

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
MIAMI DIVISION
CASE NO. _____**

XYZ CORPORATION,

Plaintiff,

v.

THE INDIVIDUALS, PARTNERSHIPS AND
UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATIONS IDENTIFIED
ON SCHEDULE “A”,

Defendants.

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, XYZ Corporation (hereinafter referred to as “Plaintiff”), by and through undersigned counsel, hereby sues Defendants, the Individuals, Partnerships, and Unincorporated Associations identified on Schedule “A” (herein collectively referred to as “Defendants”), which will be filed as an exhibit hereto under seal, and in support thereof, states as follows¹:

INTRODUCTION

1. This is a civil action for design patent infringement pursuant to the Patent Act, 35 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*, including 35 U.S.C. § 271.

2. Plaintiff owns one (1) United States Design Patent, (hereinafter “Plaintiff’s Patent”). Plaintiff’s Patent has been registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (“USPTO”) and is protected from infringement under federal patent law.

¹ Since it is unknown when Plaintiff’s forthcoming *Ex-Parte* Motion for Entry of Temporary Restraining Order, Preliminary Injunction, and Order Restraining Transfer of Assets will be ruled on, Plaintiff’s name has been removed to prevent Defendants from getting advanced notice. Plaintiff will file an Amended Complaint under seal that identifies Plaintiff and provides additional information and allegations.

3. Without Plaintiff's authorization or license, Defendants are manufacturing, importing, promoting, reproducing, offering for sale, selling, and/or distributing goods that incorporate and infringe Plaintiff's Patent within this District through various Internet based e-commerce stores and fully interactive commercial Internet websites operating under the seller identification names set forth on Schedule "A" (the "Seller IDs"). Such infringement is both deliberate and willful.

4. As a result, Plaintiff is enduring continuous damages to its design patent at the hands of the Defendants herein, who unlawfully reproduce goods utilizing Plaintiff's Patent to sell for substantial profits. Furthermore, the goodwill associated with Plaintiff's Patent is being harmed by Defendants tricking and confusing the public.

5. In summary, Plaintiff has spent significant amounts of resources in connection with patent enforcement efforts, including legal fees and investigative fees to battle the harm caused by Defendants' infringement actions.

PARTIES

6. Plaintiff is the inventor and owner of an ornamental design patent registered with the USPTO. A true and correct copy of Plaintiff's Patent will be attached to the Amended Complaint as Exhibit 1 (filed under seal).

7. Defendants are individuals, partnerships and/or business entities of unknown makeup, who either reside and/or operate in foreign jurisdictions.

8. Defendants target their business activities towards consumers throughout the United States, including Florida and this District using the operation of Internet based e-commerce stores, such as Amazon.com, Walmart, Ebay, via Internet marketplace websites using their Seller IDs and additional seller identification aliases and domain names not yet known to Plaintiff.

9. Defendants produce and/or distribute products from foreign jurisdictions and ship their goods to fulfillment centers within the United States to redistribute their products from those locations to the American consumer.

10. Defendants have the capacity to be sued pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 17(b).

11. Defendants will continue to register or acquire new seller identification aliases and domain names for the purpose of selling and offering for sale goods bearing infringing and counterfeit reproductions of Plaintiff's Patent unless preliminarily and permanently enjoined.

12. Plaintiff has and will continue to suffer damages as a result of Defendants' patent infringements unless injunctive and monetary relief is awarded by this Honorable Court.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

14. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this case pursuant to the Federal Patent Act, 35 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*, and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338.

15. Defendants are subject to personal jurisdiction in this district because they purposefully direct their sales of goods, utilizing Plaintiff's Patent, to Florida residents by operating stores through online Platforms that offer shipping within the United States, including Florida and this District. The Defendants infringe Plaintiff's Patent in this District by manufacturing, importing, promoting, reproducing, offering for sale, selling, and/or distributing unauthorized reproductions of Plaintiff's Patent through such Internet based e-commerce stores and fully interactive commercial Internet websites and Plaintiff's claims arise out of these activities.

16. Venue is proper over Defendants in this District pursuant 28 U.S.C. § 1391 and 28 U.S.C. § 1400, since Defendants are, upon information and belief, aliens engaged in infringing

activities and causing harm within this District by advertising, importing, promoting, reproducing, offering for sale, selling, and/or distributing goods that incorporate and infringe Plaintiff's Patent into this District and the Defendants are subject to personal jurisdiction within this District with respect to the action brought herein.

JOINDER OF DEFENDANTS IN THIS ACTION IS PROPER

17. Defendants are promoting, selling, offering for sale and distributing goods bearing identical or confusingly similar imitations of Plaintiff's intellectual property within this district.

18. Joinder of all Defendants is permissible based on the permissive party joinder rule of Fed. R. Civ. P. 20(a)(2) (as well as 35 U.S.C. § 299) that permits the joinder of persons in an action as Defendants where any right to relief is asserted against them jointly, severally, or in the alternative with respect to or arising out of the same transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences; and any question of law or fact common to all Defendants will arise in the action.

19. Joinder of the multiple Defendants listed in Schedule "A" attached hereto is permitted because Plaintiff asserts rights to relief against these Defendants jointly, severally, or in the alternative with respect to or arising out of the same transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences; and common questions of law or fact will arise in the action.

20. Joinder of the multiple Defendants listed in Schedule "A" attached hereto serves the interests of convenience and judicial economy, which will lead to a just, speedy, and inexpensive resolution for Plaintiffs, Defendants, and this Court.

21. Joinder of the multiple Defendants listed in Schedule "A" attached hereto will not create any unnecessary delay nor will it prejudice any party. On the other hand, severance is likely to cause delays and prejudice Plaintiff and Defendants alike.

22. Joinder of the multiple Defendants listed in Schedule “A” is procedural only and does not affect the substantive rights of any defendant listed on Schedule “A” hereto.

23. This Court has jurisdiction over the multiple Defendants listed in Schedule “A” hereto. Venue is proper in this court for this dispute involving the multiple Defendants listed in Schedule “A” hereto.

24. Plaintiff’s claim against the multiple Defendants listed in Schedule “A” are all transactionally related.

25. Plaintiff is claiming counterfeiting, infringement, and piracy of Plaintiff’s licensed intellectual property rights by Defendants.

26. The actions of all Defendants cause indivisible harm to Plaintiff by Defendants’ combined actions engaging in similar counterfeiting and infringing conduct when each is compared to the others.

27. All Defendants’ actions are logically related. All Defendants are all engaging in the same systematic approach of establishing online storefronts to redistribute illegal products from the same or similar sources while maintaining financial accounts that the Defendants can easily conceal to avoid any real liability for their actions.

28. All Defendants are located in foreign jurisdictions, mostly China.

29. All Defendants undertake efforts to conceal their true identities from Plaintiff in order to avoid detection for their illegal counterfeiting and infringing activities.

30. All Defendants have the same or closely related sources for their counterfeit and infringing products with some sourcing from the same upstream source and others sourcing from downstream sources who obtain counterfeit and infringing products from the same upstream sources.

31. All Defendants take advantage of a set of circumstances the anonymity and mass reach the internet affords to sell counterfeit and infringing goods across international borders and violate Plaintiff's licensed intellectual property rights with impunity.

32. All Defendants have registered their Seller IDs with a small number of online platforms for the purpose of engaging in counterfeiting and infringement.

33. All Defendants use payment and financial accounts associated with their online storefronts or the online platforms where their online storefronts reside.

34. All Defendants use their payment and financial accounts to accept, receive, and deposit profits from their illegal activities.

35. All Defendants can easily and quickly transfer or conceal their funds in their use payment and financial accounts to avoid detection and liability in the event their efforts are discovered or Plaintiff obtains a monetary award.

36. All Defendants violated one or more of the Plaintiff's licensed intellectual property rights in the United States, by the use of common or identical methods.

37. All Defendants understand that their ability to profit through anonymous internet stores is enhanced as their numbers increase, even though they may not all engage in direct communication or coordination.

38. Many of the Defendants are operating multiple internet storefronts and online marketplace seller accounts using different Seller IDs listed on Schedule "A". As a result, there are more Seller IDs than there are Defendants, a fact that will emerge in discovery.

39. Defendants' business names, i.e., the Seller IDs, associated payment accounts, and any other alias seller identification names or e-commerce stores used in connection with the sale of infringements of Plaintiff's intellectual property rights are essential components of

Defendants' online activities and are one of the means by which Defendants further their infringement scheme and cause harm to Plaintiff.

40. Defendants are using infringements of Plaintiff's intellectual property rights to drive Internet consumer traffic to their e-commerce stores operating under the Seller IDs, thereby increasing the value of the Seller IDs and decreasing the size and value of Plaintiff's legitimate marketplace and intellectual property rights at Plaintiff's expense.

41. Defendants, through the sale and offer to sell infringing products, are directly, and unfairly, competing with Plaintiff's economic interests in the state of Florida and causing Plaintiff harm and damage within this jurisdiction.

42. The natural and intended byproduct of Defendants' logically related actions is the erosion and destruction of the goodwill associated with Plaintiffs' licensed intellectual property rights and the destruction of the legitimate market sector in which it operates.

43. At all times relevant hereto, Defendants had actual or constructive knowledge of Plaintiff's intellectual property rights, including Plaintiff's exclusive right to use and license such intellectual property rights.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

44. Plaintiff has filed this lawsuit against Defendants to enjoin online patent infringers who trade upon Plaintiff's valuable Patent by distributing, offering to sell and/or selling unauthorized goods that incorporate and infringe Plaintiff's Patent.

45. Plaintiff's Patent registration is valid, in full force and effect, unrevoked and uncanceled.

46. Plaintiff has not granted a license or any other authorizations to Defendants to make, use, offer for sale, sell and/or import goods that embody the design patented in the Plaintiff's Patent which is proprietary to Plaintiff.

47. Defendants willfully and knowingly infringe Plaintiff's Patent rights.

48. Defendants are advertising, distributing, offering to sell and/or selling unauthorized goods that incorporate and infringe Plaintiff's Patent in U.S. interstate commerce.

49. Defendants offer to sell exact copies and/or confusingly similar copies to the claimed designs in Plaintiff's Patent (hereinafter referred to as the Defendants' "Counterfeit Copies") through Internet based e-commerce stores operating under the Seller IDs.

50. Defendants designs of the Counterfeit Copies are so similar to Plaintiff's as to be nearly identical such that an ordinary observer, giving such attention as a purchaser usually gives, would be so deceived by the substantial similarity between the designs so as to be induced to purchase Defendants' products believing them to be the same design as the one protected by Plaintiff's Patent.

51. Defendants are actively using, promoting and otherwise advertising, distributing, selling and/or offering for sale substantial quantities of their Counterfeit Copies without authority to use Plaintiff's Patent.

52. At all times relevant hereto, Defendants knew or should have known of Plaintiff's ownership of the Patent, including its exclusive right to use and license such intellectual property.

53. Defendants' use of Plaintiff's Patent to create the Counterfeit Copies, is without Plaintiff's consent or authorization.

54. Defendants are engaging in the above-described illegal infringing activities knowingly and intentionally or with reckless disregard or willful blindness to Plaintiff's rights. If

Defendants' willful and intentional infringing activities are not preliminarily and permanently enjoined by this Court, Plaintiff and the consuming public will continue to be harmed.

55. Defendants' payment and financial accounts are being used by Defendants to accept, receive, and deposit profits from Defendants' infringing activities connected to their Seller IDs and any other alias seller identification names being used and/or controlled by them.

56. Defendants continuously create new websites and online marketplace accounts using the Seller IDs listed in Schedule A (Exhibit 2 to the Amended Complaint - filed under seal), as well as other unknown fictitious names and addresses.

57. Defendants are likely to transfer or conceal their assets to avoid payment of any monetary judgment awarded to Plaintiff in order to avoid being detected and shut down.

58. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law.

59. Plaintiff is suffering irreparable harm, injury and substantial damages directly and proximately caused by Defendants' unauthorized and wrongful use of Plaintiff's Patent.

60. Defendants must be enjoined from continuing to advertise, distribute, offer for sale and/or sell Counterfeit Copies that directly infringe on Plaintiff's patent protections pursuant to federal patent law.

COUNT I
INFRINGEMENT OF UNITED STATES PATENT
35 U.S.C. § 271

61. Plaintiff reincorporates and realleges paragraphs 1 through 34 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

62. The registration for Plaintiff's Patent is valid, subsisting, unrevoked and uncanceled.

63. Plaintiff is the inventor and owner of the United States Design Patent at issue in this lawsuit.

64. Plaintiff is the owner of all right, title and interest in and to the designs covered by the Plaintiff's Patent, and Plaintiff is entitled to receive all damages and the benefits of all other remedies for Defendants' infringements.

65. Without Plaintiff's permission or authorization, Defendants have infringed one or more of Plaintiff's exclusive rights relating to the federally registered Plaintiff's Patent by importing, manufacturing, offering for sale, and/or selling Counterfeit Copies which embody the design covered by Plaintiff's Patent.

66. Defendants' Counterfeit Copies contain every aspect of the claimed designs on the Plaintiff's Patent.

67. Defendants' Counterfeit Copies have an overall appearance that is confusingly similar to the claimed designs in the Plaintiff's Patent.

68. Defendants are directly liable for infringing Plaintiff's Patent under the Patent Act, 35 U.S.C. § 271.

69. The foregoing acts of infringement have been willful, intentional, and purposeful, in disregard of and indifferent to Plaintiff's rights in the Patent.

70. Defendants' unlawful actions have caused and are continuing to cause unquantifiable and irreparable harm and unquantifiable damages to Plaintiff and are unjustly enriching themselves at Plaintiff's expense.

71. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' continuous infringement of Plaintiff's Patent, Plaintiff is entitled to injunctive relief as well as monetary damages as provided by the Patent Act, including Defendants' profits pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§ 284 and 289.

72. Plaintiff is further entitled to its attorney's fees pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285.

73. Defendants' infringement of Plaintiff's Patent has been and continues to be willful.

74. Defendants' conduct has caused and will continue to cause Plaintiff substantial damages, including irreparable harm, for which Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law, unless and until Defendant is enjoined from infringing the Plaintiff's Patent.

75. Plaintiff is entitled to injunctive relief, as set forth below, because of the continuing infringements of Plaintiff's Patent and because of the significant threat of future infringement as evidenced herein.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment, an award of equitable relief and monetary relief against Defendants as follows:

A. Entry of temporary, preliminary, and permanent injunctions pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284, and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65; enjoining Defendants, their affiliates, officers, agents, representatives, servants, employees, and all persons acting in concert or participation therewith, from infringing Plaintiff's Patent in manufacturing or causing to be manufactured, producing, importing, advertising or promoting, distributing, selling or offering to sell their Counterfeit Copies; from infringing, counterfeiting, and from using any reproduction, counterfeit, copy, or colorable imitation of the Patent in connection with the publicity, promotion, offer for sale, sale, or advertising of any goods sold by Defendants.

B. Entry of an order pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1651(a), The All Writs Act, and the Court's inherent authority, that upon Plaintiff's request, the applicable governing Internet marketplace website operators and/or administrators for the Seller IDs who are provided with

notice of an injunction issued by the Court disable and/or cease facilitating access to the Seller IDs, associated ecommerce stores and websites, and any other alias seller identification names being used and/or controlled by Defendants to engage in the business of marketing, offering to sell, and/or selling goods bearing infringements of Plaintiff's Patent. The Internet marketplace platforms include but are not limited to; Amazon.com, Walmart, Ebay.

C. Entry of an Order pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1651(a), and the Court's inherent authority, that upon Plaintiff's request, any Internet marketplace website operators and/or administrators for the Seller IDs who are provided with notice of an injunction issued by the Court, identify any name, address and e-mail address known to be associated with Defendants' respective Seller IDs.

D. Entry of an order pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1651(a), and the Court's inherent authority that, upon Plaintiff's request, any Internet marketplace website operators and/or administrators who are provided with notice of an injunction issued by the Court permanently remove any and all listings and associated images of goods bearing infringements of the Patent via the e-commerce stores operating under the Seller IDs, and upon Plaintiff's request, any other listings and images of goods bearing infringements of the Plaintiff's Patent associated with and/or linked to the same sellers or linked to any other alias seller identify cation names being used and/or controlled by Defendants to promote, offer for sale and/or sell goods bearing infringements of the Plaintiff's Patent.

E. Entry of an order that, upon Plaintiff's request, Defendants and any financial institutions, payment processors, banks, escrow services, money transmitters, or marketplace platforms, and their related companies and affiliates, identify and restrain all funds, up to and including the total amount of judgment, in all financial accounts and/or sub-accounts used in

connection with the Seller IDs or other alias seller identification or e-commerce store names, domain names and/or websites used by Defendants presently or in the future, as well as any other related accounts of the same customer(s) and any other accounts which transfer funds into the same financial institution account(s), to be surrendered to Plaintiff in partial satisfaction of the monetary judgment entered herein.

F. Entry of a judgment and award that Defendants account for and pay to Plaintiff damages adequate to compensate for Defendants' infringements of the Plaintiff's Patent, including lost profits but in no event less than a reasonable royalty.

G. Entry of a judgement and award of Defendants' total profits in an amount subject to proof at trial, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 289.

H. Entry of an Order finding that Defendants' infringement was willful and an award of increased damages for willful infringement, pursuant to 35 U.S.C § 284.

I. Entry of an Order finding this case is exceptional under 35 U.S.C. § 285 and awarding Plaintiff its costs, expenses and disbursements incurred in this action, including reasonable attorney's fees as available by law to be paid by Defendants.

J. Entry of an award of prejudgment interest on the judgment amount.

K. Entry of an Order for such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Respectfully submitted on this 4th day of August, 2024.

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