRH:483243963.1
 COMPLAINT