

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

TALISMAN DESIGNS, LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

ANGELWORLD, *et al.*,

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 21-cv-1292

FILED UNDER SEAL

**1) TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER; 2) ORDER RESTRAINING ASSETS AND
MERCHANT STOREFRONTS; 3) ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE WHY A PRELIMINARY
INJUNCTION SHOULD NOT ISSUE; AND 4) ORDER AUTHORIZING EXPEDITED
DISCOVERY**

This matter is before the Court upon Plaintiff's *Ex Parte* Application for the following: 1) a temporary restraining order; 2) an order restraining assets and Merchant Storefronts (as defined *infra*); 3) an order to show cause why a preliminary injunction should not issue; and 4) an order authorizing expedited discovery against the Defendants identified on **Schedule "A"** to the Complaint (collectively, the "Defendants"). The Court has considered the Application, the evidence in the record, and the applicable law.

By the instant Application, Plaintiff TALISMAN DESIGNS, LLC, move *ex parte* pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1116, 17 U.S.C. § 502, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 64 and 65, and The All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651(a), for entry of a temporary restraining order and an order restraining assets and Merchant Storefronts, for federal unfair competition in violation of Section 43(a) of the Trademark Act of 1946, as amended; federal unfair competition; copyright infringement; common law unfair competition; and related state law claims. Because Plaintiff

has satisfied the requirements for the issuance of a temporary restraining order, and good cause has been shown, the Court grants Plaintiff's Application.

FACTUAL FINDINGS & CONCLUSION OF LAW

1. Plaintiff, TALISMAN DESIGNS, LLC, ("Talisman" or "Plaintiff") is likely to prevail on its Lanham Act claims, Copyright Claims, and related state law claims at trial and there is a substantial basis to support each of the below findings.

2. Katherine Waymire founded Talisman Designs in 2002 making handmade wine accessories and packaging out of her home. Since then, Talisman Designs has created and innovated all of its own products and packaging. Today, Talisman is a well-known national brand in the gift and houseware industries. It is recognized for its quality, inventions, creative packaging and whimsical characters. Talisman innovates across four main categories – Baking, Prep Tools, Wood/Collections and Fun & Funky. Each category has a different, distinct look. Talisman's customers immediately recognize their products because of this. For instance, in the Fun & Funky line of products, most of the products have a distinct character that is personified by a face or character. Talisman's customers often immediately recognize their new products as being sold by them.

3. Talisman's kitchen tool product sold under brand PIE SHIELD was conceived by Waymire while baking pies in her kitchen. She wanted to invent a way to prevent the pie crust from burning while making it fool-proof to use with any pie dish. She wanted an environmentally friendly solution that was cheaper, reliable and reusable. The choices back then included tinfoil, one-size fits some pies product, and a multiple piece system requiring precise balancing on the pie crust. Thus, she invented the PIE SHIELD. Using an ingenious notch and catch system to adjust the circumference of the shield, the PIE SHIELD stays in place while

covering the crust. The product is reusable, washable, molded of distinct red coloring and is heat resistant to 500 degrees Fahrenheit. The PIE SHIELD is sold in online marketplaces such as Amazon.com and in brick and mortar stores.

4. Plaintiff has gained significant rights in Plaintiff's Product, through use, advertising, and promotion. Plaintiff is also the owner of a federally registered copyrighted photograph¹ ("Plaintiff's Work), plus videos, artwork, creative text, and product instructions appearing on talismandesigns.com and Amazon.com.

5. Defendants, by operating Internet based e-commerce stores, and fully interactive, commercial Internet websites operating under Defendants' respective seller identities set forth on Schedule "A" hereto (the "Seller IDs"), Defendants are either (i) using Plaintiff's Copyrighted Photograph or other of plaintiff's photographs, while promoting, selling, offering for sale and distributing knock-offs of Plaintiff's Product, thus unfairly competing, and/or (ii) infringing Plaintiff's Work while offering to sell and selling knock-offs of Plaintiff's Product.

6. Through the e-commerce marketplace platform, Plaintiff accessed all of the e-commerce stores operating under Defendants' Seller IDs and captured the Defendants' listings at issue on the e-commerce stores. At the conclusion of the process, the detailed webpages and photographs were inspected by Plaintiff's representative who confirmed that each Defendant is featuring, displaying, and/or using Plaintiff's Work, without authorization and the products that each Defendant is offering for sale are not genuine products (i.e. selling Knock-off Products).

7. Plaintiffs have a strong probability of proving at trial that consumers are likely to be confused by Defendants' advertisement, promotion, sale, offer for sale, or distribution of

¹ Plaintiff's Work is the subject of Copyright Registration No. VA-0002159164.

products with unauthorized and unlicensed uses of Plaintiff's Work in violation of Section 43(a) of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a), and that Plaintiffs' copyright has been infringed in violation of 15 U.S.C. § 501, and prevailing on their related state law claims.

8. Plaintiff has a strong probability of proving their claims under the Lanham Act, the Copyright Act, and related state law claims and there is substantial basis to support each of the below findings.

9. Plaintiff, as well as consumers, is likely to suffer immediate and irreparable losses, damages and injuries before Defendants can be heard in opposition, unless Plaintiff's Application for *ex parte* relief is granted. There is good cause to believe that the unauthorized and unlicensed use of Plaintiff's Work will continue in the marketplace; that consumers are likely to be misled, confused, and disappointed by the quality of the products so advertised, and that Plaintiff may suffer loss of sales for its genuine products and an unnatural erosion of the legitimate marketplace in which it operates. There is also good cause to believe that if Plaintiff proceeds on notice to Defendants of this Application, Defendants can easily and quickly change the ownership or modify e-commerce store account data and content, change payment accounts, redirect consumer traffic to other seller identification names, and transfer assets and ownership of Seller IDs, thereby thwarting Plaintiff's ability to obtain meaningful relief. As other courts have recognized, proceedings against those who deliberately traffic in infringing merchandise are often useless if notice is given to the adverse party.

10. The balance of potential harm to Defendants of being prevented from continuing to profit from their illegal and infringing activities if a temporary restraining order is issued is far outweighed by the potential harm to Plaintiff, its reputation, and its goodwill as a manufacturer and distributor of quality products, if such relief is not issued.

11. The public interest favors issuance of the temporary restraining order in order to protect Plaintiff's interests and protect the public from being injured, deceived and defrauded by the passing off of Defendants substandard goods as Plaintiff's genuine goods.

12. Under Pennsylvania law this Court may issue a prejudgment asset restraint where Plaintiff's complaint asserts a claim for money damages. This Court also has the inherent authority to issue a prejudgment asset restraint when Plaintiff's complaint seeks relief in equity. According to the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1117(a)(1), Plaintiff is entitled, "subject to the principles of equity, to recover ... defendant's profits." Plaintiff seeks, among other relief, that Defendants account for and pay to Plaintiff all profits realized by Defendants by reason of Defendants' unlawful acts. Therefore, this Court has the authority to grant Plaintiff's request for a prejudgment asset freeze to preserve the relief sought by Plaintiff and preserve the Defendants' ability to at least partially satisfy a judgment.

13. Similarly, if Defendants are given notice of the Application, they are likely to destroy, move, hide or otherwise make inaccessible to Plaintiff the records and documents relating to Defendants' illegal and infringing activities. Therefore, Plaintiff has good cause to be granted expedited discovery.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing findings of fact and conclusions of law, Plaintiff's Application is hereby **GRANTED** as follows (the "Order"):

I. Temporary Restraining Order

A. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, as sufficient cause has been shown, that each Defendant, its officers, directors, employees, agents, subsidiaries, distributors, and all persons in active concert or participation with any Defendant having notice of this Order are hereby restrained as follows:

- (1) from (a) their unauthorized and unlicensed use of Plaintiff's Work in connection with the distribution, marketing, advertising, offering for sale, or sale of any products; and (b) shipping, delivering, holding for sale, transferring or otherwise moving, storing, distributing, returning, or otherwise disposing of, in any manner products which use Plaintiff's Work;
- (2) from secreting, concealing, destroying, altering, selling off, transferring or otherwise disposing of and/or dealing with any computer files, data, business records, documents or any other records or evidence relating to their User Accounts,² Merchant Storefronts³ or any money, securities or other property or assets of Defendants (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Defendants' Assets");
- (3) effecting assignments or transfers, forming new entities or associations, or creating and/or utilizing any other platform, User Account, Merchant Storefront or any other

² As defined in the Application, a "User Account" is, as defined in the Complaint, any and all accounts with online marketplace platform(s) 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.

³ As defined in the Application, 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 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.

means of importation, exportation, advertising, marketing, promotion, distribution, and/or display for the purposes of circumventing or otherwise avoiding the prohibitions set forth in this Order;

- (4) each Defendant, its officers, directors, employees, agents, subsidiaries, distributors, and all persons in active concert or participation with any Defendant having notice of this Order shall immediately discontinue use of the Plaintiff's Work within metatags or other markers within website source code, from use on any web page (including as the title of any product listing), from any advertising links to other websites, from search engines' databases or cache memory, and any other form of use such terms or works which is visible to a computer user or serves to direct computer searches to Internet based e-commerce stores owned, or operated by each Defendant, including the Merchant Storefronts operating under the Seller IDs;
- (5) each Defendant shall not transfer ownership of the User Accounts or Merchant Storefronts associated with the Seller IDs;
- (6) each Defendant shall preserve copies of all computer files relating to the use of any User Accounts and/or Merchant Storefronts under the Seller IDs and shall take steps necessary to retrieve computer files relating to the use of the User Accounts and/or Merchant Storefronts under their Seller IDs that may be deleted before the entry of this Order;
- (7) upon receipt of notice of this Order, Defendants and all financial institutions, payment processors, banks, escrow services, money transmitters, or marketplace platforms, including but not limited to Alibaba.com US LLC d/b/a Aliexpress.com ("Aliexpress"), Amazon.com, Inc. and its affiliate, Amazon Services LLC d/b/a Amazon.com ("Amazon"), eBay, Inc. d/b/a eBay.com ("eBay"), and Context Logic, Inc d/b/a

wish.com (“Wish”) (“Third Party Service Provider(s)”) and AliPay US Inc. d/b/a Alipay.com (“Alipay”), Amazon Payments, Inc. d/b/a pay.amazon.com, and PayPal, Inc. d/b/a paypal.com (“PayPal”) (“Financial Institution(s)”), and their related companies and affiliates, shall immediately identify and restrain all funds, as opposed to ongoing account activity, in or which are hereafter transmitted into the accounts related to the Defendants as identified on Schedule “A” hereto, as well as all funds in or which are transmitted into (i) any other accounts of the same customer(s); (ii) any other accounts which transfer funds into the same financial institution account(s), and/or any of the other accounts subject to this Order; and (iii) any other accounts tied to or used by any of the Seller IDs identified on Schedule “A” hereto;⁴

(8) upon receipt of notice of this Order, Defendants and all financial institutions, payment processors, banks, escrow services, money transmitters, or marketplace platforms, including but not limited to the Third Party Service Provider(s) and the Financial Institution(s), shall immediately divert to a holding account for the trust of the Court all funds in or which are hereafter transmitted into all accounts related to Defendants identified in Schedule “A” hereto, and associated payment accounts, and any other accounts for the same customer(s) as well as any other accounts which transfer funds into the same financial institution account(s) as any other accounts subject to this Order;

(9) The Third Party Service Provider(s) and Financial Institution(s) shall further, within five (5) business days of receiving this Order, provide Plaintiff’s counsel with all data that

⁴ This Order contemplates that discovery may reveal that Defendants may have other user accounts operated by other Third Party Service Providers and Financial Institutions and that the additionally discovered Third Party Service Providers and Financial Institutions, once identified and provided with notice, shall also be subject to the discovery, restraints and injunctions set forth in this Order.

details (i) an accounting of the total funds restrained and identifies the financial account(s) which the restrained funds are related to, and (ii) the account transactions related to all funds transmitted into financial account(s) which have been restrained. Such restraining of the funds and the disclosure of the related financial institution account information shall be made without notice to the account holders, until after those accounts are restrained. No funds restrained by this Order shall be transferred or surrendered by any Third Party Service Provider or Financial Institution for any purpose (other than pursuant to a chargeback made pursuant to that Third Party Service Provider or Financial Institution's security interest in the funds) without express authorization of this Court;

(10) Upon Plaintiff's request, any Internet marketplace who is provided with notice of this Order, including but not limited to the Third Party Service Provider(s) and Financial Institution(s), shall immediately cease fulfillment of and sequester Defendants' inventory assets corresponding to the Seller IDs identified on Schedule "A" hereto in its inventory, possession, custody, or control, and hold such goods in trust for the Court during pendency of this action;

(11) this Order shall apply to the Seller IDs, associated Accounts and Merchant Storefronts, and any other seller identification names, Accounts or Merchant Storefronts, Third Party Service Provider or Financial Institution accounts which are being used by Defendants for the purpose of infringing the Plaintiff's Work and/or unfairly competing with Plaintiff;

(12) Defendants and all financial institutions, payment processors, banks, escrow services, money transmitters, or marketplace platforms, including but not limited to the Third Party

Service Provider(s) and the Financial Institution(s), subject to this Order may petition the Court to modify the asset restraint set out in this Order; and

(13) this Order shall remain in effect until the date for the hearing to show cause why a preliminary injunction should not be issued as set forth below, or until such further dates as set by the Court or stipulated by the parties.

B. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, as sufficient cause has been shown, that upon Plaintiff's request, any Internet marketplace who is provided with notice of this Order, including but not limited to the Third Party Service Providers and Financial Institutions, is hereby restrained and enjoined from engaging in any of the following acts or omissions pending the hearing and determination of Plaintiff's Application for a preliminary injunction, or until further order of the Court:

(1) secreting, concealing, transferring, disposing of, withdrawing, encumbering or paying Defendants' Assets from or to financial accounts associated with or utilized by any Defendant or any Defendant's User Accounts or Merchant Storefront(s) (whether said account is located in the U.S. or abroad) ("Defendants' Financial Accounts") until further ordered by this Court; and

(2) within (5) days after receiving notice of this Order, providing services to Defendants, Defendants' User Accounts and Defendants' Merchant Storefronts, including, without limitation, continued operation of Defendants' User Accounts and Merchant Storefronts, and any other listings linked to the same sellers or linked to any other alias seller identification names being used and/or controlled by Defendants.

C. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, as sufficient cause has been shown, that:

(1) Amazon.com, Inc., and its related companies and affiliates, including Amazon Services, LLC, and Amazon Payments, Inc. (collectively “Amazon”), are hereby restrained and enjoined, pending the hearing and determination of Plaintiff’s Application for a preliminary injunction, or until further order of the Court, from processing payments for any products listed under the following Amazon Standard Identification Numbers (ASINs): B005FYC9XM - red PIE SHIELD, B012A0DXJ2 (red twin pack PIE SHIELD), B012A0E2PG (Aqua twin pack PIE SHIELD), B012A0DYZU (royal blue twin pack PIE SHIELD) by any Seller that has not been authorized by Plaintiff; contemporaneously with the service of this Order, Plaintiff shall provide notice to Amazon of Plaintiff’s authorized sellers;

(3) Amazon.com, Inc., and its related companies and affiliates, including Amazon Services, LLC, and Amazon Payments, Inc., shall place the following Amazon Standard Identification Numbers (ASINs): B005FYC9XM - red PIE SHIELD, B012A0DXJ2 (red twin pack PIE SHIELD), B012A0E2PG (Aqua twin pack PIE SHIELD), B012A0DYZU (royal blue twin pack PIE SHIELD), into Amazon’s gating program, so that Plaintiff will be able to control which sellers list product under these ASINs; and

(4) upon Plaintiff’s request, Amazon.com, Inc., and its related companies and affiliates, including Amazon Services, LLC, and Amazon Payments, Inc., shall remove listings and/or advertisements for any product that Plaintiff identifies as unfairly competing with Plaintiff’s Product (i.e., preventing a seller from listing for sale under the identified ASIN);

(5) Upon Plaintiff's request, a Third Party Service Provider, shall remove listings and/or advertisements for any product that unfairly competed and/or infringes on Plaintiff's Work; and

(6) This Order shall remain in effect until the date for the hearing to show cause why a preliminary injunction should not be issued as set forth below, or until such further dates as set by the Court or stipulated by the parties.

II. Order to Show Cause Why a Preliminary Injunction Should Not Issue and Service of Order

A. Defendants are hereby ORDERED to show cause before this Court in the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania, via ZoomGov videoconference on the **13th day of October, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.**, why a preliminary injunction, pursuant to FRCP 65(a), should not issue. Further instructions regarding the scheduling of the videoconference will be emailed to counsel. **Defendants are on notice that failure to appear at the hearing may result in the imposition of a preliminary injunction against them.**

B. Opposing papers, if any, shall be filed electronically with the Court and served on Plaintiffs' counsel by delivering copies thereof to the office of Ference & Associates LLC at 409 Broad Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15143 before **October 7, 2021**. Plaintiffs shall file any Reply papers on or before **October 12, 2021**.

C. After Plaintiffs' counsel has received confirmation from the Third Party Service Providers and Financial Institutions or otherwise, regarding the restraint of funds directed herein, Plaintiffs shall serve copies of the Complaint, the Application, this Order, and any Discovery on each Defendant via their corresponding email/online contact form provided on the Internet based e-commerce stores operating under the respective Seller IDs, or by providing a copy of this order

by e-mail to the marketplace platform, which in turn notifies each Defendant of the Order, or by other means reasonably calculated to give notice which is permitted by the Court. In addition, Plaintiffs shall post copies of the Complaint, Application, this Order, any Discovery, and all other pleadings and documents filed in this action on a website designated by Plaintiffs,⁵ and shall provide the website address to Defendants via e-mail/online contact form, and such notice so given shall be deemed good and sufficient service thereof. Plaintiffs shall continue to provide notice of these proceedings and copies of the documents on file in this matter to Defendants by regularly updating the website designated by Plaintiff or by other means reasonably calculated to give notice which is permitted by the Court.

III. Order Authorizing Expedited Discovery

A. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, as sufficient cause has been shown, that:

- (1) Plaintiff may propound interrogatories pursuant to Rules 26 and 33 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and Defendants, their respective officers, employees, agents, servants and attorneys, and all persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of this Order, shall provide written responses under oath to such interrogatories within fourteen (14) days of service to Plaintiffs' counsel.
- (2) Plaintiff may serve requests for the production of documents pursuant to FRCP 26 and 34, and Defendants, their respective officers, employees, agents, servants and attorneys, and all persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual

⁵ Rule 65 has been interpreted to require that a party have notice of the motion and hearing; perfecting service on a defendant is not a prerequisite to the entry of a preliminary injunction order. *Pate v. Gov't of the Virgin Islands*, 2015 WL 1937701 n.9 (VI Sup. Ct. April 17, 2015); *Corrigan Dispatch Co. v. Casa Guzman, S.A.*, 569 F.2d 300, 302 (5th Cir. 1978).

notice of this Order, shall produce all documents responsive to such requests within fourteen (14) days of service to Plaintiffs' counsel.

(3) Plaintiff may serve requests for admissions pursuant to FRCP 26 and 36, and Defendants, their respective officers, employees, agents, servants and attorneys, and all persons in active concert or participation with any of them, who receive actual notice of this Order, shall provide written responses under oath to such requests within fourteen (14) days of service to Plaintiffs' counsel.

B. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, as sufficient cause has been shown, that within fourteen (14) days of receiving actual notice of this Order, Defendants and all financial institutions, payment processors, banks, escrow services, money transmitters, or marketplace platforms, including but not limited to the Third Party Service Provider(s) and the Financial Institution(s), shall provide to Plaintiff's counsel all documents and records in their possession, custody or control (whether located in the U.S. or abroad) relating to Defendants' User Accounts and Defendants' Merchant Storefronts, including, but not limited to, documents and records relating to:

- (1) any and all User Accounts and Defendants' Merchant Storefronts and account details, including, without limitation, identifying information and account numbers for any and all User Accounts and Defendants' Merchant Storefronts that Defendants have ever had and/or currently maintain with the respective Third Party Service Provider;
- (2) the identities, location and contact information, including any and all e-mail addresses of Defendants that were not previously provided;

- (3) the Defendants' methods of payment, methods for accepting payment and any and all financial information, including, but not limited to, information associated with Defendants' User Accounts and Defendants' Merchant Storefronts, a full accounting of Defendants' sales history and listing history under such accounts and Defendants' Financial Accounts associated with Defendants' User Accounts and Defendants' Merchant Storefronts; and
- (4) Defendants' unauthorized and unlicensed use of Plaintiff's Mark, and/or Plaintiffs' Works, and/or Plaintiff's Trade Dress in connection with the distribution, marketing, advertising, offering for sale, or sale of any products, and any products which use Plaintiffs' Plaintiffs' Mark, and/or Plaintiffs' Works.

V. Security Bond

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiffs shall place security (corporate surety bond, cash, certified check, or attorney's check) in the amount of **\$5,000** with the Court, which amount is determined adequate for the payment of any damages any person may be entitled to recover as a result of an improper or wrongful restraint ordered hereunder. **If presented as cash, certified check, or attorney's check, the funds will be placed in the local Court Registry and will remain there until further order of court.**

VI. Summons

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court shall issue a single original summons in the name of "ANGELWORLD and all other Defendants identified in the Complaint" that will apply to all Defendants.

SO ORDERED.

SIGNED this 29th day of September, 2021, at 11:00 a.m.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

s/ Robert J. Colville
Robert J. Colville
United States District Judge

Schedule “A”
Defendants With Store Name and Seller ID

Defendant No.	Defendant/Store Name	Seller ID
1	ANGELWORLD	A3B2F4H2M7DR5O
2	caixg	A27IINS9C5VRU
3	Fish Fairy	A2RXGCUYD3F9U1
4	Fnow	A2DHYVSL69FLCK
5	GMFive	AJ7F6850CKSXU
6	guixiulindianzi	A24ZPQN38SH98L
7	MikyQii	AWAQ1I928K96Y
8	mingfeishop	A2ELPOJYQ3RQQN
9	Movingupp	A3F47Z8SX0TZST
10	MZERIT	A4H2G49CQVBUZ
11	NewHopee	A3HBUEGTZQPZJK
12	QAAQ	A3R05A6PFH5MJX
13	RongJun	A36C2X60IU5BT4
14	Rongxin Outlet Store	A1O5GEHPIG97QY
15	Shengyaju-us	ATZI5GC3DGNS5
16	SIENNA REYNOLDSdgsd	A1FTA01TU4DOG1
17	Simake	A3RNGSHJ5F27JR
18	TOFD	A1E3VNMN3YJ7MP

Defendant No.	Defendant/Store Name	Seller ID
19	Txcef-US	A344UOAJP7T5A1
20	ULeisure	ALZAFAC4NF720
21	WUSU	A70531YIPJX2U
22	xuchangpinyishangmaoyouxiangongsi	AQ5NVD2CTDOVK
23	yisanqi	ARLCVBBFVXTN
24	yuyuan2d	A2PUEYGXZTSD2D
25	shlo-nass	255080470981
26	vanpio-17	304064808276
27	vacation-mode	184983372432