

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

TALISMAN DESIGNS, LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

ANGELWORLD, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Civil Action No.

FILED UNDER SEAL

**DECLARATION OF STANLEY D. FERENCE III IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS’
EX PARTE APPLICATION FOR ENTRY OF A TEMPORARY RESTRAINING
ORDER AND PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION**

I, STANLEY D. FERENCE III, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am an attorney with the law firm of Ference & Associates LLC (“the Ference Firm”), located at 409 Broad Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15143 and represent Talisman Designs, LLC, (collectively “Plaintiff”) in the above-referenced action.

2. I make and submit this declaration in support of Plaintiff’s *ex parte* application for the following: 1) a temporary restraining order; an order restraining assets and Merchant Storefronts; 3) an order to show cause why a preliminary injunction should not issue; and 4) an order authorizing expedited discovery against the above-named Defendants, Third Party Service Providers, and Financial Institutions, in light of Defendants’ intentional and willful offerings for sale and/or sales of Infringing Products (“Application”).

Document Authentication

3. According to the Fiscal Year 2018 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) Intellectual Property Seizure Statistics Report, e-commerce sales have resulted in a sharp increase in the shipment of unauthorized products into the United States. Over 90% of all CBP intellectual property seizures were smaller international mail and express shipments (as opposed to large shipping containers). *Id.* Over 85% of CBP seizures originated from mainland China and Hong Kong. *Id.* A true and correct copy of an excerpt of this report is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1.**

4. According to a report released by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Intellectual Property Center (GIPC) titled Measuring the Magnitude of Global Counterfeiting, at least 86 percent of all global counterfeit products originate in Chinese and Hong Kong markets. A true and correct copy of an article released by GIPC summarizing the report is attached hereto as Exhibit legitimate businesses and broader economic losses, including lost tax revenue. A true and correct copy of this report is attached hereto as **Exhibit 2.**

5. A February 2017 report commissioned by Business Action to Stop Counterfeiting and Piracy (BASCAP) and the International Trademark Association (INTA) entitled The Economic Impacts of Counterfeiting and Piracy included findings that 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. A true and correct copy of this report is attached hereto as **Exhibit 3.**

Rule 65(b) Certifications

6. In my experience policing the Plaintiff's products, and based upon my review of lawsuits filed by other brand owners, sellers of counterfeit and/or infringing products, particularly those sellers whose product listings are removed, merely change the description or photograph and then re-post the listing for the products on their respective Merchant Storefront¹ or modify or create a new User Account² and/or Merchant Storefront and proceed to sell the same product again. Likewise, these counterfeit sellers are sophisticated enough to monitor the US courts through PACER and the like looking for lawsuits that name them or their associates Merchant Storefronts and will drain their related financial accounts upon any notice that a lawsuit is filed against their activity.

7. Based upon my personal experience and my review of lawsuits filed by other brand owners, I have learned that the Defendants selling on online marketplaces do not display their registered business name or trade name, contact name, complete address, phone numbers, or any other contact information. These Defendants use their respective Merchant Storefronts and User Accounts to anonymously sell their Infringing Products.³ Likewise, these Defendants

¹ As defined in the Complaint, a "User Account" is any and all accounts with online marketplace platforms such as Amazon.com, eBay.com, aliexpress.com, and wish.com, as well as any and all as yet undiscovered accounts with additional online marketplace platforms held by or associated with Defendants, their respective officers, employees, agents, servants and all other persons in active concert with any of them.

² As defined in the Complaint, a "Merchant Storefront" is any and all User Accounts through which Defendants, their respective officers, employees, agents, servants and all persons in active concert or participation with any of them operate storefronts to manufacture, import, export, advertise, market, promote, distribute, display, offer for sale, sell and/or otherwise deal in products, including Knock-off Products, which are held by or associated with Defendants, their respective officers, employees, agents, servants and all persons in active concert or participation with any of them.

³ As alleged in the Complaint, Defendants are promoting, selling, offering for sale, and distributing goods using confusingly similar imitations of Talisman Design's copyrighted work (or an unauthorized derivative thereof), and/or using Talisman Design's work in a willful attempt to pass off their goods as genuine versions of Plaintiff's goods (collectively, the "Knock-off Products"), thus unfairly competing in this district through at

typically use shipping services like EMS and DHL and ePacket. These shipping services provide minimal tracking and/or use incomplete or made up return addresses to further secret their identities.

8. Based upon the foregoing facts, supported by the evidence set forth in **Composite Exhibit 1**, it is submitted that providing notice of the Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and the restraints of the Defendant's Merchant Storefronts and Accounts would allow the Defendants to avoid the Court's Order thus depriving the Plaintiff of any damage recovery and otherwise prevent the full operation of the Court's Order.

9. To prevent the Defendants from escaping the effects of the Court's Order, Plaintiffs, Plaintiffs' Counsel and their agents have not publicized the filing of this lawsuit or the request for *ex parte* relief.

10. It is respectfully submitted that based upon the Complaint allegations, and the declarations and exhibits submitted therewith, Plaintiff has met the requirements of Fed. R. Civ. P. 65 (b) in its application to the court for an Ex Parte Temporary Restraining Order because:

(a) the specific facts in the affidavit and the verified complaint clearly show that immediate and irreparable injury, loss, or damage will result to the movant before the adverse party can be heard in opposition; and

(b) the movant's attorney (undersigned) has herein certified in writing that notice would, in this case, defeat the purposes of the application for the *ex parte* temporary restraining order and asset restraint.

least one of the Amazon.com, eBay.com, AliExpress.com, or Wish.com online marketplaces operating under the seller identities as set forth on **Schedule "A"** of the Complaint (the "Seller IDs).

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
September 28, 2021

/Stanley D. Ference III/
Stanley D. Ference III