

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

CASE NO.: 1:24-cv-13023

HYDRATION CORP.,

Plaintiff,

v.

THE INDIVIDUALS, PARTNERSHIPS,
AND UNINCORPORATED
ASSOCIATIONS IDENTIFIED ON
SCHEDULE "A",

Defendants.

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

Plaintiff HYDRATION CORP. ("Plaintiff") by and through its undersigned counsel, brings this Complaint against Defendants, the Individuals, Partnerships, and Unincorporated Associations Identified on Schedule "A" hereto (collectively "Defendants"), who are promoting, manufacturing, selling, offering for sale and distributing goods infringing, bearing or using counterfeits and confusingly similar imitations of Plaintiff's intellectual property within this district through various Internet based e-commerce stores using the seller identities as set forth on Schedule "A" hereto (the "Seller IDs"), and in support of its claims, alleges as follows:

SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

1. Plaintiff brings this action for willful patent infringement under 35 U.S.C. § 271 committed in violation of the Plaintiff's exclusive rights to make, use, offer to sell, or sell Plaintiff's patented invention, within the United States or for importation into the United States any patented invention during the term of the patent-in-suit, and for all the remedies available under 35 U.S.C. §§ 283, 284, and 285.

SRIPLAW

CALIFORNIA ♦ GEORGIA ♦ FLORIDA ♦ TENNESSEE ♦ NEW YORK

2. Plaintiff brings this action for federal trademark counterfeiting and infringement, false designation of origin, common law unfair competition, and common law trademark infringement pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §§ 1114, 1116, and 1125(a), The All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651(a), and Illinois' Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act (815 ILCS § 510, et seq.).

SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION

3. This Court has original subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338.

4. This Court has original and exclusive subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271.

5. This court also has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1121 and 17 U.S.C. § 301.

6. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367 over the state law claims because those claims are so related to the federal claims that they form part of the same case or controversy.

PERSONAL JURISDICTION

7. Defendants are subject to personal jurisdiction in this district because they purposefully direct their activities toward and conduct business with consumers throughout the United States, including within the state of Illinois and this district, through at least the internet-based e-commerce stores accessible in Illinois and operating under their Seller IDs.

8. Defendants are subject to personal jurisdiction in this district because their illegal activities directed towards the state of Illinois cause Plaintiff injury in Illinois, and Plaintiff's claims arise out of those activities.

9. Alternatively, Defendants are subject to personal jurisdiction in this district pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(k)(2) because (i) Defendants are not subject to

jurisdiction in any state's court of general jurisdiction; and (ii) exercising jurisdiction is consistent with the United States Constitution and laws.

VENUE

10. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(3) because Defendants are not residents in the United States and therefore there is no district in which an action may otherwise be brought. Defendants are thus subject to the Court's personal jurisdiction.

11. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391 since Defendants are, upon information and belief, aliens who are engaged in infringing activities and causing harm within this district by advertising, offering to sell, selling and/or shipping infringing products to consumers into this district.

12. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1400(b) because Defendants or their agents reside or may be found in this judicial district and therefore subject to the Court's personal jurisdiction.

THE PLAINTIFF

13. HYDRATION CORP. is an [REDACTED] limited liability company, with its principal place of business in [REDACTED].

14. Plaintiff HYDRATION CORP. is a small family business founded by [REDACTED], an inventor and entrepreneur always thinking and seeking new products ideas. [REDACTED]

15. After months of research and development, [REDACTED] and his son landed on the current [REDACTED] design. [REDACTED]

16. Plaintiff currently sells three types of [REDACTED] under the [REDACTED] brand name and logo, registered as trademarks at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Reg. No. [REDACTED] and No. [REDACTED] respectively.

17. Plaintiff's high-end innovative [REDACTED] products are sold online through exclusive online selling partners (OSP) and direct wholesale to brick-and-mortar companies. The high-end innovative [REDACTED] products are available for sale online at Amazon.com and Plaintiff's own website at [REDACTED]. Plaintiff also sells its products through exclusive online selling partners (OSP) and direct wholesale to brick and mortar companies.

18. Plaintiff owns, as part of its intellectual property portfolio, the utility patent and trademark described below that are the subject of this action.

19. Plaintiff offers for sale and sells its products within the state of Illinois, including this district, and throughout the United States.

20. Like many other intellectual property rights owners, Plaintiff suffers ongoing daily and sustained violations of its intellectual property rights at the hands of infringers and counterfeiters, such as Defendants herein.

21. Plaintiff is harmed, the consuming public is duped and confused, and the Defendants earn substantial profits in connection with the infringing conduct.

22. In order to combat the harm caused by the combined actions of Defendants and others engaging in similar infringing conduct, Plaintiff expends significant resources in connection with its intellectual property enforcement efforts, including legal fees and investigative fees.

23. The recent explosion of infringement over the Internet has created an environment that requires companies like Plaintiff's to expend significant time and money across a wide

spectrum of efforts in order to protect both consumers and itself from the ill effects of infringement of Plaintiff's intellectual property rights, including consumer confusion and the erosion of Plaintiff's brand.

PLAINTIFF'S INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

A. PLAINTIFF'S PATENT RIGHTS

24. Plaintiff owns all right, title, and interests in, and/or has standing to sue for infringement of U.S. Patent No. [REDACTED] entitled [REDACTED]. A true and correct copy of the Patent Registration is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** (the "Patent").

25. The Patent relates to an improved apparatus for [REDACTED] and a method for using such apparatus, and more specifically, to an improved apparatus for [REDACTED]. Plaintiff's [REDACTED] product claimed in the patented invention comprises a material from the group of either: plastic silicone, rubber, metal or glass.

26. When a user uses a [REDACTED] regularly and over an extended period of time, [REDACTED] Although there have been improvements to [REDACTED], none provide the improvements as described in Plaintiff's patented invention.

27. Plaintiff's Patent was issued [REDACTED], has not expired, is valid, and the maintenance fees are current.

28. Plaintiff has never granted authorization to anyone to import, make, use, or sell goods using Plaintiff's Patent.

29. At all times relevant, Plaintiff complied with the federal patent marking statute, 35 U.S.C. § 287(a), as shown in **Exhibit 2** attached hereto.

B. PLAINTIFF'S TRADEMARK RIGHTS

30. Plaintiff created and sells its patented [REDACTED] under the federally registered trademark [REDACTED] (the “Mark”), consisting of standard characters without claim to any particular font style, size or color.

31. Plaintiff is the owner of all rights in and to the Mark, U.S. Reg. No. [REDACTED] for [REDACTED] in International Class [REDACTED], registered on [REDACTED], and shown in **Exhibit 3** attached hereto, which is valid and registered on the Principal Register of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

32. Plaintiff's Mark consists of the wording [REDACTED] in standard character, without claim to any particular font style, size, or color. The Mark was first used on [REDACTED], and first used in commerce on [REDACTED].

33. The Mark is used in connection with the manufacture and distribution of Plaintiff's high-quality patented products.

34. The Mark is displayed on the packaging used for selling the products. Shown below is the Mark as it is used in relation to Plaintiff's patented products.

[REDACTED]

35. The Mark has been used in interstate commerce to identify and distinguish Plaintiff's high-quality patented [REDACTED] for an extended period of time.

36. The Mark has been used by Plaintiff long prior in time to Defendants' use of copies of this trademark.

37. The Mark has never been assigned or licensed to any of the Defendants.

38. The Mark is a symbol of Plaintiff's quality goods, reputation and goodwill and have never been abandoned.

39. Plaintiff has carefully monitored and policed the use of the Mark.

40. The Mark is well known and famous (as that term is used in 15 U.S.C. §1125(c)(1)) and has been for several years.

41. Plaintiff has expended substantial time, money and other resources developing, advertising and otherwise promoting the Mark.

42. Plaintiff has extensively used, advertised, and promoted the Mark in the United States in association with the sale of high-quality patented [REDACTED].

43. Plaintiff has spent substantial resources promoting the Mark and products bearing and/or using the Mark.

44. In recent years, sales of products bearing and/or using the Mark exceeded hundreds of thousands of dollars within the United States.

45. As a result of Plaintiff's efforts, members of the consuming public readily identify merchandise bearing or sold under the Mark as being high-quality patented [REDACTED] sponsored and approved by Plaintiff.

46. Accordingly, the Mark has achieved secondary meaning as identifiers of high-quality patented [REDACTED].

47. Genuine goods bearing and/or using the Mark are widely legitimately advertised and promoted by Plaintiff via the Internet.

48. Visibility on the Internet, particularly via Internet search engines such as Google, Yahoo!, and Bing have become increasingly important to Plaintiff's overall marketing and consumer education efforts.

49. Thus, Plaintiff expends significant monetary resources on Internet marketing and consumer education, including search engine optimization ("SEO") strategies.

50. Plaintiff's SEO strategies allow Plaintiff to fairly and legitimately educate consumers about the value associated with Plaintiff's products and the goods marked with the Mark.

DEFENDANTS

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

52. Defendants are individuals and/or business entities of unknown makeup, each of whom, upon information and belief, either reside and/or operate in foreign jurisdictions, redistribute products from the same or similar sources in those locations, and/or ship their goods from the same or similar sources in those locations to shipping and fulfillment centers within the United States to redistribute their products from those locations.

53. Defendants are engaged in business in Illinois but have not appointed an agent for service of process.

54. Upon information and belief, Defendants have registered, established, or purchased, and maintained their Seller IDs.

55. Defendants target their business activities toward consumers throughout the United States, including within this district, through the simultaneous operation of commercial Internet based e-commerce stores via the Internet marketplace websites under the Seller IDs.

56. Defendants are the past and present controlling forces behind the sale of products bearing and/or using counterfeits and infringements of Plaintiff's intellectual property rights as described herein operating and using at least the Seller IDs.

57. Defendants directly engage in unfair competition with Plaintiff by advertising, offering for sale, and selling goods bearing and/or using counterfeits and infringements of Plaintiff's intellectual property rights to consumers within the United States and this district

through Internet based e-commerce stores using, at least, the Seller IDs and additional names, websites, or seller identification aliases not yet known to Plaintiff.

58. Defendants have purposefully directed some portion of their illegal activities towards consumers in the state of Illinois through the advertisement, offer to sell, sale, and/or shipment of infringing and counterfeits goods into the State.

59. Upon information and belief, Defendants may have engaged in fraudulent conduct with respect to the registration of the Seller IDs by providing false and/or misleading information to the Internet based e-commerce platforms or domain registrar where they offer to sell and/or sell during the registration or maintenance process related to their respective Seller IDs.

60. Upon information and belief, many Defendants registered and maintained their Seller IDs for the sole purpose of engaging in illegal counterfeiting and infringing activities.

61. Upon information and belief, Defendants will likely continue to register or acquire new seller identification aliases for the purpose of selling and offering for sale infringements of Plaintiff's intellectual property rights unless preliminarily and permanently enjoined.

62. Defendants use their Internet-based businesses to infringe the intellectual property rights of Plaintiff and others.

63. Defendants' business names, i.e., the Seller ID's, associated payment accounts, and any other alias seller identification names or e-commerce stores used in connection with the sale of counterfeits and 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 counterfeiting and infringement scheme and cause harm to Plaintiff.

64. Some of the Defendants use individual seller store names and listing title containing the Mark, and these store names and listing titles are indexed on search engines and compete directly with Plaintiff for space in search results.

65. The appearance of Defendants' individual seller stores in search engine results undermines Plaintiff's efforts to educate consumers about the value of products sold under the Mark.

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

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

68. The natural and intended by product of Defendants' actions, is the erosion and destruction of the goodwill associated with Plaintiff's intellectual property rights and the destruction of the legitimate market sector in which it operates.

69. 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.

JOINDER OF DEFENDANTS IN THIS ACTION IS PROPER

70. Defendants are the individuals, partnerships, and unincorporated associations set forth on Schedule "A" hereto.

71. Defendants are promoting, selling, offering for sale, and distributing goods infringing, bearing and/or using counterfeits, infringements, and confusingly similar imitations of Plaintiff's intellectual property within this district.

72. Joinder of all Defendants is permissible based on the permissive party joinder rule of Fed. R. Civ. P. 20(a)(2) 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.

73. 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.

74. 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 Plaintiff, Defendants, and this Court.

75. 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.

76. 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.

77. 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.

78. Plaintiff's claims against the multiple Defendants listed in Schedule "A" are all transactionally related.

79. Plaintiff is claiming willful counterfeiting and patent infringement against Defendants of Plaintiff's intellectual property.

80. 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.

81. 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.

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

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

84. All Defendants have the same or closely related sources for their 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.

85. 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 patent rights with impunity.

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

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

88. All Defendants use their payment and financial accounts to accept, receive, and deposit profits from their counterfeiting and infringing activities.

89. 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 that the Plaintiff's anti-counterfeiting and anti-pirating efforts are discovered, or Plaintiff obtains a monetary award.

90. All Defendants violated Plaintiff's intellectual property rights in the United States by the use of common or identical methods.

91. 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.

92. 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.

93. Defendants' business names, i.e., the Seller ID's, associated payment accounts, and any other alias seller identification names or e-commerce stores used in connection with the sale of products infringing Plaintiff's Mark and Patent, are essential components of Defendants' online activities and are one of the means by which Defendants further their infringement and counterfeiting scheme and cause harm to Plaintiff.

94. By selling infringing products using Plaintiff's Patent, Defendants 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. Defendants' e-commerce stores selling counterfeits and infringing goods using the Mark and Patent appear more relevant and attractive to consumers searching for both Plaintiff's goods and goods sold by Plaintiff's competitors online.

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

96. The natural and intended by product of Defendants logically related actions is the erosion and destruction of the goodwill associated with Plaintiff's intellectual property rights and the destruction of the legitimate market sector in which Plaintiff operates.

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

DEFENDANTS' INFRINGING ACTIVITIES

98. Defendants are promoting, advertising, manufacturing, distributing, selling, and/or offering for sale cheap copies of Plaintiff's patented products bearing or using the Mark, that have substantially the same technical features as the Patent, infringing Plaintiff's trademark and patent rights (the "Infringing Goods") through at least the Internet based e-commerce stores operating under the Seller IDs.

99. Defendants' Infringing Goods practice at least all elements of one or more claims of the Patent. For additional reference, shown below is a comparison of Plaintiff's original products and a sample of Defendants' infringing products:

Plaintiff's Original Products

[REDACTED]

Samples of Defendants' infringing products

[REDACTED]

100. Specifically, Defendants are selling infringing products using the Patent to initially attract online customers and drive them to Defendants' e-commerce stores operating under the Seller IDs.

101. Some of the Defendants are using identical or similar marks to the Mark for different quality goods.

102. Plaintiff has used Patent extensively and continuously before Defendants began offering infringing products that have substantially the same technical features as the Patent.

103. Plaintiff has used the Mark extensively and continuously before Defendants began offering counterfeits, infringements, and confusingly similar imitations of Plaintiff's merchandise.

104. Upon information and belief, Defendants' Infringing Goods are of a quality substantially different than that of Plaintiff's genuine goods with the Mark and the Patent.

105. Defendants are actively using, promoting and otherwise advertising, distributing, manufacturing, selling and/or offering for sale substantial quantities of their Infringing Goods with the knowledge and intent that such goods will be mistaken for the genuine high-quality goods offered for sale by Plaintiff, despite Defendants' knowledge that they are without authority to use the Mark or the Patent.

106. The net effect of Defendants' actions is likely to cause confusion of consumers, at the time of initial interest, sale, and in the post-sale setting, who will believe all of Defendants' goods offered for sale on Defendants' e-commerce stores are genuine goods originating from, associated with, and approved by Plaintiff.

107. Defendants advertise their e-commerce stores, including their Infringing Goods offered for sale, to the consuming public via e-commerce stores on at least one Internet marketplace website operating under, at least, the Seller IDs.

108. In so advertising their stores and products, Defendants improperly and unlawfully use the Mark and the Patent without Plaintiff's permission.

109. As part of their overall infringement and counterfeiting scheme, most Defendants are, upon information and belief, concurrently employing and benefitting from substantially similar, advertising and marketing strategies based in large measure upon an illegal use of the Mark and the Patent.

110. Some of the Defendants are using counterfeits and infringements of the Mark in order to make their e-commerce stores selling illegal goods appear more relevant and attractive to consumers searching for both Plaintiff's goods and goods sold by Plaintiff's competitors online.

111. By their actions, Defendants are contributing to the creation and maintenance of an illegal marketplace operating in parallel to the legitimate marketplace for Plaintiff's genuine goods.

112. Defendants are causing individual, concurrent and indivisible harm to Plaintiff and the consuming public by (i) depriving Plaintiff and other third parties of their right to fairly compete for space within search engine results and reducing the visibility of Plaintiff's genuine goods on the World Wide Web, (ii) causing an overall degradation of the value of the goodwill associated with Plaintiff's business and its intellectual property assets, and (iii) increasing Plaintiff's overall cost to market its goods and educate consumers via the Internet.

113. Defendants are concurrently conducting and targeting their infringing counterfeiting and infringing activities toward consumers and likely causing unified harm within this district and elsewhere throughout the United States.

114. As a result, Defendants are defrauding Plaintiff and the consuming public for Defendants' own benefit.

115. Upon information and belief, at all times relevant hereto, Defendants in this action had full knowledge of Plaintiff's ownership of the Mark and the Patent, including its exclusive right to use and license such intellectual property and the goodwill associated therewith.

116. Defendants' use of the Mark and the Patent, including the promotion and advertisement, manufacturing, distribution, sale and offering for sale of their Infringing Goods, is without Plaintiff's consent or authorization.

117. Defendants are engaging in the above-described illegal infringing activities knowingly and intentionally or with reckless disregard or willful blindness to Plaintiff's patent rights for the purpose of trading on Plaintiff's goodwill and reputation.

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

119. Defendants' infringing activities are likely to cause confusion, deception, and mistake in the minds of consumers before, during and after the time of purchase.

120. Defendants' wrongful conduct is likely to create a false impression and deceive customers, the public, and the trade into believing there is a connection or association between Plaintiff's genuine goods and Defendants' Infringing Goods, which there is not.

121. Defendants' payment and financial accounts, including but not limited to those specifically set forth on Schedule "A", are being used by Defendants to accept, receive, and deposit profits from Defendants' counterfeiting and infringing activities connected to their Seller IDs and any other alias, e-commerce stores, or seller identification names being used and/or controlled by them.

122. Defendants are likely to transfer or secret their assets to avoid payment of any monetary judgment awarded to Plaintiff.

123. Plaintiff is suffering irreparable injury and has suffered substantial damages as a result of Defendants' unauthorized and infringing activities and its wrongful use of Plaintiff's intellectual property rights.

124. If Defendants' counterfeiting, infringing, and unfairly competitive activities are not preliminarily and permanently enjoined by this Court, Plaintiff and the consuming public will continue to be harmed.

125. The harm and damages sustained by Plaintiff have been directly and proximately caused by Defendants' wrongful use, advertisement, promotion, manufacturing, distribution, offers to sell, and sale of their Infringing Goods using the Mark and the Patent.

126. Defendants have sold their counterfeit and infringing products in competition directly with Plaintiff's genuine products.

127. Plaintiff should not have any competition from Defendants because Plaintiff never authorized Defendants to use Plaintiff's Mark or the Patent.

128. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law.

129. Defendants' infringing activities are likely to cause and, are actually causing, confusion, mistake and deception among members of the trade and the general consuming public

as to the origin and quality of Defendants' Infringing Goods using without authorization the Mark and the Patent.

130. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law and is suffering damages and irreparable injury as a result of Defendants' infringing actions.

COUNT I – PATENT INFRINGEMENT

131. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 130 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

132. Plaintiff owns all right, title, and interests in the U.S. Patent No. [REDACTED] entitled [REDACTED], claiming the technical and functional features of its high-end innovative branded [REDACTED] product.

133. Within the six years preceding the filing of this Complaint, Defendants are making, using, selling, importing and/or offering to sell products which infringe directly or indirectly of the Patent both literally and under the doctrine of equivalents.

134. Defendants have infringed the Patent and will continue to do so unless enjoined by this Court. Defendants' wrongful conduct has caused Plaintiff to suffer irreparable harm resulting from the loss of its lawful patent rights to exclude others from manufacturing, distributing, selling, offering for sale, and/or importing the patented inventions as well as the loss of sales stemming from the infringing acts.

135. Defendants' infringement, contributory infringement and/or inducement to infringe has injured Plaintiff and is, therefore, entitled to recover damages adequate to compensate it for such infringement, but in no event less than a reasonable royalty.

136. Defendants' infringement, contributory infringement and/or inducement to infringe has been willful and deliberate because Defendants had notice of or knew of the Patent

and has nonetheless injured and will continue to injure Plaintiff, unless and until this Court enters an injunction, which prohibits further infringement and specifically enjoins further manufacture, use, sale, importation and/or offer for sale of products that come within the scope of the Patent.

COUNT II – TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT (15 U.S.C. § 1114)

137. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 130 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

138. This is an action for trademark counterfeiting and infringement against Defendants based on their use of counterfeit and confusingly similar imitations of the Mark in commerce in connection with the promotion, advertisement, distribution, offering for sale and sale of the Infringing Goods.

139. Defendants are promoting and otherwise advertising, selling, offering for sale, and distributing goods bearing and/or using counterfeits and/or infringements of the Mark.

140. Defendants are continuously infringing and inducing others to infringe the Mark by using it to advertise, promote, sell, and offer to sell counterfeit and infringing goods.

141. Defendants concurrent counterfeiting and infringing activities are likely to cause, and, are actually are causing, confusion, mistake, and deception among members of the trade and the general consuming public as to the origin and quality of Defendants' Infringing Goods.

142. Defendants' unlawful actions have caused and are continuing to cause unquantifiable damages to Plaintiff and are unjustly enriching Defendants with profits at Plaintiff's expense.

143. Defendants' above-described illegal actions constitute counterfeiting and infringement of the Mark in violation of Plaintiff's rights under § 32 of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1114.

144. Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer irreparable injury and damages due to Defendants' above-described activities if Defendants are not preliminarily and permanently enjoined.

145. If not preliminarily and permanently enjoined, Defendants will continue to wrongfully profit from their illegal activities.

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

146. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 130 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

147. Upon information and belief, Defendants' Infringing Goods bearing, offered for sale, and sold using without authorization the Mark have been widely advertised and offered for sale throughout the United States via at least one Internet marketplace website.

148. Defendants' Infringing Goods bearing, offered for sale, and sold using copies of the Mark are virtually identical in appearance to Plaintiff's genuine goods.

149. Defendants' Infringing Goods are different in quality from Plaintiff's goods and are of much lower quality.

150. Defendants' activities are likely to cause confusion in the trade and among the general public, as to at least the origin or sponsorship of their Infringing Goods.

151. Defendants, upon information and belief, have used in connection with their advertisement, offer for sale, and sale of their Infringing Goods, false designations of origin and false descriptions and representations, including words or other symbols and trade dress, which tend to falsely describe or represent such goods and have caused such goods to enter into commerce with full knowledge of the falsity of such designations of origin and such descriptions and representations, all to Plaintiff's detriment.

152. Defendants have authorized infringing uses of the Mark in Defendants' advertisement and promotion of their counterfeit and infringing branded goods.

153. Defendants have misrepresented to members of the consuming public, that the Infringing Goods being advertised and sold by them are genuine, non-infringing goods.

154. Defendants are using counterfeits and infringements of the Mark in order to unfairly compete with Plaintiff and others for space within organic search engine results and social media results, thereby jointly depriving Plaintiff of a valuable marketing and educational tool which would otherwise be available to Plaintiff and reducing the visibility of Plaintiff's genuine goods on the internet and across social media platforms.

155. Defendants' above-described actions are in violation of Section 43(a) of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. §1125(a).

156. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law and has sustained indivisible injury and damage caused by Defendants' concurrent conduct.

157. Absent an entry of an injunction by this Court, Defendants will continue to wrongfully reap profits and Plaintiff will continue to suffer irreparable injury to its goodwill and business reputation, as well as monetary damages.

COUNT IV – COMMON LAW TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT

158. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 130 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

159. This is an action for common law trademark infringement against Defendants based on their promotion, advertisement, offering for sale, and sale of their Infringing Goods bearing and/or using identical or similar marks to the Mark.

160. Plaintiff is the owner of all common law rights in and to the Mark.

161. Defendants, upon information and belief, are promoting, and otherwise advertising, distributing, offering for sale, and selling goods bearing and/or using infringements of the Mark.

162. Defendants' infringing activities are likely to cause and, are actually causing, confusion, mistake and deception among members of the trade and the general consuming public as to the origin and quality of Defendants' Infringing Goods bearing and/or using the Mark.

163. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law and is suffering damages and irreparable injury as a result of Defendants' infringing actions.

**COUNT V – VIOLATION OF ILLINOIS UNIFORM DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES
ACT**

(815 ILCS § 510, et seq.)

164. Plaintiff incorporates the allegations of paragraphs 1 through 130 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

165. Defendants have engaged in acts violating Illinois law including, but not limited to, passing off their Counterfeit Products as those of Plaintiff, causing a likelihood of confusion as to the source of their goods, causing a likelihood of confusion as to an affiliation, connection, or association with genuine Plaintiff's products, representing that their products have Plaintiff's approval when they do not, and engaging in other conduct which creates a likelihood of confusion among the public.

166. The foregoing acts constitute a willful violation of the Illinois Uniform Deceptive Trade Practices Act, 815 ILCS § 510, et seq.

167. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law, and Defendants' conduct has caused Plaintiff to suffer damage to their reputation and associated goodwill. Unless enjoined by the

Court, Plaintiff will suffer future irreparable harm as a direct result of Defendants' unlawful activities.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment on all Counts of this Complaint and an award of equitable relief and monetary relief against Defendants as follows:

Entry of temporary, preliminary, and permanent injunctions pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 271, 15 U.S.C. § 1116, and Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65 enjoining Defendants, their agents, representatives, servants, employees, and all those acting in concert or participation therewith, from manufacturing or causing to be manufactured, importing, advertising, or promoting, distributing, selling, or offering to sell their counterfeit and infringing goods using Plaintiff's Patent and Mark or any mark or design similar thereto, in connection with the sale of any unauthorized goods; from using any logo, trade name or trademark or design that may be calculated to falsely advertise the services or goods of Defendants as being sponsored by, authorized by, endorsed by, or in any way associated with Plaintiff; from falsely representing themselves as being connected with Plaintiff, through sponsorship or association, or engaging in any act that is likely to falsely cause members of the trade and/or of the purchasing public to believe any goods or services of Defendants, are in any way endorsed by, approved by, and/or associated with Plaintiff; from using any reproduction, counterfeit, infringement, copy, or colorable imitation of the Mark in connection with the publicity, promotion, sale, or advertising of any goods sold by Defendants; from affixing, applying, annexing or using in connection with the sale of any goods, a false description or representation, including words or other symbols tending to falsely describe or represent Defendants' goods as being those of Plaintiff, or in any way endorsed by Plaintiff and from offering such goods in commerce; from

engaging in search engine optimization strategies using colorable imitations of Plaintiff's name or trademark and from otherwise unfairly competing with Plaintiff.

Entry of a Temporary Restraining Order, as well as preliminary and permanent injunctions pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1651(a), The All Writs Act, and the Court's inherent authority, enjoining Defendants and all third parties with actual notice of the injunction issued by this Court from participating in, including providing financial services, technical services or other support to, Defendants in connection with the sale and distribution of counterfeit and infringing goods using the Mark and the Patent.

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 this Court disable and/or cease facilitating access to the Seller IDs and any other alias seller identification names being used and/or controlled by Defendants to engage in the business of marketing, distribution, offering to sell, and/or selling counterfeits and infringing goods bearing or using the Mark and the Patent.

A. Entry of an Order pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1651(a), The All Writs Act, and this Court's inherent authority that, upon Plaintiff's request, any messaging service and Internet marketplace website operators, administrators, registrar and/or top level domain (TLD) registry for the Seller IDs who are provided with notice of an injunction issued by this Court identify any e-mail address known to be associated with Defendants' respective Seller IDs.

Entry of an Order pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1651(a), The All Writs Act, and this 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 this Court permanently remove from the multiple platforms, which include, *inter alia*, a direct platform, group platform, seller product management platform, vendor product management platform, and brand registry platform, any and all listings and associated images of infringing goods using the Mark or the Patent via the e-commerce stores operating under the Seller IDs, including but not limited to the listings and associated images identified by the “parent” and/or “child” Amazon Standard Identification Numbers (“ASIN”) on Schedule “A” annexed hereto, and upon Plaintiff’s request, any other listings and images of infringing goods using the Mark or the Patent associated with any ASIN linked to the same sellers or linked to any other alias seller identification names being used and/or controlled by Defendants to promote, offer for sale and/or sell counterfeit and infringing goods bearing or using the Mark and the Patent.

Entry of an Order pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1651(a), The All Writs Act and this Court’s inherent authority that, upon Plaintiff’s request, Defendants and any Internet marketplace website operators and/or administrators who are provided with notice of an injunction issued by this Court immediately cease fulfillment of and sequester all goods of each Defendant using the Mark and the Patent in its inventory, possession, custody, or control, and surrender those goods to Plaintiff.

B. Entry of an Order requiring Defendants to correct any erroneous impression the consuming public may have derived concerning the nature, characteristics, or qualities of their products, including without limitation, the placement of corrective advertising and providing written notice to the public.

C. Entry of an Order requiring Defendants to account to and pay Plaintiff damages for patent infringement in an amount to be determined by the Court pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284 which shall in no event be less than a reasonable royalty.

D. Entry of an Order requiring Defendants to account to and pay Plaintiff for all profits and damages resulting from Defendants' trademark counterfeiting and infringing and unfairly competitive activities and that the award to Plaintiff be trebled, as provided for under 15 U.S.C. § 1117, or, at Plaintiff's election with respect to Count I, that Plaintiff be awarded statutory damages from each Defendant in the amount of two million dollars (\$2,000,000.00) per each counterfeit trademark used and product sold, as provided by 15 U.S.C. § 1117(c)(2) of the Lanham Act.

E. Entry of an award pursuant to 35 U.S.C § 285 of Plaintiff's reasonable attorney's fees.

F. Entry of an award pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1117(a) and (b) of Plaintiff's costs and reasonable attorney's fees and investigative fees, associated with bringing this action, including the cost of corrective advertising.

G. 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 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) and remain restrained until such funds

are surrendered to Plaintiff in partial satisfaction of the monetary judgment entered herein.

H. Entry of an award of pre-judgment interest on the judgment amount.

I. Entry of an Order for any further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

DATED: December 18, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Joel B. Rothman

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