

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

ENTERTAINMENT ONE UK LTD.,

Plaintiff,

v.

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

Defendants.

Case No. 23-cv-00254

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Entertainment One UK Ltd. (“eOne” or “Plaintiff”) hereby brings the present action against the Partnerships and Unincorporated Associations identified on Schedule A attached hereto (collectively, “Defendants”) and alleges 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.*, the Copyright Act 17 U.S.C. § 501, *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

¹ The e-commerce store URLs are listed on Schedule A hereto under the Online Marketplaces.

consumers using one or more Seller Aliases, offer shipping to the United States, including Illinois, accept payment in U.S. dollars and/or funds from U.S. bank accounts, and, on information and belief, have sold products using infringing and counterfeit versions of eOne's federally registered trademarks and/or unauthorized copies of eOne's federally registered copyrighted designs (collectively, the "Unauthorized Peppa Pig Products") to residents of Illinois. Each of the Defendants is committing tortious acts in Illinois, is engaging in interstate commerce, and has wrongfully caused eOne substantial injury in the State of Illinois.

II. INTRODUCTION

3. This action has been filed by eOne to combat e-commerce store operators who trade upon eOne's reputation and goodwill by selling and/or offering for sale Unauthorized Peppa Pig Products. Defendants create e-commerce stores operating under one or more Seller Aliases that are advertising, offering for sale, and selling Unauthorized Peppa Pig 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 operation. eOne is forced to file this action to combat Defendants' counterfeiting of its registered trademarks and infringement of its registered copyrighted designs, as well as to protect unknowing consumers from purchasing Unauthorized Peppa Pig Products over the internet. eOne has been and continues to be irreparably damaged through consumer confusion, dilution, and tarnishment of its valuable trademarks and infringement of its copyrighted designs as a result of Defendants' actions and seeks injunctive and monetary relief.

III. THE PARTIES

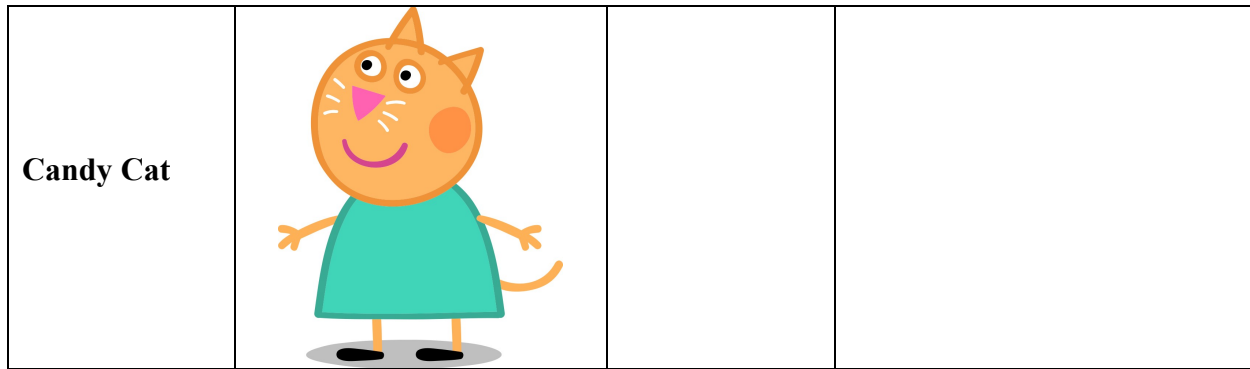
Plaintiff

4. Plaintiff Entertainment One UK Ltd. is a limited company having its principal place of business in the United Kingdom.

5. eOne is a global independent studio that specializes in the development, acquisition, production, financing, distribution and sales of entertainment content. eOne's diversified expertise spans across film, television and music production and sales, family programming, merchandising and licensing, and digital content. Through its global reach and expansive scale, powered by deep local market knowledge, eOne delivers the best content to the world.

6. Peppa Pig is a preschool animated television series directed and produced by Astley Baker Davies in association with eOne, which originally aired in May 2004 and re-premiered in February 2015. Since 2015, four seasons have been aired, with a fifth airing. With over 1000 licensees around the world, Peppa Pig is a top performing global preschool property that has been translated into over 40 languages and broadcast in over 180 territories. Peppa Pig has won three British Academy of Film and Television Arts or BAFTA Awards for pre-school animation. With a pipeline of new episodes delivering fresh content through the end of 2021, the global phenomenon continues to look bright for eOne's popular little piggy. Some of the characters and character names made famous by Peppa Pig are:


Peppa Pig		George Pig	
Daddy Pig		Mummy Pig	
Grandpa Pig		Granny Pig	
Danny Dog		Madame Gazelle	
Pedro Pony		Rebecca Rabbit	



7. In addition to episode DVDs, a variety of licensed Peppa Pig products are available, including video games and other toys such as playsets, playing cards, vehicles, and stuffed toys, household items such as bathroom products, stationery, and bed linens, food, drinks, clothing, and jewelry (collectively, the “Peppa Pig Products”).

8. Peppa Pig Products have become enormously popular and even iconic, driven by the brand’s arduous quality standards and innovative design. Among the purchasing public, genuine Peppa Pig Products are instantly recognizable as such. The Peppa Pig brand has become a global success that resonates with children worldwide, and Peppa Pig Products are among the most recognizable in the world. Peppa Pig Products are distributed and sold to consumers through retailers throughout the United States, including through authorized retailers in Illinois such as Target, Kmart, and Walmart.

9. Long before Defendants’ acts described herein, eOne launched the Peppa Pig television show and its related line of Peppa Pig Products bearing its now famous PEPPA PIG

mark,  mark, and various copyrighted designs (the “Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs”).

10. eOne has used the PEPPA PIG and other trademarks for many years and has continuously sold products under the PEPPA PIG and other trademarks (collectively, the



“PEPPA PIG Trademarks”). As a result of this long-standing use, strong common law trademark rights have amassed in the PEPPA PIG Trademarks. eOne’s use of the marks has also built substantial goodwill in and to the PEPPA PIG Trademarks. The PEPPA PIG Trademarks are famous marks and valuable assets of eOne. Peppa Pig Products typically include at least one of the registered PEPPA PIG Trademarks and/or the Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs.

11. Several of the PEPPA PIG Trademarks are registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, a non-exclusive list of which is included below.

Registration Number	Trademark	Registration Date	Goods and Services
3,663,706	PEPPA PIG	Aug. 4, 2009	<p>For: Computer game software and programs; DVDs, multi-media software, all featuring pre-school aged children's educational and entertainment matter, games, music, images, and animated cartoons; sunglasses in class 009;</p> <p>For: Printed publications, namely, books, booklets, drawing and coloring books, magazines, activity books, all in the field of pre-school aged children's education and entertainment; stationery, notebooks and writing pads, calendars, pens, pencils and crayons, pen and pencil cases; arts and craft finger paint kits; modeling compounds; re-usable and air-drying compounds for modeling; printed instructional and teaching material in the field of pre-school aged children's education and entertainment; printed paper napkins; printed paper tablecloths and printed paper mats; printed stickers and iron-on and plastic transfers; printed postcards and printed greetings cards in class 016.</p>

			<p>For: Clothing and headgear, namely, shirts, pants, sweaters, jackets, coats, shorts, t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, undershirts, underwear, socks, pajamas, caps, hats, scarves, gloves; footwear, namely, shoes, slippers, and athletic shoes in class 025.</p> <p>For: Games, travel games, handheld games, tabletop games, activity games, and playthings, namely, board games, role playing games, chess games, card games, yo-yos, action skill games, dice games, hand held games with liquid crystal displays; electronic and non-electronic puzzles and puzzle games, hand-held, tabletop, and travel-size jigsaw puzzles; balloons; playground balls for games; dolls and toys, namely, articulated and non-articulated dolls, toy figures, modeled plastic toy figurines, bendable toys and action figures; stuffed, plush, bean-bag and cloth toys; puppets; corrugated playhouses; playing cards; roller-skates; toy scooters; scale model toy vehicles; wooden toy vehicles in class 028.</p> <p>For: Entertainment in the nature stage shows for pre-school aged children; television entertainment in the nature of a series of television shows in the field of pre-school aged children's entertainment; children's entertainment and amusement centers, namely, amusement parks and play areas; production of motion picture films and radio and television programs for pre-school aged children; publication of text and graphic works of others online</p>
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			featuring cartoon characters in class 041.
4,872,348	PEPPA PIG	Dec. 22, 2015	<p>For: soaps; hair lotions; bath gels; lotions for skin, hair, face, and baby; bubble bath; hair shampoo; soaps for the hand; lip balm; liquid soaps; nail care preparations; nail polish in class 003</p> <p>For: Materials for dressings, namely, gauze; medical plasters; portable filled medicine cases, namely, first aid kits; disinfectants for hygiene purposes in class 005.</p> <p>For: Tableware, namely, knives, forks and spoons; cutlery, namely, knives, forks and spoons in class 008.</p> <p>For: Bicycles; scooters in class 012.</p> <p>For: Precious metals and their alloys and goods of precious metals or coated therewith, namely, boxes, charms, key rings, holiday ornaments; bracelets; pendants; clocks; necklaces; ornamental pins; wall clocks; watches; jewelry boxes not of metal in class 014.</p> <p>For: Trunks and travelling bags; umbrellas, rucksacks; wallets in class 018.</p> <p>For: Furniture, chairs; desks; hand-held mirrors; pillows; decorative wall plaques made of plastic or wood; plastic name badges being decorative articles; plastic cake decorations; toy boxes class 020.</p> <p>For: Household or kitchen utensils and containers, not of precious metal or</p>

			<p>coated therewith, namely, cups; lunch boxes; cups and mugs in class 021.</p> <p>For: Textiles and textile goods, namely, banners; bed covers; blanket throws; children's blankets; towels; pillowcases; textile place mats in class 024.</p> <p>For: Rugs; bath mats in class 027.</p> <p>For: Flour and preparations made from cereals, namely, cereal bars, cereal based snack food, ready-to-eat cereals; confectionery made of sugar in class 030.</p>
3,506,452		Sept. 23, 2008	For: DVDs featuring pre-school aged children's educational and entertainment matter, games, music, images, and animated cartoons in class 009.
4,783,931		Aug. 4, 2015	<p>For: Soaps; perfumery, cosmetics, hair lotions; dentifrices; baby oil; baby wipes; bath gels; bath powder; body creams, lotions, and powders; hair conditioners; hair shampoo; hand lotions; soaps for the hand; lip balm; lip gloss; liquid soaps; non-medicated mouthwash; eaux de toilette; sun blocking preparations; non-medicated sun care preparations in class 003.</p> <p>For: DVDs featuring pre-school aged children's educational and entertainment matter, games, music, images, and animated cartoons and programs; sound recordings featuring children's educational and entertainment matter, games, music; audio recordings featuring music; video recordings featuring children's educational and</p>

			<p>entertainment matter, games, music, images, and animated cartoons; downloadable ring tones, music, mp3 files featuring music, graphics and video files featuring children's educational and entertainment matter, games, music, images, and animated cartoons, all for wireless communications devices; computer game programs; video game software; computer game programs downloadable via the Internet; computer software for children's educational and entertainment matter, games, music, images, and animated cartoons; downloadable computer programs for children's educational and entertainment matter, games, music, images, and animated cartoons; magic lanterns; sunglasses, spectacle frames; phonograph records featuring children's educational and entertainment matter, games, music in class 009.</p> <p>For: Paper; cardboard; goods made from paper or cardboard, namely, books, booklets, drawing and coloring books, comic books, magazines, activity books and song books, all in the field of pre-school aged children's education and entertainment; stationery, notebooks and writing pads, calendars; photographic products, namely, photographic prints; printed matter, namely, printed paper napkins, printed paper tablecloths and printed paper mats, printed stickers and iron-on and plastic transfers printed postcards and printed greetings cards; pamphlets, books, magazines, brochures, catalogues and promotional pamphlets, all in the field of children's education</p>
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			<p>and entertainment; sheet music; photographs; pictures; graphic representations; printed instructional and teaching material in the field of pre-school aged children's education and entertainment; posters; greeting cards; postcards; picture cards; transfers and stickers; photograph albums; stationery products, namely, envelopes; artists' materials, namely, pens, pencils and crayons, pen and pencil cases; molds for modeling clays; drawing, painting and modelling goods, namely, modeling compounds; re-usable and air-drying compounds for modeling, arts and craft finger paint kits; drawing and painting implements, namely, square rulers; paintbrushes; office requisites, namely, rubber bands; printed instructional and teaching material in the field of literacy and math; diaries; calendars; bookmarks; kitchen towels of paper; paper towels; maps; address stamps; paper napkins; paper and cardboard containers; paper and cardboard pouches for packaging; paper and cardboard bags for packaging; absorbent sheets of paper for foodstuff packaging; plastic bags, film, foil for packaging in class 016.</p> <p>For: Trunks and travelling bags; leather shoulder belts; all-purpose carrying, duffel, book, sports, diaper, key, school and wheeled bags; purses; umbrellas; parasols; rucksacks; luggage; luggage tags; overnight bags; change purses; satchels; tote bags; waist pouches; wallets in class 018.</p> <p>For: Household or kitchen utensils,</p>
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			<p>namely, pots, pans, lids for pots and pans, cups, pot and pan scrapers, household and kitchen containers; beverage glassware; goods of porcelain and earthenware, namely, pots, pans, mugs; ceramics for household purposes, namely, vases, vessels, bowls, plates and pots; tea pots; hair brushes; candlesticks not of precious metal in class 021.</p> <p>For: Textiles and textile goods, namely, coasters, labels for identifying clothing, quilts, hang tags, wall hangings; bed covers; table covers, namely, textile and plastic tablecloths; afghans; bath linen; bed, sofa and children's blankets; bed canopies; bed linen; bed sheets; bed skirts; bed spreads; blanket throws; calico; children's blankets; cloth coasters; cloth doilies; cloth flags; cloth pennants; duvets; curtains; fabric flags; felt pennants; towels; handkerchiefs; hooded towels; household linen; kitchen towels; pillowcases; quilts; baby blankets; silk blankets; table linen; textile table napkins; textile place mats; table napkins of textile; face cloths; banners and flags of textile in class 024.</p> <p>For: Clothing, namely, shirts, ties, pants, sweaters, jackets, coats, shorts, t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, undershirts, underwear, socks, pajamas, belts, caps, hats, vests, scarves, gloves; footwear; headwear; leather belts in class 025.</p> <p>For: Games, playthings and toys, namely, travel board games, handheld non-electronic skill games, tabletop games, travel size electronic games for</p>
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			<p>the teaching of children, children's multiple activity toys, role playing games, trivia and question and answer games played with cards and game components, chess games, card games, yo-yos, action skill games, dice games, target games, hand held unit for playing electronic games, hand held unit for playing video games, hand held games with liquid crystal displays; electronic and non-electronic puzzles and puzzle games; hand-held, tabletop, and travel-size jigsaw puzzles; playground balls for games; dolls and toys, namely, articulated and non-articulated dolls, toy figures, modeled plastic toy figurines, bendable toys and action figures; stuffed and plush toys; toy bean bags; and cloth toys, namely, dolls; toy costume masks; puppets; corrugated playhouses; roller-skates; toy scooters; scale model toy vehicles; wooden toy vehicles; diecast toy vehicles; playing cards and card games; gymnastic and sporting articles, namely, horizontal bars; decorations for Christmas trees, except illumination articles and confectionery; action skill games; action figures and accessories therefor; board games; card games; children's multiple activity toys; badminton sets; balloons; basketballs; bath toys; baseballs; beach balls; bean bag dolls; toy building blocks; bowling balls; chess sets; Christmas stockings; collectable toy figures; crib mobiles; crib toys; tossing disc toys; dolls; doll clothing; accessories for dolls; doll playsets; electric action toys; equipment sold as a unit for playing card games; fishing tackle; golf balls; golf gloves;</p>
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			<p>golf ball markers; hand held unit for playing electronic games; hockey pucks; inflatable toys; puzzles; jump ropes; kites; magic tricks; marbles; manipulative games; mechanical toys; music box toys; musical toys; parlor games; party games; soft sculpture toys; puppets; roller skates; rubber action balls; skateboards; soccer balls; spinning tops; squeeze toys; stuffed toys; target games; teddy bears; toy action figures; toy bucket and shovel sets; toy mobiles; toy vehicles; toy scooters; toy cars; toy model hobbycraft kits; toy figures; toy banks; toy trucks; toy watches; wind up toys; yo-yos; water-wings; swimming belts; video game machines for use with external display screens or monitors only; children's play cosmetics in class 028.</p> <p>For: Preparations made from cereals, namely, bread; pastry; confectionery, namely, candy; edible, flavored ices; honey; treacle in class 030.</p> <p>For: Education services, namely, providing courses of instruction at the pre-school level; training services in the field of instruction at the pre-school level; entertainment in the nature of circuses and stage shows for pre-school aged children; television entertainment in the nature of a series of television shows in the field of pre-school aged children's entertainment; children's entertainment and amusement centers, namely, amusement parks and play areas; organizing community sporting and cultural events; editing and</p>
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			production of film and television, radio and multimedia programs; entertainment services, namely, providing an ongoing radio program for pre-school aged children; organizing live exhibitions and conferences in the fields of culture, sports and entertainment for non-business and non-commercial purposes; entertainment services in the nature of live musical performances; arranging of concerts; photography services; providing recreation facilities in class 041.
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12. The above U.S. registrations for the PEPPA PIG Trademarks are valid, subsisting, and in full force and effect, and Registration Nos. 3,663,706 and 3,506,452 are incontestable pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1065. The registrations for the PEPPA PIG Trademarks constitute *prima facie* evidence of their validity and of eOne's exclusive right to use the PEPPA PIG Trademarks pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1057 (b). True and correct copies of the United States Registration Certificates for the above-listed PEPPA PIG Trademarks are attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**.

13. The PEPPA PIG Trademarks are distinctive when applied to the Peppa Pig Products, signifying to the purchaser that the products come from eOne and are manufactured to eOne's quality standards. Whether eOne manufactures the products itself or contracts with others to do so, eOne has ensured that products bearing the PEPPA PIG Trademarks are manufactured to the highest quality standards.

14. The PEPPA PIG Trademarks are famous marks, as that term is used in 15 U.S.C. § 1125(c)(1) and have been continuously used and never abandoned. The innovative marketing and product designs of the Peppa Pig Products have enabled the Peppa Pig brand to achieve widespread recognition and fame and have made the PEPPA PIG Trademarks some of the most

well-known marks in the toy and children's entertainment industries. The widespread fame, outstanding reputation, and significant goodwill associated with the Peppa Pig brand have made the PEPPA PIG Trademarks valuable assets of eOne.

15. Since the initial launch of the Peppa Pig Products, the PEPPA PIG Trademarks have been the subject of substantial and continuous marketing and promotion by eOne. eOne has and continues to market and promote the PEPPA PIG Trademarks in the industry and to consumers through traditional print media, the official PEPPA PIG website (peppapig.com), social media sites, and point of sale material.

16. eOne has expended substantial time, money, and other resources in advertising and promoting the PEPPA PIG Trademarks. In fact, eOne has expended millions of dollars in advertising, promoting and marketing featuring the PEPPA PIG Trademarks. Peppa Pig Products have also been the subject of extensive unsolicited publicity resulting from their high-quality, innovative designs. As a result, products bearing the PEPPA PIG Trademarks are widely recognized and exclusively associated by consumers, the public, and the trade as being high-quality products sourced from eOne. Peppa Pig Products have become among the most popular of their kind in the U.S. and the world. The PEPPA PIG Trademarks have achieved tremendous fame and recognition which has only added to the inherent distinctiveness of the marks. As such, the goodwill associated with the PEPPA PIG Trademarks is of incalculable and inestimable value to eOne.

17. Genuine Peppa Pig Products are sold only through authorized retail channels and are recognized by the public as being exclusively associated with the Peppa Pig brand.

18. eOne has registered its Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs with the United States Copyright Office. The registrations include, but are not limited to: "Peppa Pig" (U.S. Copyright

Registration No. VA 1-329-059), issued by the Register of Copyrights on August 19, 2005; “George Pig” (U.S. Copyright Registration No. VA 1-329-056), issued by the Register of Copyrights on August 19, 2005; “Mummy Pig” (U.S. Copyright Registration No. VA 1-329-058), issued by the Register of Copyrights on August 19, 2005; and “Daddy Pig” (U.S. Copyright Registration No. 1-329-057), issued by the Register of Copyrights on August 19, 2005. A true and correct copy of the U.S. federal copyright registration certificates for the above-referenced Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs is attached hereto as **Exhibit 2**.

19. Among the exclusive rights granted to eOne under the U.S. Copyright Act are the exclusive rights to reproduce, prepare derivative works of, distribute copies of, and display the Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs to the public.

20. Since first publication, the Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs have been used on the Peppa Pig Products and are featured on the official PEPPA PIG website at peppapig.com. Peppa Pig Products featuring the Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs are advertised on the official PEPPA PIG website at peppapig.com.

The Defendants

21. 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 eOne. 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).

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

IV. DEFENDANTS' UNLAWFUL CONDUCT

23. The success of the Peppa Pig brand has resulted in significant counterfeiting of the PEPPA PIG Trademarks. In recent years, eOne has identified many fully interactive, e-commerce stores offering Unauthorized Peppa Pig Products on online marketplace platforms such as Amazon, eBay, AliExpress, Alibaba, Wish.com, Walmart, Etsy 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 a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Report, in 2021, CBP made over 27,000 seizures of goods with intellectual property rights (IPR) violations totaling over \$3.3 billion, an increase of \$2.0 billion from. *Intellectual Property Rights Seizure Statistics, Fiscal Year 2021*, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (**Exhibit 3**). Of the 27,000 in total IPR seizures, over 24,000 came through international mail and express courier services (as opposed to containers), 51 percent of which originated from China and Hong. *Id.*

24. 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 4**, 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 5**, 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. Counterfeiters 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 5** 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 5** 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 4** at 186–187.

25. 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/or funds from U.S. bank accounts, and, on information and belief, have sold Unauthorized Peppa Pig Products to residents of Illinois.

26. 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 and/or

funds from U.S. bank accounts, 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. eOne has not licensed or authorized Defendants to use any of the PEPPA PIG Trademarks or copy or distribute the Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs, and none of the Defendants are authorized retailers of genuine Peppa Pig Products.

27. Many Defendants also deceive unknowing consumers by using the PEPPA PIG 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 Peppa Pig Products. Other e-commerce stores operating under Seller Aliases omit using the PEPPA PIG 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 Peppa Pig Products.

28. 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.

29. E-commerce store operators like Defendants regularly register or acquire new seller aliases for the purpose of offering for sale and selling Unauthorized Peppa Pig 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.

30. 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, Unauthorized Peppa Pig Products for sale by the Seller Aliases bear similar irregularities and indicia of being counterfeit to one another, suggesting that the Unauthorized Peppa Pig Products were manufactured by and come from a common source and that Defendants are interrelated.

31. 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.

32. Counterfeiters such as Defendants typically operate under multiple seller aliases and payment accounts so that they can continue operation in spite of eOne's 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 eOne. Indeed, analysis of financial transaction logs from previous similar cases indicates that off-shore counterfeiters regularly move funds from U.S.-based financial accounts to off-shore accounts outside the jurisdiction of this Court.

33. Defendants are working in active concert to knowingly and willfully manufacture, import, distribute, offer for sale, and sell Unauthorized Peppa Pig Products in the same transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences. Defendants, without any authorization or license from eOne, have jointly and severally, knowingly and willfully used and continue to use the PEPPA PIG Trademarks and/or copies of the Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs in connection with the advertisement, distribution, offering for sale, and sale of Unauthorized Peppa Pig Products into the United States and Illinois over the internet.

34. Defendants' unauthorized use of the PEPPA PIG Trademarks in connection with the advertising, distribution, offering for sale, and sale of Unauthorized Peppa Pig Products, including the sale of Unauthorized Peppa Pig 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 eOne.

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

35. eOne hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

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

37. 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 the PEPPA PIG Trademarks without eOne's permission.

38. eOne's United States Registrations for the PEPPA PIG Trademarks (**Exhibit 1**) are in full force and effect. Upon information and belief, Defendants have knowledge of eOne's rights in the PEPPA PIG Trademarks, and are willfully infringing and intentionally using infringing and counterfeit versions of the PEPPA PIG Trademarks. Defendants' willful, intentional and unauthorized use of the PEPPA PIG Trademarks is likely to cause and is causing confusion, mistake, and deception as to the origin and quality of the Unauthorized Peppa Pig Products among the general public.

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

40. eOne has no adequate remedy at law, and if Defendants' actions are not enjoined, eOne will continue to suffer irreparable harm to its reputation and the goodwill of the PEPPA PIG Trademarks.

41. The injuries and damages sustained by eOne have been directly and proximately caused by Defendants' wrongful reproduction, use, advertisement, promotion, offering to sell, and sale of Unauthorized Peppa Pig Products.

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

42. eOne hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

43. Defendants' promotion, marketing, offering for sale, and sale of Unauthorized Peppa Pig 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 eOne or the origin, sponsorship, or approval of Defendants' Unauthorized Peppa Pig Products by eOne.

44. By using the PEPPA PIG Trademarks in connection with the sale of Unauthorized Peppa Pig Products, Defendants create a false designation of origin and a misleading representation of fact as to the origin and sponsorship of the Unauthorized Peppa Pig Products.

45. Defendants' false designation of origin and misrepresentation of fact as to the origin and/or sponsorship of the Unauthorized Peppa Pig 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.

46. eOne has no adequate remedy at law and, if Defendants' actions are not enjoined, eOne will continue to suffer irreparable harm to its reputation and the associated goodwill of the Peppa Pig brand.

COUNT III
COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT OF UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT
REGISTRATIONS (17 U.S.C. §§ 106 AND 501)

47. eOne hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

48. The Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs constitute original works and copyrightable subject matter pursuant to the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. §§ 101, *et seq.*

49. eOne has complied with the registration requirements of 17 U.S.C. § 411(a) for the Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs. The Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs are protected by Copyright Registration Nos. VA 1-329-059, VA 1-329-058, VA 1-329-057, and VA 1-329-056 which were duly issued to eOne by the United States Copyright Office. At all relevant times,

eOne has been and still is the owner of all rights, title, and interest in the Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs, which have never been assigned, licensed, or otherwise transferred to Defendants.

50. The Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs are published on the internet and available to Defendants online. As such, Defendants had access to the Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs via the internet.

51. Without authorization from eOne, or any right under the law, Defendants have deliberately copied, displayed, distributed, reproduced and/or made derivative works incorporating the Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs on e-commerce stores operating under the Seller Aliases and the corresponding Unauthorized Peppa Pig Products. Defendants' derivative works are virtually identical to and/or are substantially similar to the look and feel of the Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs. Such conduct infringes and continues to infringe the Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs in violation of 17 U.S.C. § 501(a) and 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(1)–(3), (5).

52. Defendants reap the benefits of the unauthorized copying and distribution of the Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs in the form of revenue and other profits that are driven by the sale of Unauthorized Peppa Pig Products.

53. Defendants have unlawfully appropriated eOne's protectable expression by taking material of substance and value and creating Unauthorized Peppa Pig Products that capture the total concept and feel of the Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs.

54. On information and belief, the Defendants' infringement has been willful, intentional, and purposeful, and in disregard of and with indifference to eOne's rights.

55. The Defendants, by their actions, have damaged eOne in an amount to be determined at trial.

56. Defendants' conduct is causing, and unless enjoined and restrained by this Court will continue to cause, eOne great and irreparable injury that cannot fully be compensated or measured in money. eOne has no adequate remedy at law. Pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 502, eOne is entitled to a preliminary and permanent injunction prohibiting further infringement of the Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, eOne prays 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 the PEPPA PIG 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 Peppa Pig Product or is not authorized by eOne to be sold in connection with the PEPPA PIG Trademarks;
 - b. reproducing, distributing copies of, making derivative works of, or publicly displaying the Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs in any manner without the express authorization of eOne;
 - c. passing off, inducing, or enabling others to sell or pass off any product as a genuine Peppa Pig Product or any other product produced by eOne, that is not eOne's or not produced under the authorization, control, or supervision of eOne and approved by eOne for sale under the PEPPA PIG Trademarks and/or the Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs;

- d. committing any acts calculated to cause consumers to believe that Defendants' Unauthorized Peppa Pig Products are those sold under the authorization, control or supervision of eOne, or are sponsored by, approved by, or otherwise connected with eOne;
 - e. further infringing the PEPPA PIG Trademarks and/or the Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs and damaging eOne's goodwill; and
 - f. 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 eOne, nor authorized by eOne to be sold or offered for sale, and which bear any of eOne's trademarks, including the PEPPA PIG Trademarks, or any reproductions, counterfeit copies or colorable imitations thereof and/or which bear the Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs;
- 2) Entry of an Order that, upon eOne's request, those with notice of the injunction, including, without limitation, any online marketplace platforms such as eBay, AliExpress, Alibaba, Amazon, Wish.com, Walmart, Etsy, 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 the PEPPA PIG Trademarks and/or which bear the Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs;
- 3) That Defendants account for and pay to eOne all profits realized by Defendants by reason of Defendants' unlawful acts herein alleged, and that the amount of damages for infringement of the PEPPA PIG Trademarks be increased by a sum not exceeding three times the amount thereof as provided by 15 U.S.C. § 1117;

- 4) In the alternative, that eOne 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 the PEPPA PIG Trademarks;
- 5) As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' infringement of the Peppa Pig Copyrighted Designs, eOne is entitled to damages as well as Defendants' profits, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(b);
- 6) Alternatively, and at eOne's election prior to any final judgment being entered, eOne is entitled to the maximum amount of statutory damages provided by law, \$150,000 per work infringed pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(c), or for any other such amount as may be proper pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(c);
- 7) eOne is further entitled to recover its attorneys' fees and full costs for bringing this action pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505 and 17 U.S.C. § 1117(a); and
- 8) Award any and all other relief that this Court deems just and proper.

Dated this 17th day of January 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Justin R. Gaudio

Amy C. Ziegler
Justin R. Gaudio
Marcella D. Slay
Quinn B. Guillermo
Greer, Burns & Crain, Ltd.
300 South Wacker Drive, Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
312.360.0080
312.360.9315 (facsimile)
aziegler@gbc.law
jgaudio@gbc.law
mslay@gbc.law
qguillermo@gbc.law

Counsel for Plaintiff Entertainment One UK Ltd.