

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

CARTIER INTERNATIONAL A.G.,
MONTBLANC-SIMPLO GMBH, CHLOE
S.A.S., and VAN CLEEF & ARPELS SA,

Plaintiffs,

v.

THE PARTNERSHIPS and
UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATIONS
IDENTIFIED ON SCHEDULE “A,”

Defendants.

Case No. 22-cv-02950

COMPLAINT

Plaintiffs CARTIER INTERNATIONAL A.G., MONTBLANC-SIMPLO GMBH, CHLOE S.A.S., and VAN CLEEF & ARPELS SA (collectively, “Plaintiffs”) hereby bring the present action against the Partnerships and Unincorporated Associations identified on Schedule A attached hereto (collectively, “Defendants”) and allege as follows:

I. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This Court has original subject matter jurisdiction over the claims in this action pursuant to the provisions of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1051, *et seq.*, 28 U.S.C. § 1338(a)-(b) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.

2. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391, and this Court may properly exercise personal jurisdiction over Defendants since each of the Defendants directly targets business activities toward consumers in the United States, including Illinois, through at

least the fully interactive, e-commerce stores¹ operating under the seller aliases identified in Schedule A attached hereto (the “Seller Aliases”). Specifically, Defendants have targeted sales to Illinois residents by setting up and operating e-commerce stores that target United States consumers using one or more Seller Aliases, offer shipping to the United States, including Illinois, accept payment in U.S. dollars and, on information and belief, have sold products using infringing and counterfeit versions of Plaintiffs’ respective trademarks to residents of Illinois. Each of the Defendants is committing tortious acts in Illinois, is engaging in interstate commerce, and has wrongfully caused Plaintiffs substantial injury in the State of Illinois.

II. INTRODUCTION

3. Plaintiffs are all subsidiaries of Compagnie Financière Richemont SA (“Richemont”), which owns several of the world's leading companies in the field of luxury goods, with particular strengths in jewelry, luxury watches and writing instruments. This action has been filed by Plaintiffs to combat e-commerce store operators who trade upon Plaintiffs’ respective reputations and goodwill by offering for sale and/or selling unauthorized and unlicensed products using infringing and counterfeit versions of Plaintiffs’ federally registered trademarks (the “Counterfeit Products”). Defendants create e-commerce stores operating under one or more Seller Aliases that are advertising, offering for sale and selling Counterfeit Products to unknowing consumers. E-commerce stores operating under the Seller Aliases share unique identifiers establishing a logical relationship between them and that Defendants’ counterfeiting operation arises out of the same transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences. Defendants attempt to avoid and mitigate liability by operating under one or more Seller Aliases to conceal both their identities and the full scope and interworking of their counterfeiting

¹ The e-commerce store urls are listed on Schedule A hereto under the Online Marketplaces and Domain Names.

operation. Plaintiffs are forced to file this action to combat Defendants' counterfeiting of their registered trademarks, as well as to protect unknowing consumers from purchasing Counterfeit Products over the Internet. Plaintiffs have been and continue to be irreparably damaged through consumer confusion, dilution, and tarnishment of their valuable trademarks as a result of Defendants' actions and seek injunctive and monetary relief.

III. THE PARTIES

Plaintiffs

4. Plaintiff CARTIER INTERNATIONAL A.G. is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Switzerland, having its principal place of business at Hinterbergstrasse 22, 6312 Steinhausen, Switzerland ("Cartier"). Plaintiff MONTBLANC-SIMPLIO GMBH is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Germany, having its principal place of business at Hellgrundweg 100 22525 Hamburg, Germany ("Montblanc"). Plaintiff CHLOE S.A.S. is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of France, having its principal place of business at 5-7 Av. Percier 75008 Paris, France ("Chloe"). Plaintiff Van Cleef & Arpels, S.A. is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Switzerland, having its principal place of business at 8 Route des Biches, 1752 Villars-sur-Glane, Switzerland ("Van Cleef & Arpels"). Plaintiffs Cartier, Montblanc, Chloe, and Van Cleef & Arpels are all subsidiaries of Richemont.

5. Plaintiffs are internationally recognized manufacturers, distributors and retailers of high-quality products including watches, watch buckles, clocks, jewelry, scarves, handbags, fashion apparel, eyewear, pens, letter openers, perfumes, cigarette lighters, writing instruments, and other luxury goods, all of which prominently display its famous, internationally-recognized and federally-registered trademarks (collectively, "Plaintiffs' Products"). Plaintiffs' Products

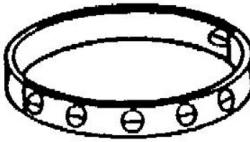
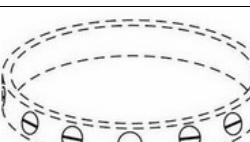
have become enormously popular and even iconic, driven by Plaintiffs' arduous quality standards and innovative designs. Among the purchasing public, genuine Plaintiffs' Products are instantly recognizable as such. In the United States and around the world, Plaintiffs' respective brands have come to symbolize high quality, and Plaintiffs' Products are among the most recognizable luxury products in the world.

6. Plaintiffs' Products are distributed and sold to consumers through a worldwide network of boutiques and other tightly-controlled distribution partnerships, as well as through thousands of authorized retailers worldwide. Plaintiffs have for some time promoted genuine Plaintiffs' Products at the following websites: cartier.us, cartier.com, montblanc.com, chloe.com, and vancleefarpels.com. These websites offer e-commerce of Plaintiffs' Products and feature proprietary content, images and designs exclusive to Plaintiffs. Sales of Plaintiffs' Products via the websites listed above represent a significant portion of Plaintiffs' business.

7. Plaintiffs incorporate a variety of distinctive marks in the design of their various Plaintiffs' Products. As a result of their long-standing use, Plaintiffs own common law trademark rights in their trademarks. Plaintiffs have also registered their trademarks with the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Plaintiffs' Products typically include at least one Plaintiffs' registered trademarks. Plaintiffs use their respective trademarks in connection with the marketing of Plaintiffs' Products, including the following marks which are collectively referred to as "Plaintiffs' Trademarks."

REGISTRATION NUMBER	REGISTERED TRADEMARK	REGISTRATION DATE	INTERNATIONAL CLASSES
759,201	CARTIER	October 29, 1963	For: Watches and clocks in class 014.

REGISTRATION NUMBER	REGISTERED TRADEMARK	REGISTRATION DATE	INTERNATIONAL CLASSES
759,202	CARTIER	October 29, 1963	For: Articles of jewelry for personal wear, not including watches; and the following goods of solid or plated silverware-namely, hollow-ware, jewelry cases, and buckles in classes 008 and 014.
4,988,729	CARTIER	June 28, 2016	For: Sunglasses, eyeglass frames in class 009.
1,005,286	LOVE BRACELET	February 25, 1975	For: Jewelry-namely, bracelets in class 014.
1,344,284	SANTOS	June 25, 1985	For: Watches in Class 014.
411,975	<i>Cartier</i>	February 13, 1945	For: Watches and clocks and wrist watches with wrist straps and bracelets attached for securing the same on the wrist of the wearer, and traveling clocks and watches with covers of leather, fabric and the like for protecting them while traveling in class 014.
415,184	<i>Cartier</i>	July 31, 1945	For: Reading glasses in class 009.
4,178,047	<i>Cartier</i>	July 24, 2012	For: Jewelry and watches in class 014.
3,637,776	LOVE	June 16, 2009	For: Goods of precious metals and coated therewith, namely, cuff-links, rings, bracelets, earrings, necklaces in class 014.
1,114,482		March 6, 1979	For: Articles of jewelry, watches in class 014.

REGISTRATION NUMBER	REGISTERED TRADEMARK	REGISTRATION DATE	INTERNATIONAL CLASSES
1,372,423		November 26, 1985	For: Bracelets in class 014.
3,162,410		October 24, 2006	For: Jewelry, namely, bracelets, watches, rings, charms, earrings in class 014.
3,776,794		April 20, 2010	For: Jewelry, namely, rings, bracelets, charms, earrings, made of precious metals in class 014.
5,583,979		October 16, 2018	For: Jewelry in class 014.
3,006,779	TANK	October 18, 2005	For: Jewellery, such as rings in class 014.
776,208	MONTBLANC	September 1, 1964	For: Fountain pens, cases for fountain pens, ball point pens, ball point cartridges, ball point paste, mechanical pencils, lead for mechanical pencils in class 016.
1,825,001	MONTBLANC	March 8, 1994	For: Spectacles and sunglasses in class 009.
1,884,842	MONTBLANC	March 21, 1995	For: Jewelry, watches and time pieces in class 014. For: Purses, handbags, small leather articles and accessories, namely wallets and billfolds, and luggage in class 018.
2,415,189	MONTBLANC	December 26, 2000	For: clothing accessories, namely, dress belts made of leather with

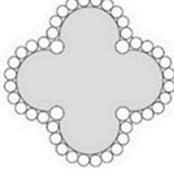
REGISTRATION NUMBER	REGISTERED TRADEMARK	REGISTRATION DATE	INTERNATIONAL CLASSES
			belt buckles of precious and semi-precious metals distributed in channels of commerce where luxury articles are sold and promoted in class 025.
4,582,264	MONTBLANC	August 12, 2014	For: Retail store services in the field of luxury goods in the nature of watches, chronometers, luxury writing instruments and parts and fittings therefor, leather goods, belts, jewelry, eyewear, fragrances, stationery, stationery refills, desk sets, personal care products provided via the Internet and other computer and electronic communication networks in class 035.
2,759,073	STARWALKER	September 2, 2003	For: Fountain pens, ball-point pens, pencils, felt-tip pens, rollerballs in class 016.
5,127,048	STARWALKER	January 24, 2017	For: Leather and imitation leather, goods made in these materials and not included in other classes, namely, leather bags, leather pouches; handbags, travelling bags, rucksacks, school bags, traveling sets, namely, leather luggage; bags for sports, wheeled bags, wallets, purses, credit card holders, briefcases, suitcases, attaché-cases, key holders, namely, key cases; travelling trunks, vanity cases, not fitted; evening purses, boxes of leather or leather board in class 018.
3,021,088	4810	November 29, 2005	For: Watches, wristwatches, chronometers, jewelry articles, namely, earrings, rings, necklaces in class 014.

REGISTRATION NUMBER	REGISTERED TRADEMARK	REGISTRATION DATE	INTERNATIONAL CLASSES
			For: Writing instruments, in particular, fountain pens, in class 016.
2,515,092		December 4, 2001	For: stationery, namely, writing paper, writing cards in class 016.
3,059,776		February 21, 2006	For: Money clips, key rings all being made of metal in class 006.
4,295,116		February 26, 2013	For: Retail store services featuring watches, writing instruments and parts and fittings therefor, writing inks and refills for writing instruments, leather goods, belts, jewelry, eyewear, fragrances, stationery, stationery refills, desk sets; online retail store services featuring watches, writing instruments, writing inks and refills for writing instruments, leather goods, belts, jewelry, eyewear, fragrances, stationery, stationery refills in class 035.
4,669,133		January 13, 2015	For: Soaps; perfumery; cosmetic preparations for body and beauty care in class 003. For: Eyeglasses, sunglasses; eyeglass frames and cases; magnifying glasses; computer and tablets carrying cases and bags; data recording and storage media device and instruments, namely, blank USB flash drive; graduated rulers in class 009. For: Jewelry; precious stones; precious metals and their alloys; cufflinks; tie clips; rings; bracelets; earrings; necklaces;

REGISTRATION NUMBER	REGISTERED TRADEMARK	REGISTRATION DATE	INTERNATIONAL CLASSES
			<p>brooches; key rings of precious metal; jewelry cases; boxes of precious metals; horological and chronometric instruments; watches; chronometers; clocks; small clocks; watch cases; watch bands; watch bracelets; key rings, trinkets, or fobs of precious metal in class 014.</p> <p>For: Stationery; writing instruments; cases for writing instruments; inks and ink refills for writing instruments; desk sets; writing books; calendars, note books, writing paper, envelopes, writing instrument holders; inkwells; document holders and cases; photo albums; money clips; writing cases for writing instruments in class 016.</p> <p>For: Handbags, travelling bags, rucksacks, garment bags for travel, traveling sets comprised of luggage, suitcases, wheeled bags, wallets, name cards cases, briefcases, attaché cases, key cases of leather or imitation leather; credit card holder in class 018.</p>
1,324,392	MEISTERSTÜCK	March 12, 1985	For: Fountain pens, ballpoint pens and mechanical pencils including sets thereof, all made partially with precious metals and sold in specialty stores in class 016.
2,747,460	MEISTERSTÜCK	August 05, 2003	For: Jewelry, cuff-links, and tie bars in class 014.

REGISTRATION NUMBER	REGISTERED TRADEMARK	REGISTRATION DATE	INTERNATIONAL CLASSES
839,016		November 21, 1967	For: Fountain pen ink in class 002. For: Fountain pens, cases for fountain pens, ball point pens, ball point cartridges, mechanical pencils, lead for mechanical pencils, desk stands for pens in class 016.
1,878,584		February 14, 1995	For: Jewelry, watches and timepieces in class 014. For: Purses, handbags, small leather articles and accessories, namely wallets and billfolds, and luggage in class 018.
1,491,810	CHLOE	June 14, 1988	For: Perfume toilet water, cologne, body lotion, body cream, personal deodorant, and beauty or bath soap in class 003. For: Handbags, and purses in class 018. For: Bathrobes, bathing suits, coats, dresses, hats, jackets, shirts, blouses, trousers, skirts, scarves, and shoes in class 025.
1,925,176	CHLOE	October 10, 1995	For: Sunglasses, cases and containers for such sunglasses in class 009.
2,745,487	CHLOE	April 5, 2003	For: Jewelry in class 014.
3,198,388	CHLOE	January 16, 2007	For: Optical apparatus and instruments, namely, spectacles, sunglasses, eyeglasses, eye shades, and frames, earpieces, lenses, cords, chains, cases and containers therefore in class 009.

REGISTRATION NUMBER	REGISTERED TRADEMARK	REGISTRATION DATE	INTERNATIONAL CLASSES
2,641,982	SEE BY CHLOE	October 29, 2002	<p>For: Travelling bags, holdalls, tote bags, handbags, credit card case, purses, wallets, key cases, coin purses, parts and fittings for all the aforesaid goods in class 018.</p> <p>For: Clothing, namely, trousers, skirts, suits, dresses, jackets, blousons, shirts, coats, cardigans, sweaters, blouses, shorts, t-shirts, pullovers, and scarves in class 025.</p>
4,853,384	DREW	November 17, 2015	For: Handbags in class 018.
950,843		January 16, 1973	For: Ladies' articles of clothing for outerwear-namely, frocks, dresses, coats, costumes, suits, skirts, blouses, vests and pant-suits, vests, and ladies' shoes in classes 010, 025, 026.
3,921,204		February 15, 2011	For: Perfumery, perfumes in class 003.
2,936,247	VAN CLEEF & ARPELS	Mar. 29, 2005	<p>For: Items made of precious metal, namely, rings, bracelets, earrings, necklaces, pendants, charms, brooches, clips, hairclips, jewelry boxes, jewelry cases, watch bracelets and buckles; jewelry, watches and clocks in class 014.</p> <p>For: Retail shops featuring jewelry and watches in Class 035.</p>
2,751,878	ALHAMBRA	Aug. 19, 2003	For: Precious metal and their alloys and products made thereof or coated therewith not included in other classes, namely, jewelry, horological and chronometric

REGISTRATION NUMBER	REGISTERED TRADEMARK	REGISTRATION DATE	INTERNATIONAL CLASSES
			instruments, namely, watches and watch bracelets and necklaces, jewelry chains of precious metal, earrings, jewelry rings, pendants, ankle bracelets, cuff links, studs made of precious metal in class 014.
3,489,019	ALHAMBRA	Aug. 19, 2008	For: jewelry; clock and watch making, namely, watches, watch bracelets in class 014.
1,415,794	Van Cleef & Arpels	Nov. 04, 1986	For: Jewelry and watches in class 014.
1,584,572	VCA	Feb. 27, 1990	For: Jewelry in class 014.
2,692,672		Mar. 04, 2003	For: Jewelry; watches; in class 014.
4,653,258		Dec. 09, 2014	For: Jewelry in class 014. For: Retail store services featuring jewelry in Class 035.
4,326,883		Apr. 30, 2013	For: Jewelry in class 014.
4,763,030		June 30, 2015	For: Jewelry; rings; pendants; earrings; necklaces; bracelets in class 014.

REGISTRATION NUMBER	REGISTERED TRADEMARK	REGISTRATION DATE	INTERNATIONAL CLASSES
5,029,940		August 30, 2016	For: watches in class 014.

8. Plaintiffs' Trademarks have been used exclusively and continuously by Plaintiffs and their predecessors-in-interest and associated companies in the U.S. for decades and have never been abandoned. The above registrations for Plaintiffs Trademarks are valid, subsisting, in full force and effect, and many are incontestable pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1065. The registrations for Plaintiffs Trademarks constitute *prima facie* evidence of their validity and of Plaintiffs' exclusive right to use Plaintiffs' Trademarks pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1057(b). Attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** are true and correct copies of the U.S. Registration Certificates for Plaintiffs' Trademarks included in the above table.

9. Plaintiffs' Trademarks are exclusive to Plaintiffs and are displayed extensively on Plaintiffs' Products and in Plaintiffs' marketing and promotional materials. Plaintiffs' Products have long been among the most popular luxury products in the world and have been extensively promoted and advertised at great expense. In fact, Plaintiffs have expended millions of dollars annually in advertising, promoting and marketing featuring Plaintiffs' Trademarks. Plaintiffs' Products have also been the subject of extensive unsolicited publicity resulting from their high-quality, innovative designs and renown as desired luxury items. Because of these and other factors, Plaintiffs' brands and many of Plaintiffs' Trademarks have become famous.

10. Plaintiffs' Trademarks are distinctive when applied to Plaintiffs' Products, signifying to the purchaser that the products come from Plaintiffs and are manufactured to

Plaintiffs' quality standards. Whether Plaintiffs manufacture the products themselves or license others to do so, Plaintiffs have ensured that products bearing their trademarks are manufactured to the highest quality standards. Many of Plaintiffs' Trademarks have achieved tremendous fame and recognition, which has only added to the inherent or acquired distinctiveness of the marks. As such, the goodwill associated with Plaintiffs' Trademarks is of incalculable and inestimable value to Plaintiffs.

11. Plaintiffs have expended substantial time, money, and other resources in developing, advertising and otherwise promoting Plaintiffs' Trademarks. As a result, Plaintiffs' Products bearing Plaintiffs' Trademarks are widely recognized and exclusively associated by consumers, the public, and the trade as being high-quality products sourced from Plaintiffs. Each Plaintiff runs a multi-million-dollar operation, and Plaintiffs' Products have become among the most popular of their kind in the world.

The Defendants

12. Defendants are individuals and business entities of unknown makeup who own and/or operate one or more of the e-commerce stores under at least the Seller Aliases identified on Schedule A and/or other seller aliases not yet known to Plaintiffs. On information and belief, Defendants reside and/or operate in the People's Republic of China or other foreign jurisdictions with lax trademark enforcement systems, or redistribute products from the same or similar sources in those locations. Defendants have the capacity to be sued pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 17(b).

13. On information and belief, Defendants, either individually or jointly, operate one or more e-commerce stores under the Seller Aliases listed in Schedule A attached hereto. Tactics used by Defendants to conceal their identities and the full scope of their operation make it

virtually impossible for Plaintiffs to learn Defendants' true identities and the exact interworking of their counterfeit network. If Defendants provide additional credible information regarding their identities, Plaintiffs will take appropriate steps to amend the Complaint.

IV. DEFENDANTS' UNLAWFUL CONDUCT

14. The success of Plaintiffs' brands has resulted in significant counterfeiting of Plaintiffs' Trademarks. Consequently, Plaintiffs have a worldwide anti-counterfeiting program and regularly investigate suspicious e-commerce stores identified in proactive Internet sweeps and reported by consumers. In recent years, Plaintiffs have identified many fully interactive, e-commerce stores offering counterfeit Plaintiffs' Products on online marketplace platforms such as Amazon, eBay, AliExpress, Alibaba, Wish.com, Walmart, and DHgate, including the e-commerce stores operating under the Seller Aliases. The Seller Aliases target consumers in this Judicial District and throughout the United States. According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), most counterfeit products now come through international mail and express courier services (as opposed to containers) due to increased sales from offshore online counterfeiters. *The Counterfeit Silk Road: Impact of Counterfeit Consumer Products Smuggled Into the United States* prepared for The Buy Safe America Coalition by John Dunham & Associates ([Exhibit 2](#)). The bulk of counterfeit products sent to the United States "come from China and its dependent territories," accounting for over 90.6% of all cargo with intellectual property rights (IPR) violations. *Id.* Of the \$1.23 billion in total IPR violations intercepted, \$1.12 billion was from China. *Id.* Counterfeit and pirated products account for billions in economic losses, resulting in tens of thousands of lost jobs for legitimate businesses and broader economic losses, including lost tax revenue. *Id.*

15. Third party service providers like those used by Defendants do not adequately subject new sellers to verification and confirmation of their identities, allowing counterfeiters to “routinely use false or inaccurate names and addresses when registering with these e-commerce platforms.” **Exhibit 3**, Daniel C.K. Chow, *Alibaba, Amazon, and Counterfeiting in the Age of the Internet*, 40 NW. J. INT’L L. & BUS. 157, 186 (2020); *see also* report on “Combating Trafficking in Counterfeit and Pirated Goods” prepared by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans (Jan. 24, 2020), attached as **Exhibit 4** and finding that on “at least some e-commerce platforms, little identifying information is necessary for a counterfeiter to begin selling” and recommending that “[s]ignificantly enhanced vetting of third-party sellers” is necessary. Counterfeitors hedge against the risk of being caught and having their websites taken down from an e-commerce platform by preemptively establishing multiple virtual store-fronts. **Exhibit 4** at p. 22. Since platforms generally do not require a seller on a third-party marketplace to identify the underlying business entity, counterfeiters can have many different profiles that can appear unrelated even though they are commonly owned and operated. **Exhibit 4** at p. 39. Further, “E-commerce platforms create bureaucratic or technical hurdles in helping brand owners to locate or identify sources of counterfeits and counterfeiters.” **Exhibit 3** at 186–187.

16. Defendants have targeted sales to Illinois residents by setting up and operating e-commerce stores that target United States consumers using one or more Seller Aliases, offer shipping to the United States, including Illinois, accept payment in U.S. dollars and, on information and belief, have sold Counterfeit Products to residents of Illinois.

17. Defendants concurrently employ and benefit from substantially similar advertising and marketing strategies. For example, Defendants facilitate sales by designing the

e-commerce stores operating under the Seller Aliases so that they appear to unknowing consumers to be authorized online retailers, outlet stores, or wholesalers. E-commerce stores operating under the Seller Aliases appear sophisticated and accept payment in U.S. dollars via credit cards, Alipay, Amazon Pay, and/or PayPal. E-commerce stores operating under the Seller Aliases often include content and images that make it very difficult for consumers to distinguish such stores from an authorized retailer. Plaintiffs have not licensed or authorized Defendants to use any of Plaintiffs' Trademarks, and none of the Defendants are authorized retailers of genuine Plaintiffs' Products.

18. Many Defendants also deceive unknowing consumers by using Plaintiffs' Trademarks without authorization within the content, text, and/or meta tags of their e-commerce stores to attract various search engines crawling the Internet looking for websites relevant to consumer searches for Plaintiffs' Products. Other e-commerce stores operating under Seller Aliases omit using Plaintiffs' Trademarks in the item title to evade enforcement efforts while using strategic item titles and descriptions that will trigger their listings when consumers are searching for Plaintiffs' Products.

19. E-commerce store operators like Defendants commonly engage in fraudulent conduct when registering the Seller Aliases by providing false, misleading and/or incomplete information to e-commerce platforms to prevent discovery of their true identities and the scope of their e-commerce operation.

20. E-commerce store operators like Defendants regularly register or acquire new seller aliases for the purpose of offering for sale and selling Counterfeit Products. Such seller alias registration patterns are one of many common tactics used by e-commerce store operators

like Defendants to conceal their identities and the full scope and interworking of their counterfeiting operation, and to avoid being shut down.

21. Even though Defendants operate under multiple fictitious aliases, the e-commerce stores operating under the Seller Aliases often share unique identifiers, such as templates with common design elements that intentionally omit any contact information or other information for identifying Defendants or other Seller Aliases they operate or use. E-commerce stores operating under the Seller Aliases include other notable common features such as use of the same registration patterns, accepted payment methods, check-out methods, keywords, advertising tactics, similarities in price and quantities, the same incorrect grammar and misspellings, and/or the use of the same text and images. Additionally, Counterfeit Products for sale by the Seller Aliases bear similar irregularities and indicia of being counterfeit to one another, suggesting that the Counterfeit Products were manufactured by and come from a common source and that Defendants are interrelated.

22. E-commerce store operators like Defendants are in constant communication with each other and regularly participate in QQ.com chat rooms and through websites such as sellerdefense.cn, kaidianyo.com and kuajingvs.com regarding tactics for operating multiple accounts, evading detection, pending litigation, and potential new lawsuits.

23. Counterfeitors such as Defendants typically operate under multiple seller aliases and payment accounts so that they can continue operation in spite of Plaintiffs' enforcement. E-commerce store operators like Defendants maintain off-shore bank accounts and regularly move funds from their financial accounts to off-shore accounts outside the jurisdiction of this Court to avoid payment of any monetary judgment awarded to Plaintiffs. Indeed, analysis of financial account transaction logs from previous similar cases indicates that off-shore counterfeitors

regularly move funds from U.S.-based financial accounts to off-shore accounts outside the jurisdiction of this Court.

24. Defendants are working in active concert to knowingly and willfully manufacture, import, distribute, offer for sale, and sell Counterfeit Products in the same transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences. Defendants, without any authorization or license from Plaintiffs, have jointly and severally, knowingly and willfully used and continue to use Plaintiffs' Trademarks in connection with the advertisement, distribution, offering for sale, and sale of Counterfeit Products into the United States and Illinois over the Internet.

25. Defendants' unauthorized use of Plaintiffs' Trademarks in connection with the advertising, distribution, offering for sale, and sale of Counterfeit Products, including the sale of Counterfeit Products into the United States, including Illinois, is likely to cause and has caused confusion, mistake, and deception by and among consumers and is irreparably harming Plaintiffs.

COUNT I
TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT AND COUNTERFEITING (15 U.S.C. § 1114)

26. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate by reference the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

27. This is a trademark infringement action against Defendants based on their unauthorized use in commerce of counterfeit imitations of the federally registered Plaintiffs' Trademarks in connection with the sale, offering for sale, distribution, and/or advertising of infringing goods. Plaintiffs' Trademarks are highly distinctive marks. Consumers have come to expect the highest quality from Plaintiffs' Products offered, sold or marketed under Plaintiffs' Trademarks.

28. Defendants have sold, offered to sell, marketed, distributed, and advertised, and are still selling, offering to sell, marketing, distributing, and advertising products using counterfeit reproductions of Plaintiffs' Trademarks without Plaintiffs' permission.

29. Plaintiffs are the exclusive owners of their respective Plaintiffs' Trademarks. Plaintiffs' United States Registrations for their respective Plaintiffs' Trademarks (**Exhibit 1**) are in full force and effect. On information and belief, Defendants have knowledge of Plaintiffs' rights in Plaintiffs' Trademarks, and are willfully infringing and intentionally using counterfeits of one or more of Plaintiffs' Trademarks. Defendants' willful, intentional, and unauthorized use of Plaintiffs' Trademarks is likely to cause and is causing confusion, mistake, and deception as to the origin and quality of the Counterfeit Products among the general public.

30. Defendants' activities constitute willful trademark infringement and counterfeiting under Section 32 of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1114.

31. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law, and if Defendants' actions are not enjoined, Plaintiffs will continue to suffer irreparable harm to their reputations and the goodwill of Plaintiffs' Trademarks.

32. The injuries and damages sustained by Plaintiffs have been directly and proximately caused by Defendants' wrongful reproduction, use, advertisement, promotion, offering to sell, and sale of Counterfeit Products.

COUNT II
FALSE DESIGNATION OF ORIGIN (15 U.S.C. § 1125(a))

33. Plaintiffs hereby re-allege and incorporate by reference the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

34. Defendants' promotion, marketing, offering for sale, and sale of Counterfeit Products has created and is creating a likelihood of confusion, mistake, and deception among the

general public as to the affiliation, connection, or association with Plaintiffs or the origin, sponsorship, or approval of Defendants' Counterfeit Products by Plaintiffs.

35. By using Plaintiffs' Trademarks on the Counterfeit Products, Defendants create a false designation of origin and a misleading representation of fact as to the origin and sponsorship of the Counterfeit Products.

36. Defendants' false designation of origin and misrepresentation of fact as to the origin and/or sponsorship of the Counterfeit Products to the general public involves the use of counterfeit marks and is a willful violation of Section 43 of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125.

37. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law and, if Defendants' actions are not enjoined, Plaintiffs will continue to suffer irreparable harm to their reputations and the associated goodwill of Plaintiffs' brands.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against Defendants as follows:

- 1) That Defendants, their affiliates, officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, confederates, and all persons acting for, with, by, through, under or in active concert with them be temporarily, preliminarily, and permanently enjoined and restrained from:
 - a. using Plaintiffs' Trademarks or any reproductions, counterfeit copies or colorable imitations thereof in any manner in connection with the distribution, marketing, advertising, offering for sale, or sale of any product that is not a genuine Plaintiffs' Product or is not authorized by Plaintiffs to be sold in connection with Plaintiffs' Trademarks;
 - b. passing off, inducing, or enabling others to sell or pass off any product as a genuine Plaintiffs' Product or any other product produced by Plaintiffs, that is not Plaintiffs'

or not produced under the authorization, control, or supervision of Plaintiffs and approved by Plaintiffs for sale under Plaintiffs' Trademarks;

- c. committing any acts calculated to cause consumers to believe that Defendants' Counterfeit Products are those sold under the authorization, control or supervision of Plaintiffs, or are sponsored by, approved by, or otherwise connected with Plaintiffs;
- d. further infringing Plaintiffs' Trademarks and damaging Plaintiffs' goodwill; and
- e. manufacturing, shipping, delivering, holding for sale, transferring or otherwise moving, storing, distributing, returning, or otherwise disposing of, in any manner, products or inventory not manufactured by or for Plaintiffs, nor authorized by Plaintiffs to be sold or offered for sale, and which bear any of Plaintiffs' trademarks, including the Plaintiffs' Trademarks, or any reproductions, counterfeit copies or colorable imitations thereof;

2) Entry of an Order that, at Plaintiffs' choosing, the registrant of the Domain Names shall be changed from the current registrant to Plaintiffs, and that the domain name registries for the Domain Names, including, but not limited to, VeriSign, Inc., Neustar, Inc., Afilias Limited, CentralNic, Nominet, and the Public Interest Registry, shall unlock and change the registrar of record for the Domain Names to a registrar of Plaintiffs' selection, and that the domain name registrars, including, but not limited to, GoDaddy Operating Company, LLC ("GoDaddy"), Name.com, PDR LTD. d/b/a PublicDomainRegistry.com ("PDR"), and Namecheap Inc. ("Namecheap"), shall take any steps necessary to transfer the Domain Names to a registrar account of Plaintiffs' selection; or that the same domain name registries shall disable the Domain Names and make them inactive and untransferable;

- 3) Entry of an Order that, upon Plaintiffs' request, those with notice of the injunction, including, without limitation, any online marketplace platforms such as eBay, AliExpress, Alibaba, Amazon, Wish.com, Walmart, and DHgate (collectively, the "Third Party Providers") shall disable and cease displaying any advertisements used by or associated with Defendants in connection with the sale of counterfeit and infringing goods using Plaintiffs' Trademarks;
- 4) That Defendants account for and pay to Plaintiffs all profits realized by Defendants by reason of Defendants' unlawful acts herein alleged, and that the amount of damages for infringement of Plaintiffs' Trademarks be increased by a sum not exceeding three times the amount thereof as provided by 15 U.S.C. § 1117;
- 5) In the alternative, that Plaintiffs be awarded statutory damages for willful trademark counterfeiting pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1117(c)(2) of \$2,000,000 for each and every use of Plaintiffs' Trademarks;
- 6) That Plaintiffs be awarded their reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and
- 7) Award any and all other relief that this Court deems just and proper.

Dated this 6th day of June 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Justin R. Gaudio

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