

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

KIEL JAMES PATRICK LLC,

Plaintiff,

v.

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

Defendants.

Case No.: 1:17-cv-00650

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Kiel James Patrick LLC ("KJP" or "Plaintiff"), by its undersigned counsel, hereby complains of the Partnerships and Unincorporated Associations identified on Schedule A attached hereto (collectively, "Defendants"), and for its Complaint hereby alleges as follows:


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., and 28 U.S.C. § 1331. This Court has jurisdiction over the claims in this action that arise under the laws of the State of Illinois pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a), because the state law claims are so related to the federal claims that they form part of the same case or controversy and derive from a common nucleus of operative facts.

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 consumers in the United States, including Illinois, through at least the fully interactive

commercial Internet stores operating under the Defendant Domain Names and/or the Online Marketplace Accounts identified in Schedule A attached hereto (collectively, the “Defendant Internet Stores”). Specifically, Defendants are reaching out to do business with Illinois residents by operating one or more commercial, interactive Internet Stores through which Illinois residents can purchase products bearing counterfeit versions of KJP’s trademark. Each of the Defendants has targeted sales from Illinois residents by operating online stores that offer shipping to the United States, including Illinois, accept payment in U.S. dollars and, on information and belief, has sold products bearing counterfeit versions of KJP’s federally registered trademark to residents of Illinois. Each of the Defendants is committing tortious acts in Illinois, is engaging in interstate commerce, and has wrongfully caused KJP substantial injury in the State of Illinois.

INTRODUCTION

3. This action has been filed by KJP to combat online counterfeiters who trade upon KJP’s reputation and goodwill by selling and/or offering for sale products in connection with KJP’s  (herein after “ANCHOR DESIGN”) trademark, which is covered by U.S. Trademark Registration No. 4,819,102. The Registration is valid, subsisting, and in full force and effect. True and correct copies of the federal trademark registration certificate for the mark is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

4. The Defendants create numerous Defendant Internet Stores and design them to appear to be selling genuine KJP products, while selling inferior imitations of KJP’s products. The Defendant Internet Stores share unique identifiers, such as design elements and similarities of the counterfeit products offered for sale, establishing a logical relationship between them and suggesting that Defendants’ illegal operations arise out of the same transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences. Defendants attempt to avoid liability by going to great lengths

to conceal both their identities and the full scope and interworking of their illegal counterfeiting operation. KJP is forced to file this action to combat Defendants' counterfeiting of KJP's registered trademark, as well as to protect unknowing consumers from purchasing unauthorized ANCHOR DESIGN products over the Internet. KJP has been and continues to be irreparably damaged through consumer confusion, dilution, and tarnishment of its valuable trademark as a result of Defendants' actions and seeks injunctive and monetary relief.

5. This Court has personal jurisdiction over each Defendant, in that each Defendant conducts significant business in Illinois and in this Judicial District, and the acts and events giving rise to this lawsuit of which each Defendant stands accused were undertaken in Illinois and in this Judicial District.

THE PLAINTIFF

6. Plaintiff KJP is a Rhode Island LLC having its principal place of business in Pawtucket, Rhode Island.

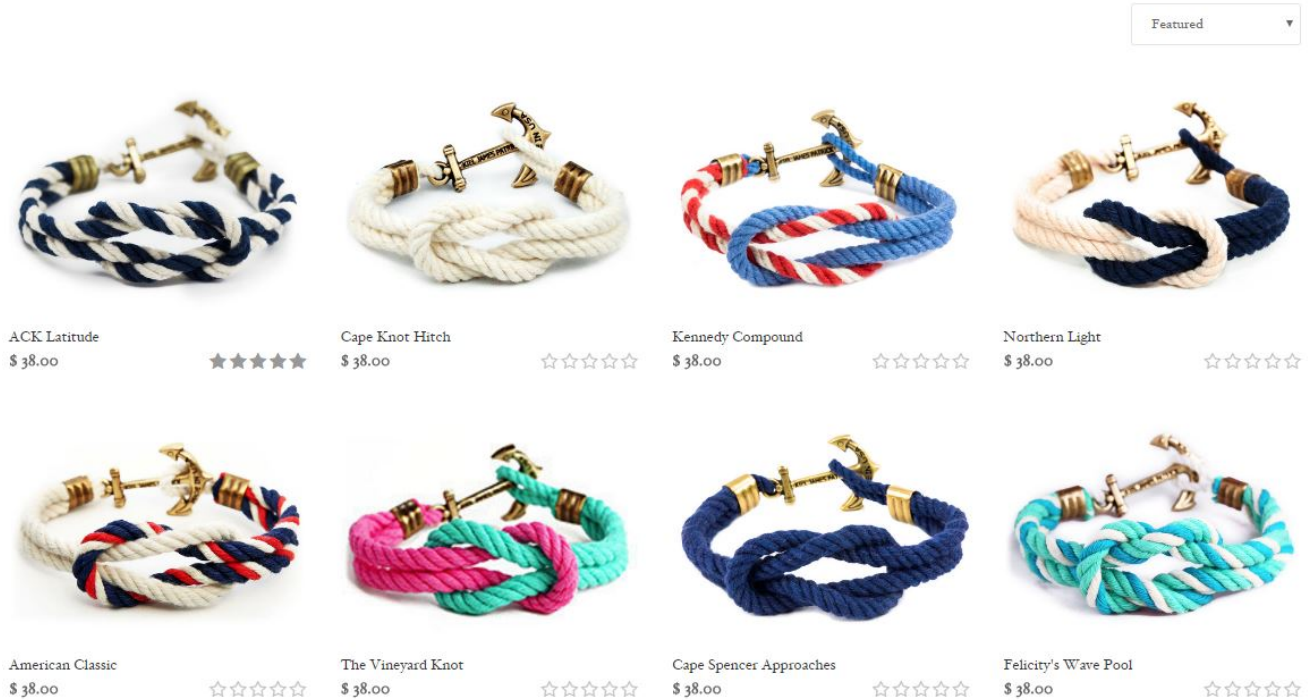
7. Inspired by the rugged charm of New England, KJP takes pride in creating timeless American-made fashion and accessories. Each product has a story, a season, and a rich heritage in American craftsmanship. Through vibrant, idyllic lifestyle imagery, the KJP brand awakens memories of carefree days by the coast wearing sea-shrunken rope bracelets, crisp fall nights around a bonfire layered in plaid shirts and sweaters, celebrating holiday traditions in bowties and pearls, and seaside jaunts in boat shoes on the first warm day of spring.

8. American-made manufacturing is the heart and soul of KJP. KJP strives to provide quality products, redefine originality, and inspire people to live their American Dream.

9. KJP's anchor bracelet product line is emblematic of the KJP's inspiration and mission to provide high quality American made products manufactured in Rhode Island. The

anchor bracelet has resonated with consumers, nationwide and is one of KJP's most successful products. Sample of the distinctive bracelets are below:

Triton Collection



10. KJP's creative achievements have resulted in intellectual property protection for KJP's innovations, including a design patents and trademark. Nevertheless, KJP's innovations have been the subject of widespread emulation by its competitors, who have attempted to capitalize on KJP's success by imitating KJP's innovative design and by attempting to trade-off of the widespread consumer recognition and good-will KJP has developed.

11. Since the initial launch of its original ANCHOR DESIGN® brand, KJP's ANCHOR DESIGN® mark is and has been the subject of substantial and continuous marketing and promotion by KJP. KJP has and continues to widely market and promote its ANCHOR DESIGN® mark in the industry and to consumers. KJP's promotional efforts include — by way

of example but not limitation — substantial print media, the ANCHOR DESIGN website and social media sites.

12. The ANCHOR DESIGN trademark is distinctive and identifies the merchandise as goods from KJP. The registrations for the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark constitutes prima facie evidence of its validity and of KJP's exclusive right to use the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1057 (b).

13. The ANCHOR DESIGN trademark qualify as famous marks, as that term is used in 15 U.S.C. §1125 (c)(1), and have been continuously used and never abandoned.

14. KJP has expended substantial time, money, and other resources in developing, advertising, and otherwise promoting the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark. As a result, products bearing the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark is widely recognized and exclusively associated by consumers, the public, and the trade as being products sourced from KJP.

THE DEFENDANTS

15. Defendants are individuals and business entities who, upon information and belief, reside in the People's Republic of China or other foreign jurisdictions. Defendants conduct business throughout the United States, including within Illinois and in this Judicial District, through the operation of the fully interactive commercial websites and online marketplaces operating under the Defendant Internet Stores. Each Defendant targets the United States, including Illinois, and has offered to sell and, on information and belief, has sold and continues to sell counterfeit ANCHOR DESIGN products to consumers within the United States, including Illinois and in this Judicial District.

THE DEFENDANTS' UNLAWFUL CONDUCT

16. The success of the ANCHOR DESIGN brand has resulted in its significant counterfeiting. KJP has identified numerous domain names linked to fully interactive websites and marketplace listings on platforms such as iOffer and Aliexpress, including the Defendant Internet Stores, which were offering for sale, selling, and importing counterfeit ANCHOR DESIGN products to consumers in this Judicial District and throughout the United States. Defendants have persisted in creating the Defendant Internet Stores. Internet websites like the Defendant Internet Stores are estimated to receive tens of millions of visits per year and to generate over \$135 billion in annual online sales. According to an intellectual property rights seizures statistics report issued by Homeland Security, the manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) of goods seized by the U.S. government in fiscal year 2013 was over \$1.74 billion, up from \$1.26 billion in 2012. Internet websites like the Defendant Internet Stores are also estimated to contribute to tens of thousands of lost jobs for legitimate businesses and broader economic damages such as lost tax revenue every year.

17. Upon information and belief, Defendants facilitate sales by designing the Defendant Internet Stores so that they appear to unknowing consumers to be authorized online retailers, outlet stores, or wholesalers selling genuine ANCHOR DESIGN products. Many of the Defendant Internet Stores look sophisticated and accept payment in U.S. dollars via credit cards, Western Union and PayPal. Defendant Internet Stores often include images and design elements that make it very difficult for consumers to distinguish such counterfeit sites from an authorized website. Defendants further perpetuate the illusion of legitimacy by offering "live 24/7" customer service and using indicia of authenticity and security that consumers have come to associate with authorized retailers, including the McAfee® Security, VeriSign®, Visa®,

MasterCard®, and PayPal® logos. KJP has not licensed or authorized Defendants to use its ANCHOR DESIGN trademark, and none of the Defendants are authorized retailers of genuine ANCHOR DESIGN products.

18. Upon information and belief, Defendants also deceive unknowing consumers by using the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark without authorization within the content, text, and/or meta tags of their websites in order to attract various search engines crawling the Internet looking for websites relevant to consumer searches for ANCHOR DESIGN products. Additionally, upon information and belief, Defendants use other unauthorized search engine optimization (SEO) tactics and social media spamming so that the Defendant Internet Stores listings show up at or near the top of relevant search results and misdirect consumers searching for genuine ANCHOR DESIGN products. Further, Defendants utilize similar illegitimate SEO tactics to propel new domain names to the top of search results after others are shut down. As such, KJP also seeks to disable Defendant Domain Names owned by Defendants that are the means by which the Defendants could continue to sell counterfeit ANCHOR DESIGN products.

19. Defendants go to great lengths to conceal their identities and often use multiple fictitious names and addresses to register and operate their massive network of Defendant Internet Stores. For example, many of Defendants' names and physical addresses used to register the Defendant Domain Names are incomplete, contain randomly typed letters, or fail to include cities or states. Other Defendant Domain Names use privacy services that conceal the owners' identity and contact information. Upon information and belief, Defendants regularly create new websites and online marketplace accounts on various platforms using the identities listed in Schedule A to the Complaint, as well as other unknown fictitious names and addresses. Such Defendant Internet Store registration patterns are one of many common tactics used by the Defendants to conceal their

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

20. Even though Defendants operate under multiple fictitious names, there are numerous similarities among the Defendant Internet Stores. For example, many of the Defendant websites have virtually identical layouts, even though different aliases were used to register the respective domain names. In addition, the counterfeit ANCHOR DESIGN products for sale in the Defendant Internet Stores bear similarities and indicia of being related to one another, suggesting that the counterfeit ANCHOR DESIGN products were manufactured by and come from a common source and that, upon information and belief, Defendants are interrelated. The Defendant Internet Stores also include other notable common features, including use of the same domain name registration patterns, unique shopping cart platforms, accepted payment methods, check-out methods, meta data, illegitimate SEO tactics, HTML user-defined variables, domain redirection, lack of contact information, identically or similarly priced items and volume sales discounts, similar hosting services, similar name servers, and the use of the same text and images.

21. In addition to operating under multiple fictitious names, Defendants in this case and defendants in other similar cases against online counterfeiters use a variety of other common tactics to evade enforcement efforts. For example, counterfeiters like Defendants will often register new domain names or online marketplace accounts under new aliases once they receive notice of a lawsuit. Counterfeiters also often move website hosting to rogue servers located outside the United States once notice of a lawsuit is received. Rogue servers are notorious for ignoring take down demands sent by brand owners. Counterfeiters also typically ship products in small quantities via international mail to minimize detection by U.S. Customs and Border Protection. A 2012 U.S. Customs and Border Protection report on seizure statistics indicated that

the Internet has fueled “explosive growth” in the number of small packages of counterfeit goods shipped through the mail and express carriers.

22. Further, counterfeiters such as Defendants typically operate multiple credit card merchant accounts and PayPal accounts behind layers of payment gateways so that they can continue operation in spite of KJP’s enforcement efforts. Upon information and belief, Defendants maintain off-shore bank accounts and regularly move funds from their PayPal accounts to off-shore bank accounts outside the jurisdiction of this Court. Indeed, analysis of PayPal transaction logs from previous similar cases indicates that offshore counterfeiters regularly move funds from U.S.-based PayPal accounts to China-based bank accounts outside the jurisdiction of this Court.

23. Defendants, without any authorization or license from KJP, have knowingly and willfully used and continue to use the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark in connection with the advertisement, distribution, offering for sale, and sale of counterfeit ANCHOR DESIGN products into the United States and Illinois over the Internet. Each Defendant Internet Store offers shipping to the United States, including Illinois, and, on information and belief, each Defendant has offered to sell counterfeit ANCHOR DESIGN products into the United States, including Illinois.

24. Defendants’ use of the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark in connection with the advertising, distribution, offering for sale, and sale of counterfeit ANCHOR DESIGN products, including the sale of counterfeit ANCHOR DESIGN products into Illinois, is likely to cause and has caused confusion, mistake, and deception by and among consumers and is irreparably harming KJP.

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

25. KJP repeats and incorporates by reference herein its allegations contained in the above paragraphs of this Complaint.

26. This is a trademark infringement action against Defendants based on their unauthorized use in commerce of counterfeit imitations of the registered ANCHOR DESIGN trademark in connection with the sale, offering for sale, distribution, and/or advertising of infringing goods. The ANCHOR DESIGN trademark is highly distinctive. Consumers have come to expect the highest quality from KJP's products provided under the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark.

27. Defendants have sold, offered to sell, marketed, distributed, and advertised, and are still selling, offering to sell, marketing, distributing, and advertising products in connection with the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark without KJP's permission.

28. KJP is the exclusive owner of the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark. KJP's United States Registration for the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark (Exhibit 1) is in full force and effect. Upon information and belief, Defendants have knowledge of KJP's rights in the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark, and are willfully infringing and intentionally using counterfeits of the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark. Defendants' willful, intentional and unauthorized use of the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark is likely to cause and is causing confusion, mistake, and deception as to the origin and quality of the counterfeit goods among the general public.

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

30. KJP has no adequate remedy at law, and if Defendants' actions are not enjoined, KJP will continue to suffer irreparable harm to its reputation and the goodwill of its well-known ANCHOR DESIGN trademark.

31. The injuries and damages sustained by KJP have been directly and proximately caused by Defendants' wrongful reproduction, use, advertisement, promotion, offering to sell, and sale of counterfeit ANCHOR DESIGN products.

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

32. KJP repeats and incorporates by reference herein its allegations contained in the above paragraphs of this Complaint.

33. Defendants' promotion, marketing, offering for sale, and sale of counterfeit ANCHOR DESIGN 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 KJP or the origin, sponsorship, or approval of Defendants' counterfeit ANCHOR DESIGN products by KJP.

34. By using the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark in connection with the sale of counterfeit ANCHOR DESIGN products, Defendants create a false designation of origin and a misleading representation of fact as to the origin and sponsorship of the counterfeit ANCHOR DESIGN products.

35. Defendants' false designation of origin and misrepresentation of fact as to the origin and/or sponsorship of the counterfeit ANCHOR DESIGN products to the general public is a willful violation of Section 43 of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125.

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

COUNT III
VIOLATION OF ILLINOIS UNIFORM DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES ACT
(815 ILCS § 510, et seq.)

37. KJP repeats and incorporates by reference herein its allegations contained in the above paragraphs of this Complaint.

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

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

40. KJP has no adequate remedy at law, and Defendants' conduct has caused KJP to suffer damage to its reputation and goodwill. Unless enjoined by the Court, KJP will suffer future irreparable harm as a direct result of Defendants' unlawful activities.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, KJP 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 ANCHOR DESIGN trademark 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 ANCHOR DESIGN product or is not authorized by KJP to be sold in connection with the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark;
- b. passing off, inducing, or enabling others to sell or pass off any product as a genuine ANCHOR DESIGN product or any other product produced by KJP that is not KJP's or not produced under the authorization, control, or supervision of KJP and approved by KJP for sale under the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark;
- c. committing any acts calculated to cause consumers to believe that Defendants' counterfeit ANCHOR DESIGN products are those sold under the authorization, control, or supervision of KJP, or are sponsored by, approved by, or otherwise connected with KJP;
- d. further infringing the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark and damaging KJP's goodwill;
- e. otherwise competing unfairly with KJP in any manner;
- f. 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 KJP, nor authorized by KJP to be sold or offered for sale, and which bear any KJP trademark, including the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark, or any reproductions, counterfeit copies, or colorable imitations thereof;
- g. using, linking to, transferring, selling, exercising control over, or otherwise owning the Online Marketplace Accounts, the Defendant Domain Names, or any other domain

name or online marketplace account that is being used to sell or is the means by which Defendants could continue to sell counterfeit ANCHOR DESIGN products; and

- h. operating and/or hosting websites at the Defendant Domain Names and any other domain names registered or operated by Defendants that are involved with the distribution, marketing, advertising, offering for sale, or sale of any product bearing the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark or any reproduction, counterfeit copy or colorable imitation thereof that is not a genuine ANCHOR DESIGN product or not authorized by KJP to be sold in connection with the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark; and

2) That Defendants, within fourteen (14) days after service of judgment with notice of entry thereof upon them, be required to file with the Court and serve upon KJP a written report under oath setting forth in detail the manner and form in which Defendants have complied with paragraph 1, a through h, above;

3) Entry of an Order that, at KJP's choosing, the registrant of the Defendant Domain Names shall be changed from the current registrant to KJP, and that the domain name registries for the Defendant Domain Names, including, but not limited to, VeriSign, Inc., Neustar, Inc., Afilias Limited, CentralNic, Nominet, and the Public Interest Registry, shall unlock and change the registrar of record for the Defendant Domain Names to a registrar of KJP's selection, and that the domain name registrars take any steps necessary to transfer the Defendant Domain Names to a registrar of KJP's selection; or that the same domain name registries shall disable the Defendant Domain Names and make them inactive and untransferable;

4) Entry of an Order that, upon KJP's request, those in privity with Defendants and those with notice of the injunction, including any online marketplaces such as iOffer and Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., Alipay.com Co., Ltd. and any related Alibaba entities (collectively,

“Alibaba”), social media platforms, Facebook, YouTube, LinkedIn, Twitter, Internet search engines such as Google, Bing and Yahoo, web hosts for the Defendant Domain Names, and domain name registrars, shall:

- a. disable and cease providing services for any accounts through which Defendants engage in the sale of counterfeit ANCHOR DESIGN products using the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark, including any accounts associated with the Defendants listed on Schedule A;
- b. disable and cease displaying any advertisements used by or associated with Defendants in connection with the sale of counterfeit ANCHOR DESIGN products using the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark; and
- c. take all steps necessary to prevent links to the Defendant Domain Names identified on Schedule A from displaying in search results, including, but not limited to, removing links to the Defendant Domain Names from any search index; and

5) That Defendants account for and pay to KJP all profits realized by Defendants by reason of Defendants’ unlawful acts herein alleged, and that the amount of damages for infringement of the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark be increased by a sum not exceeding three times the amount thereof as provided by 15 U.S.C. § 1117;

6) In the alternative, that KJP be awarded statutory damages pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1117(c)(2) of \$2,000,000 for each and every use of the ANCHOR DESIGN trademark;

7) That KJP be awarded its reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs; and

8) Award any and all other relief that this Court deems just and proper.

DATED: January 27, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Keith A. Vogt

Keith A. Vogt, Esq. (Bar No. 6207971)

1033 South Blvd., Suite 200

Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Telephone: 708-203-4787

E-mail: keith@vogtip.com

Perry J. Hoffman, Esq. (Bar No. 6211115)

Perry Hoffman & Associates P.C.

2100 Sanders Road, Suite 200

Northbrook, Illinois 60062

Telephone: 847-809-4285

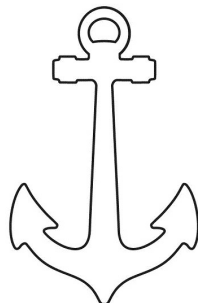
E-mail: perry@WeDoIP.com

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

Exhibit 1

United States of America

United States Patent and Trademark Office



Reg. No. 4,819,102

KIEL JAMES PATRICK LLC (RHODE ISLAND LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY)
925 CENTRAL AVENUE
PAWTUCKET, RI 02861

Registered Sep. 22, 2015

Int. Cl.: 14

FOR: BRACELETS; JEWELRY; NECKLACES, IN CLASS 14 (U.S. CLS. 2, 27, 28 AND 50).

TRADEMARK

FIRST USE 5-25-2011; IN COMMERCE 5-25-2011.

PRINCIPAL REGISTER

OWNER OF U.S. REG. NOS. 4,217,920, 4,233,876, AND 4,329,317.

THE MARK CONSISTS OF A STYLIZED ANCHOR DESIGN INCORPORATING A SHANK THAT PIERCES THE CENTER OF THE CROWN OF THE ANCHOR, A LOOP AT THE TOP OF THE SHANK, A CROSS BAR THAT PERPENDICULARLY INTERSECTS THE SHANK, AND POINTED FLUKES.

SN 86-312,728, FILED 6-18-2014.

DAVID TAYLOR, EXAMINING ATTORNEY



Michelle K. Lee

Director of the United States
Patent and Trademark Office