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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Girl Scouts San Diego files lawsuit against former cookie-baking partner

Girl Scouts San Diego announced today that it filed a lawsuit against its former cookie baker, Ferrero U.S.A., and its subsidiary, Little Brownie Bakers (LBB).

The non-profit seeks to recover funds it lost when the company abruptly terminated its contract with the organization in 2024, in violation of the stated terms and conditions.

“We had an agreement in place through 2025 that the multinational corporation canceled without warning when they decided that the bottom line was more important than the promises it made to an organization dedicated to building the leaders of tomorrow,” said Carol Dedrich, CEO of Girl Scouts San Diego. “Their actions took away critical girl program funding, diminished trust with our volunteers, and negatively impacted our customer base.”

The consequences for Girl Scouts San Diego were significant: a forced emergency transition to a new baker, a substantial amount of lost revenue, reduced earnings for the troops of young women the organization serves, fewer cookies reaching deployed military members through Operation Thin Mint, and an organizational restructure resulting in the elimination of 25 positions.

“The consumer confusion was immediate and widespread,” said Dedrich. “Individual Girl Scout troops also suffered reduced earnings. The decrease directly limited the troops and Girl Scouts San Diego’s ability to fund outdoor enrichment programs, STEM activities, outreach programs, community service projects, cultural empowerment experiences, and other impactful leadership initiatives.”

The military community served by Girl Scouts was also negatively impacted by Ferrero U.S.A.’s breach. The turmoil from the baker change resulted in a decline of more than 21,000 packages in Operation Thin Mint donations.

“We’ve been working diligently for nearly two years to negotiate a resolution with Ferrero U.S.A.,” said Dedrich. “Because we teach girls the importance of integrity and business ethics, we were left with no other choice but to formally file a lawsuit.”

While Girl Scouts San Diego remains in a solid financial position, the organization deemed it imperative to recoup the funds that Ferrero U.S.A. took from Girl Scouts San Diego and the programs that empower girls.

“With this action, we also want to send a message to Girl Scouts and our community about what it means to promote and preserve the values and ideals of good, ethical business practices, most especially since this matter involves the Girl Scout Cookie Program, the largest girl-led entrepreneurship program in the world,” said Dedrich. “It reinforces a critical lesson for girls: ethical leadership requires the courage to hold professionals accountable and to safeguard the trust placed in us by our community.”

Pat Swan, Hannah Ohara, and Sidonie Gruenberg of Jones Day, Heather Rosing of Rosing Pott & Strohhahn, and Alreen Haeggquist of Haeggquist & Eck, LLP, are the pro bono attorneys of record for Girl Scouts San Diego.

About Girl Scouts San Diego

[Girl Scouts of the USA](#) is the nation’s preeminent leadership development organization for girls, with a mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. As one of 111 councils, [Girl Scouts San Diego](#) provides year-round activities and volunteer training for nearly 24,000 girls and adults in San Diego and Imperial counties.

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