UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

SAMIAM GROUP, LLC

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. **22-cv-02256** Civil Action

COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

COOPERSBURG ASSOCIATES, INC. dba COOPERSBURG SPORTS

Defendant.

SAMIAM GROUP, LLC ("Samiam") files this Complaint against Defendant COOPERSBURG ASSOCIATES, INC. dba COOPERSBURG SPORTS ("Coopersburg"), alleging as follows:

NATURE OF THIS ACTION

- 1. Samiam brings this action as a result of Coopersburg's willful infringement of United States Design Patent No. D888,498 (hereinafter the "D498 Patent"), attached as Exhibit A, relating to a design for a drinking vessel in the shape of a baseball bat, in violation of the United States Patent Act.
- 2. Samiam also brings this action to enforce its rights for unfair competition and for substantial and related claims under the statutory and common laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, all arising from Coopersburg's copying and selling products in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and elsewhere which are copies of the designs of drinking vessels in the shape of a baseball bat protected by the D498 Patent, without the consent of Samian.
- 3. Coopersburg has knowingly, willfully and blatantly designed its product to unfairly capitalize on the goodwill and reputation that Samiam drinking vessel in the shape of a baseball bat to

unabashedly profit from its bad faith infringement. Accordingly, Samiam seeks injunctive relief and monetary damages.

PARTIES

- 4. Samiam is a limited liability company formed under the laws of the State of Connecticut, having a place of business at 750 Main St, Hartford, CT 06103.
- 5. Upon information and belief, Coopersburg is a corporation formed under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, having a place of business at 2600 East Saucon Valley Rd, Center Valley, PA 18034.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 6. This is an action in which Samiam seeks injunctive relief and damages arising from Coopersburg's infringement of the Patent Act, 35 U.S.C. §101 *et seq.*, and violation of the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law. Coopersburg's illegal acts have irreparably harmed Samiam and have caused Samiam significant damage.
- 7. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to, *inter alia*, 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question); 28 U.S.C. § 1338(a) (action arising under the Patent Act); 28 U.S.C. § 1338(b) (unfair competition joined with claims under the Patent Act); and 28 U.S.C. § 1367 (supplemental jurisdiction).

- 8. This court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1332 (diversity of citizenship) because the parties are citizens of different states and the matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and costs.
- 9. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Coopersburg because Coopersburg is incorporated in Pennsylvania, has a regular and established place of business in Pennsylvania, has committed acts within Pennsylvania and within this District giving rise to this action and has established minimum contacts with this forum such that the exercise of jurisdiction over Coopersburg would not offend traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.
- 10. This court has personal jurisdiction over Coopersburg because Coopersburg has committed and continues to commit acts of patent infringement and unfair competition in this District, by, among other things, manufacturing, using, offering for sale, and selling infringing drinking vessels in the shape of baseball bats which have a design virtually identical to and a copy of the designs protected under the D498 Patent.
- 11. This court has personal jurisdiction over Coopersburg under the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law, 73 P.S. §§201-1-201-9.2, because, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Coopersburg is passing off goods as those of Samiam; Coopersburg is causing likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to the source, sponsorship, approval or certification of its goods; and Coopersburg is causing likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to affiliation, connection or association with, or certification by, Samiam

12. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) and 28 U.S.C. § 1400(b) because Coopersburg resides in this District and maintains a regular and established place of business in this District and committed acts of infringement in this District.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 13. Samiam supplies and sells novelty products including drinking vessels in the shape of baseball bats which are sold as souvenirs at baseball games and elsewhere under the name THE BEER BAT.
- 14. On June 30, 2020, the D498 Patent was duly and legally issued by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The D498 Patent has remained in force since that time and continues to be in force. Samiam owns all rights to the D498 Patent.
- 15. Coopersburg supplies and sells novelty products including drinking vessels in the shape of baseball bats sold at baseball games, including Major League Baseball (MLB) and Minor League Baseball (MiLB) and elsewhere in direct competition with Samiam, which drinking vessels are virtually identical in appearance as Samiam's patented THE BEER BAT, under the name BEVERAGE BAT. See Exhibit B which includes a copy of the cover of a Coopersburg catalog and a page of the catalog advertising the infringing BEVERAGE BAT for sale and Exhibit C showing an image from the D498 Patent and a photo of the infringing BEVERAGE BAT.
- 16. On May 28, 2021, counsel for Samiam sent written notification to Coopersburg of the D498 Patent, advising Coopersburg that the BEVERAGE BAT infringes the patent rights of Samiam and that Samiam is prepared to protect its patent rights if Coopersburg does not cease all manufacturing, offering for sale and sale of the BEVERAGE BAT.

- 17. On information and belief, Coopersburg had knowledge of the D498 Patent on or about June 30, 2020, the issue date of the D498 Patent.
- 18. Although Coopersburg had actual knowledge of the D498 Patent, Coopersburg continued supplying and selling the infringing BEVERAGE BAT, willfully infringing the patent rights of Samiam.

CAUSES OF ACTION

COUNT I

Direct Infringement of U.S. Design Patent No. 888,498 Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. § 271(a)

- 19. Samiam repeats and incorporates by reference each of the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 20. Samiam is the lawful owner of all right, title, and interest in and to the D498 Patent.
- 21. Coopersburg has infringed and continues to infringe the D498 Patent literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents by, inter alia, making, importing, using, offering to sell, or selling in the United States, including in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and within this District, products infringing the ornamental design covered by the D498 Patent in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271, including but not limited to Coopersburg's infringing BEVERAGE BAT.
- 22. Coopersburg infringes the D498 Patent literally and under the doctrine of equivalents because, inter alia, in the eye of an ordinary observer, giving such attention as a purchaser usually gives, the design of the D498 Patent and the infringing BEVERAGE BAT are virtually identical in appearance, having the same shape of a baseball bat with an open top. The resemblance of the

design of the D498 Patent and of the infringing BEVERAGE BAT are so substantially similar that that the ordinary observer is deceived, inducing the ordinary observer to purchase the infringing BEVERAGE BAT supposing it to be the patented THE BEER BAT.

- 23. To the extent there are any differences in features between the design of D498 Patent and the infringing BEVERAGE BAT, those differences involve features of the infringing BEVERAGE BAT that are either insignificant when compared to the totality of the design of D498 Patent or substantially similar ornamental equivalents of the comparable features claimed in the D498 Patent.
- 24. Coopersburg's acts of infringement of the D498 Patent were undertaken without authority, permission or license from Samiam. Coopersburg's infringing activities violate 35 U.S.C. § 271.
- 25. Coopersburg has engaged in a pattern of conduct demonstrating: Coopersburg's willful blindness of the D498 Patent; the objectively high likelihood that Coopersburg's actions constitute infringement of the D498 Patent and that the D498 Patent is valid and enforceable; and that this objectively defined risk was so obvious that Coopersburg knew or should have known that their pattern of conduct would infringe the D498 Patent.
- 26. Coopersburg's infringement has damaged and continues to damage and injure Samiam. The injury to Samiam is irreparable and will continue unless and until Coopersburg is enjoined from further infringement.
- 27. Samiam is entitled to a complete accounting of all revenue and profits derived by Coopersburg from the unlawful conduct alleged herein, including without limitation, Coopersburg's total profit from the manufacture, importation, use, sale, and offer to sell the infringing BEVERAGE BAT, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 289.

- 28. Coopersburg has engaged and is engaged in willful and deliberate infringement of the D498 Patent. Such willful and deliberate infringement justifies an increase of three times the damages to be assessed pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284 and further qualifies this action as an exceptional case supporting an award of reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285.
- 29. Samiam is entitled to a permanent injunction preventing Coopersburg from further infringing the D498 Patent.

COUNT II

Violation of the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law

- 30. Coopersburg has violated the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law 73 P.S. §§201-1 201-9.2, *inter alia*, because, within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:
 - (i) Coopersburg is passing off goods as those of Samiam;
 - (ii) Coopersburg is causing likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to the source, sponsorship, approval or certification of its goods; and
 - (iii) Coopersburg is causing likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to affiliation, connection or association with, or certification by, Samiam.
- 31. Coopersburg's violation of the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law has damaged and continues to damage and injure Samiam resulting in lost sales of THE BEER BAT and tarnishment of the reputation of Samian for selling high quality products. The injury to Samiam is irreparable and will continue unless and until Coopersburg is enjoined from further violation the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law.

- 32. Samiam is entitled to a complete accounting of all revenues and profits obtained by Coopersburg from its unlawful activates and restoration of all moneys which Coopersburg acquired by Coopersburg's unlawful activities as set forth herein.
- 33. Samiam is entitled to a permanent injunction preventing Coopersburg from further violation of the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law including, *inter alia*, passing off goods as those of Samiam; causing likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to the source, sponsorship, approval or certification of its goods; and causing likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to affiliation, connection or association with, or certification by, Samiam.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Samiam prays for the following relief:

- A. A judgment entered in favor of Samiam on its claim that Coopersburg has infringed the D498 Patent;
- B. A permanent injunction restraining the Coopersburg from making, importing, using, selling, and offering to sell infringing products practicing the D498 Patent, including the BEVERAGE BAT, and from otherwise infringing the D498 Patent;
- C. An Order that Samiam be authorized to seize any products that infringe the D498 Patent, including the infringing BEVERAGE BAT, which are in Coopersburg's possession, custody, or control;

- D. An Order that Samiam be authorized to seize any molds or other equipment used to manufacture products that infringe the D498 Patent, including the infringing BEVERAGE BAT, which are in Coopersburg's possession, custody, or control;
- E. A judgment and order that Coopersburg make an accounting to Samiam and pay over to Samiam:
 - the extent of Coopersburg's total profits and revenues realized and derived from its infringement of the D498 Patent, and actual damages to Samiam;
 - ii. exemplary, compensatory punitive, and/or treble damages pursuant to 35
 U.S.C. § 284 for Defendants' malicious, willful, and deliberate
 infringement, and as permitted under other applicable laws;
- F. An Order deeming this case an exceptional case pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285 and that Coopersburg be deemed liable for and be ordered to pay Samiam, in addition to the aforesaid damages, Samiam's costs and attorneys' fees, and that the amount of actual damages be trebled;
- G. A permanent injunction restraining Coopersburg from violation of the Pennsylvania Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law including, *inter alia*, passing off goods as those of Samiam; causing likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to the source, sponsorship, approval or certification of its goods; and causing likelihood of confusion or of misunderstanding as to affiliation, connection or association with, or certification by, Samiam; and
- H. Such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and necessary.

JURY DEMAND

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 38(b), Plaintiff hereby demands a trial by a jury on all issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 06/08/2022

/s/ Jonathan R. Miller, Esq. The Law Firm of Jonathan R. Miller 100 Overlook Center, 2nd Floor Princeton, N.J. 08540 Tel. (609) 955-1226 Fax (609) 964-1026 jonathan.miller@lawyer.com

/s/ Robert L. Epstein, Esq.

Epstein Drangel LLP 60 E. 42nd Street, Suite 1250 New York, NY 10165

Tel: 212 292 5390

Email: repstein@ipcounselors.com

(Pro Hac Vice pending)

Attorneys for Plaintiff Samiam Group, LLC

EXHIBIT A

(12) United States Design Patent (10) Patent No.:

McGee, Jr. et al.

US D888,498 S

(45) Date of Patent: Jun. 30, 2020

(54) DRINKING VESSEL

- (71) Applicant: SAMIAM GROUP, LLC, Hartford, CT
- (72) Inventors: Samuel McGee, Jr., Hartford, CT (US); Derrick Johnson, Avon, CT (US); Brett Virgl, Cedar Rapids, IA (US)
- (73) Assignee: SAMIAM GROUP, LLC, Hartford, CT (US)
- (**) Term: 15 Years
- (21) Appl. No.: 29/662,756
- Sep. 7, 2018 (22) Filed:
- (51) LOC (12) Cl. 07-01
- (52) U.S. Cl. USPC **D7/515**; D7/523

Field of Classification Search

USPC D7/533-536, 509-511, 514, 515, 518, D7/523, 529, 532, 316-319, 524, 528, D7/607, 608, 619.1, 624.2, 521, 530, 537, D7/522; D9/552, 554, 565, 668; D11/146, 153, 152; D21/725

CPC A47G 19/2205; A47G 19/2288; B65D

See application file for complete search history.

(56)References Cited

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D419,379 S * 1/2000 Madden			

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(Continued)

Primary Examiner - Brett Miller

(74) Attorney, Agent, or Firm — Banner & Witcoff, Ltd.

CLAIM

The ornamental design for a drinking vessel, as shown and described.

DESCRIPTION

FIG. 1 is a top front perspective view of a drinking vessel showing our new design;

FIG. 2 is a front view thereof;

FIG. 3 is a rear view thereof:

FIG. 4 is a right side view thereof;

FIG. 5 is a left side view thereof;

FIG. 6 is a top view thereof;

FIG. 7 is a bottom view thereof; and,

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view taken along 8-8 of FIG. 6. The even-length broken lines depicting of the unshaded elements of the drinking vessel in FIG. 8 show features that form no part of the claimed design. The uneven-length broken lines depicting the remainder of the drinking vessel in FIGS. 6 and 8 show features that form no part of the claimed design.

1 Claim, 5 Drawing Sheets



US D888,498 S

Page 2

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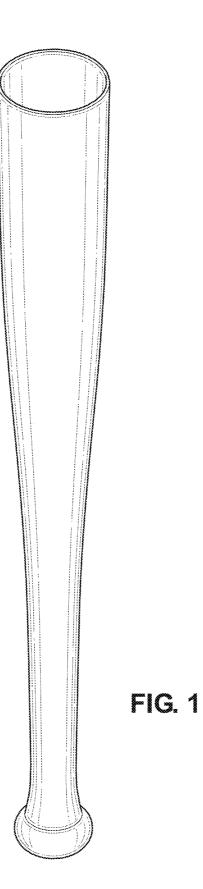
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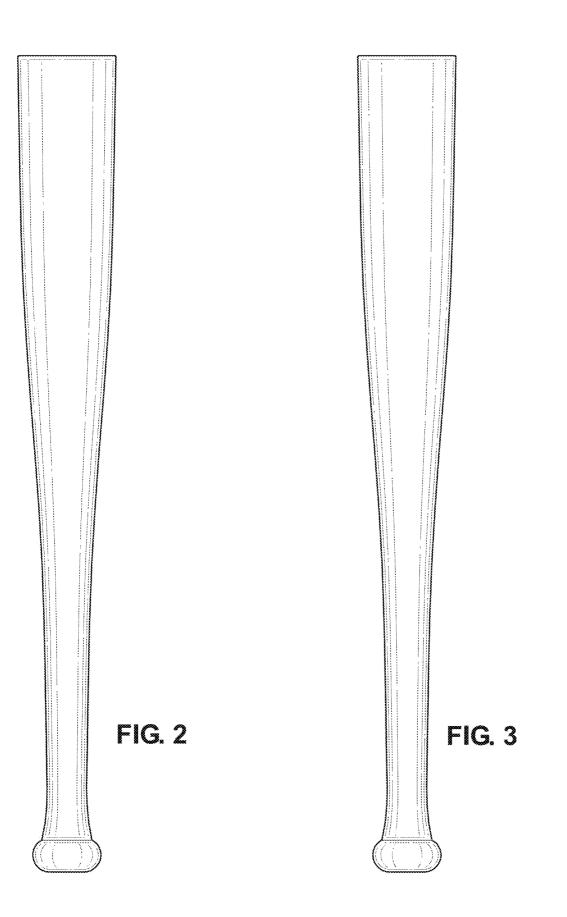
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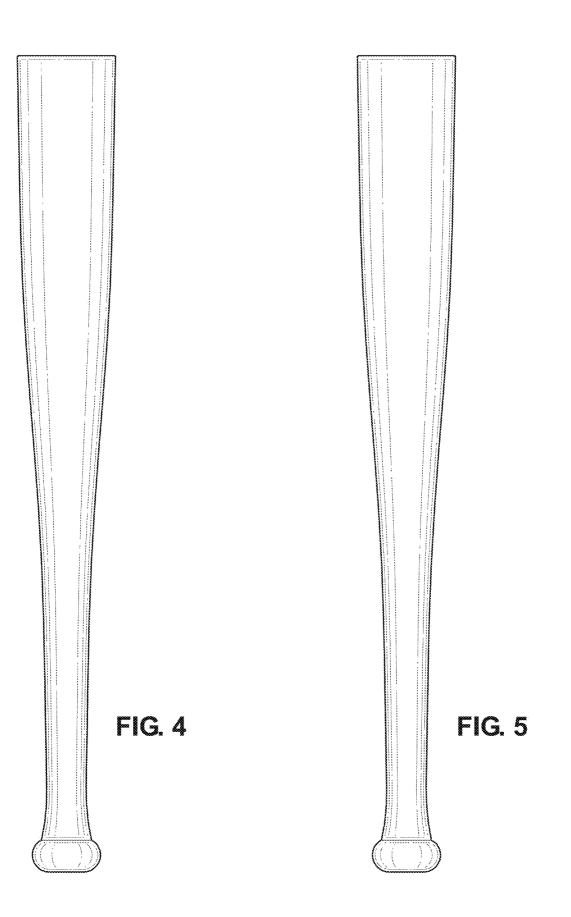
U.S. Patent Jun. 30, 2020 Sheet 1 of 5 US D888,498 S



U.S. Patent Jun. 30, 2020 Sheet 2 of 5 US D888,498 S



U.S. Patent Jun. 30, 2020 Sheet 3 of 5 US D888,498 S



U.S. Patent

Jun. 30, 2020

Sheet 4 of 5

US D888,498 S

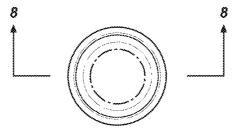


FIG. 6

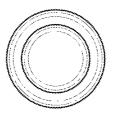


FIG. 7

U.S. Patent Jun. 30, 2020 Sheet 5 of 5 US D888,498 S

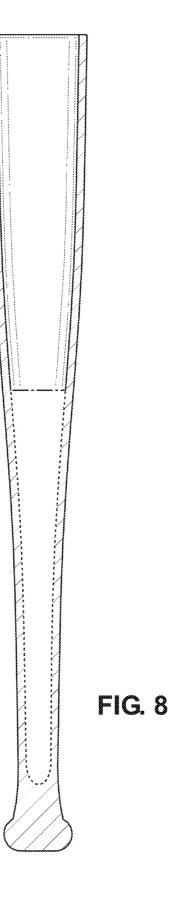
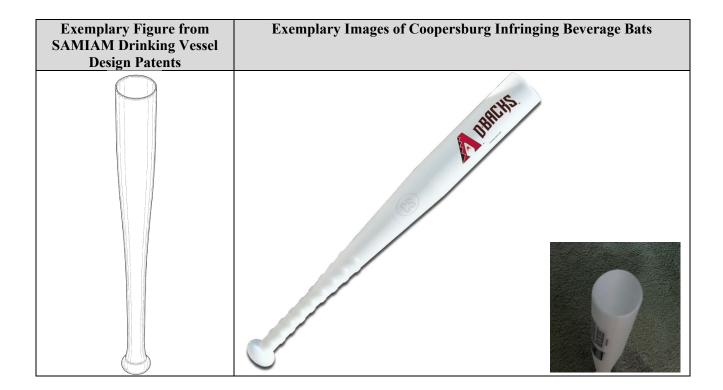


EXHIBIT B





EXHIBIT C



JS 44 (Rev. 10/20)

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The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

purpose of initiating the civil de	ocket sheet. (SEE INSTRUC	CTIONS ON NEXT PAGE O	F THIS FC	ORM.)					
I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS					
SAMIAM GROU	P, LLC			COOPERSBUR	RG ASSOC	CIATES, INC) .		
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(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, .	Address, and Telephone Numbe	er)		Attorneys (If Known)					
Jonathan R. Mill	ler, Esq., 100 Overlo	ook Center 2nd Fl	loor						
	3540 Tel. 609-955-1		,	unknown					
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	Brief description of ca Patent Infringement	ause:							
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THIS UNDER RULE 2	IS A CLASS ACTION 3, F.R.Cv.P.		EMAND \$ t less than \$75,000		ECK YES only i	if demanded in	n complair	nt:
VIII. RELATED CASI	E(S)						100 - 101		
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Case 5:22-cv-02256-Ntriffed Strates and Strict of Pennsylvania Page 25 of 25 for the Eastern district of Pennsylvania

DESIGNATION FORM

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff:	750 Main St, Hartford, CT	06103
Address of Defendant: 2600 Eas	t Saucon Valley Rd, Cente	r Valley, PA 18034
Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 260	00 East Saucon Valley Rd,	Center Valley, PA 18034
RELATED CASE, IF ANY:		
Case Number: none J	Judge:	Date Terminated:
Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is answered to	any of the following questions:	
Is this case related to property included in an earlier previously terminated action in this court?	r numbered suit pending or within one year	Yes No V
2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or gropending or within one year previously terminated as		Yes No 🗸
3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement numbered case pending or within one year previous		Yes No V
4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, so case filed by the same individual?	ocial security appeal, or pro se civil rights	Yes No V
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is this court except as noted above.		
DATE: 06/07/2022	/s/ Jonathan R. Miller, Esq. Must sign here	PA #201210
	Attorney-at-Law / Pro-Se Plaintiff	Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)
CIVIL: (Place a $$ in one category only)		
CIVIL: (Place a √ in one category only) A. Federal Question Cases:	B. Diversity Jurisdiction C	'ases:
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