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**CALIFORNIA CONSUMERS SUE LUMBER LIQUIDATORS FOR SELLING  
CHINESE-MADE LAMINATE WOOD FLOORING THAT EMITS UNLAWFUL  
LEVELS OF FORMALDEHYDE**

On December 11, 2014, three California consumers sued Lumber Liquidators, Inc. in Alameda County Superior Court for selling Chinese-made laminate wood flooring that emits unlawful levels of formaldehyde, a chemical known to the state of California to cause cancer. Lumber Liquidators is a major, national flooring company. The consumers are represented by the law firms Goldstein, Borgen, Dardarian & Ho and Lozeau Drury LLP. Attorney Richard Drury was featured in the March 1st episode of 60 Minutes about Lumber Liquidators' violation of California's formaldehyde standards for laminate floors.

In California, maximum levels of formaldehyde emissions are set by the California Air Resources Board (CARB), a governmental environmental protection agency. The complaint alleges that Lumber Liquidators sells California consumers laminate wood flooring that exceeds the CARB limit. Moreover, Lumber Liquidators advertises and warranties that its products are CARB compliant when in fact many of its products are not.

Plaintiff Joseph Michael Balero of Livermore, California, purchased laminate flooring from Lumber Liquidators in March 2013. His flooring was advertised as CARB compliant. However, after testing his flooring at a laboratory specializing in testing formaldehyde emission levels, he found out that his flooring exceeded the lawful limit. He is now planning to replace the flooring in his home.

"Flooring is an expensive purchase and people trust that what they are told on product labels and company websites is true," stated Megan Ryan, attorney at Goldstein, Borgen, Dardarian & Ho, a class action law firm that specializes in litigating complex cases against some of the largest companies in the United States. "Finding out that the flooring in your home emits an unlawful level of a chemical known to state of California to cause cancer is awful. Companies like Lumber Liquidators must comply with the law and cannot dupe consumers through false advertising and labeling."

Plaintiff Lisa Miller of Vallejo, California purchased laminate wood flooring from Lumber Liquidators in 2012 and 2014. She specifically bought her flooring from Lumber Liquidators because she read on their website that they were an environmentally friendly company. When laboratory testing revealed that her flooring also emitted unlawful levels of formaldehyde, she and her husband tore it up and replaced it, a very expensive and time-consuming undertaking.

The lawsuit, *Balero v. Lumber Liquidators, Inc.*, asks the court to declare Lumber Liquidators' actions in violation of the CARB regulations, to enjoin the company from selling laminate wood flooring that emits unlawful levels of formaldehyde, to order Lumber Liquidators to reimburse all money that consumers paid for their flooring, to award damages for selling noncompliant flooring, and to award punitive damages for willfully deceiving consumers.

A First Amended Complaint was filed on January 12, 2015. Plaintiffs have asked Lumber Liquidators to produce discovery. Lumber Liquidators is intending to remove the case to federal court in the Northern District of California.

A complete copy of lawsuit is at <http://www.gbdhlegal.com>. Consumers who bought Lumber Liquidators laminate flooring in California and may be members of the class may contact GBDH at: 800-538-1467 or [lumberinfo@gbdhlegal.com](mailto:lumberinfo@gbdhlegal.com).

*Goldstein, Borgen, Dardarian & Ho (GBDH), is one of the oldest and most successful public interest law firms in the country, representing plaintiffs in complex and class action lawsuits in the areas of employment discrimination, wage and hour, disability access, voting rights, environmental justice, and consumer rights.*

*Lozeau Drury LLP is an Oakland-based law firm representing clients on a wide range of environmental issues.*