Complaint

Case 2:23-cv-02163-FLA-AS Document 1 Filed 03/23/23 Page 1 of 8 Page ID #:1

SAVVIER FITNESS, LLC v. SUPER-SPEED LLC, et. al.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 1. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over the federal claims under 28 U.S.C. §1338 (patent); and 28 U.S.C. §1338(b) (state law claims of unfair competition when joined with a substantial and related claim under the patent laws).
- 2. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because they ship, distribute, offer for sale, sell, and advertise their infringing products in California and in this district. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because at all relevant times, Defendants, in part, committed the acts alleged in this Complaint in California and in this district.
- 3. Venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. §1391(b)(c)(2) and 28 U.S.C. §1400(b) against all Defendants because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred in this judicial district.

PARTIES

- Plaintiff Savvier is a California Limited Liability Company with a place of business at 1493 Poinsettia Ave., Suite 139, Vista, CA 92081.
- 5. Upon information and belief, defendant SUPERSPEED LLC is a California limited liability company that is involved in the manufacture, sale and/or import of the Seleware branded exercise barre that is alleged to infringe upon Plaintiff's patent rights (the "Infringing Product").
- 6. Upon information and belief, defendant LI ZOU, is an individual with an address at 12851 Telegraph Rd., Sante Fe Springs, CA 90670.
- 7. Upon information and belief, defendant FANGZHEN TANG dba KIPIKA is an entity of unknown origin that is involved in the manufacture, sale and/or import of the Kipika branded exercise barre that is alleged to infringe upon Plaintiff's patent rights (the "Infringing Product"), and whose operations in the United States is managed by LI ZOU at ZOU's address at 12851 Telegraph Rd., Sante Fe Springs, CA 90670.

8. Upon information and belief, defendant DONGGUANSHIHAOJUWUJIAJUY-OUXIANGONGSI dba SELEWARE is an entity of unknown origin that is involved in the manufacture, sale and/or import of the Infringing Product, and whose operations in the United States is managed by LI ZOU at ZOU's address at 12851 Telegraph Rd., Sante Fe Springs, CA 90670.

SAVVIER'S ASSERTED PATENTS

- 9. By way of assignment, Plaintiff has all exclusive rights to the patented technology embodied in its "Booty Kicker", patent (#10,821,313), a portable barre exercise device [the "'313 Patent"], and patent (#11,389.684)[the "'684 Patent", the '313 and '684 Patents shall collectively be referred to as the "Patents."]
 - 10. The Patents relate to an innovative portable barre exercise device.

DEFENDANTS' ACCUSED PRODUCT AND ACTIONS RELATED THERETO

- 11. Defendants are infringing upon Plaintiff's Patents by manufacturing, selling and/or importing their own near identical product as Seleware/Kipika's "Exercise Barre", which they import from China and sell online through Amazon.
- 12. Defendants, either alone or in conjunction with others, have infringed, contributed to infringement, and/or induced infringement of the Patents by manufacturing, selling and/or offering to sell, and/or causing others to manufacture, sell and/or offer to sell, Defendants Infringing Product.
- 13. Upon information and belief, Defendants are advertising for sale and offering the Infringing Products for sale in the United States and in this district. Upon information and belief, Defendants are infringing the Patents by offering the Products for sale through websites in the United States and within this district. This list is non-exclusive and only reflects the websites which are currently known to Plaintiff. The following offer the Accused Products for sale and delivery to citizens in the United States and in this district: Amazon.
 - 14. Upon information and belief, Defendants have participated in the website advertising

for the Infringing Products either alone or in conjunction with others in those website advertising postings and knowingly, willfully, and deliberately participated jointly with the other Defendants to infringe on the Patents in the United States and in this district.

- 15. Plaintiff's vanguard exercise barre technology described and claimed in the patents-insuit has been adopted and used by fitness centers, instructors, and consumers worldwide. Moreover, current fitness industry leaders have recognized the value of the Patents resultant from the patents-insuit.
- 16. The '313 patent filed on March 19, 2019. The inventor of the '313 patent is Jeff Tuller, Jeff Tuller has assigned all rights in and to the '313 Patent to Plaintiff. The '313 patent is now, and has been at all times since its date of issue, valid and enforceable. The '684 Patent filed on March 20, 2020. The inventor of the '684 Patent is Jeff Tuller. Jeff Tuller has assigned all rights in and to the '684 Patent to Plaintiff.

DEFENDANTS' INFRINGING ACTIVITIES AND NOTICE THEREOF

17. Defendants have been, currently are and continue to directly and/or indirectly infringe one or more claims of the Patents by making, using, selling, offering to sell and/or importing into the United States one or more products and/or services that infringe the Patents or that are specially adapted for use in infringing products. Such activities include (1) sales and distribution of infringing exercise barres, through online offerings accessible by a search of customers in the district on the Internet, knowingly for use by the customers in this district; (2) direct solicitation of sales and actual sales of infringing exercise barres to customers, including customers in this district, via online websites including but not limited to those listed above; (3) knowingly communicating with customers, including customers located in this district, through telephone and online contacts for technical support of the infringing use of exercise barres and associated services sold by Defendants; (4) conducting marketing, promotion, and advertising activities for infringing exercise barres within this district and elsewhere in the United States, such activities thereby including offers to sell directed at customers in this

district; and (5) upon information and belief, providing instructions, support and services to customers who are Purchasing the Infringing Product.

- 18. Upon information and belief, Defendants indirectly infringe one or more claims of the Patents by knowingly making, using, offering to sell or importing into the United States one or more materials or components of the claimed inventions of the Patents for use in practicing the patents inventions.
- 19. Upon information and belief, Defendants have continued to infringe the patents-in-suit, despite their knowledge of them and in reckless disregard for Plaintiff's Patent rights.
- 20. Plaintiff has been irreparably harmed by the Defendants' infringement of its valuable Patent rights. Moreover, Defendants' unauthorized, infringing use of Plaintiff's Patents has threatened the value of this intellectual property because Defendants' conduct results in Plaintiff's loss of its lawful Patent rights to exclude others from making, using, selling, offering to sell and or importing the Patented inventions.
- 21. Defendants' disregard for Plaintiff's property rights similarly threatens Plaintiff's relationships with current and potential licensees of this intellectual property. Defendants will derive a competitive advantage over any of Plaintiff's existing and future licensees from using Plaintiff's Patented technology without paying compensation for such use. Accordingly, unless and until Defendants are enjoined from continued acts of infringement, Plaintiff will suffer further irreparable harm for which there is no adequate remedy at law.

DEFENDANTS FRAUDLENT ACITIVITY AND UNFAIR COMPETITION

- 22. Defendants have been, currently are, and continue to engage in fraudulent activity to obtain an unfair benefit over the Plaintiffs.
- 23. Upon information and belief, Defendants imported and continue to import the infringing "exercise barre" products from a manufacturer in China to locations in California.
- 24. Upon information and belief, Defendants are falsifying manifests required by the United States to allege that the receiver of the infringing products is a different entity than the exporter, however this is believed to be false. Because Defendants have not officially changed custody of

ants)

goods (i.e. the exporter and receiver are the same entity), Defendants are falsifying records by showing a lower import value on their customs documents. Because of this fraudulent activity, it is believed that the United States customs is only receiving 20%-30% of the duties that Defendants should be paying, and Defendants are marking their infringing products up three to five times and thus not paying the United States customs on the correct import valuation.

25. This fraudulent activity results in unfair competition to Plaintiff. Because of the falsifying of customs documents, Defendants are paying less in customs duties than Plaintiff, and thereby obtaining an unfair competitive advantage over the Plaintiff.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Infringement of U.S. Patent Nos. 10,821,313, and 11,389,684 against all Defend-

- 26. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 25 by reference as if fully stated within this paragraph.
- 27. Defendants either make, use, sell and offer to sell, and/or import into the United States for subsequent use and sale exercise barre products that infringe, directly and/or indirectly, or which employ components, and or steps that make use of products that infringe, directly and/or indirectly, claims of the Patents. These infringements include, but are not limited to the Infringing Products Infringement of Claims 1, 5,6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 14 of Plaintiff's '313 Patent and all of the Claims of the '684 Patent.
- 28. The designs of the Infringing Product exercise barre products made, used, sold and offered for sale, and/or imported into the United States for subsequent use and sale by Defendants are so similar to the claimed design of the Patents that a purchaser familiar with the prior art would be deceived by the similarity between the claimed design and the designs of the infringing exercise barre products of Defendants, "inducing him to purchase one supposing it to be the other".
- 29. Defendants continuing acts of infringement constitute willful infringement of the Patents.

30. Defendants' activities infringing the Patents have damaged Plaintiff and will continue to cause Plaintiff irreparable harm unless such infringing activities are enjoined by this Court.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Unfair Competition (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 17200), Against All Defendants)

- 31. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference each of the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1 through 25 of this Complaint as though fully set forth in this cause of action.
- 32. Plaintiff hereby alleges Defendants have committed unlawful and/or fraudulent acts and/or conduct by engaging in the practice of falsifying customs documents to reduce their tax duties and to obtain an unfair competitive advantage over the Plaintiff and its near identical Booty Kicker product.
- 33. Defendants' California unfair competition violation is willful under California Business and Professions Code sections 17200 17209 ("UCL") and affected consumers are entitled to an order from this Court designed to restore through an appropriate disgorgement of profits Defendants' illgotten gains and or injunctive relief prohibiting Plaintiff from engaging in the prohibited fraudulent practice.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff hereby respectfully requests the following relief against Defendants, jointly and severally, inclusive and against each of them as follows:

- a. That this Court adjudge and decree that the Patents are infringed by Defendants, that Defendants have induced infringement, and that Defendants have contributed to infringement.
- b. That infringement, inducement of infringement, and contributing to infringement by Defendants has been willful.
- c. That this Court permanently enjoin Defendants and their officers, directors, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, successors, licensees, assigns, and all others in active concert or participation with Defendants, from engaging in any acts that constitute infringement, inducement of infringement, or contributory infringement of the Patents.

d. Tha	at this Court order an ac	ecounting, including a post-verdict accounting, to determine
the damages to be	awarded to Plaintiff as	a result of Defendants' infringement.
e. Pla	intiff be awarded all dar	mages caused by the acts forming the basis of this Complain
except where suc	ch damages are not oth	nerwise available under California Business & Profession
Codes §17200. A	s to this section, Plainti	iff seeks a disgorgement of all profits and restoration to cor
sumers of those n	nonies received through	Defendants' unfair competition;
f. Det	fendants be required to	pay to Plaintiff the costs and reasonable attorneys' fees in
curred by Plaintif	f in this action pursuant	t to 35 U.S.C. § 285 and pursuant to other applicable law an
the state statutes of	cited in this Complaint;	
g. Thi	s Court find that Defer	ndants' infringement and actions render this case an excep-
tional case within	n the meaning of 35 U.	S.C. § 285 and that Plaintiffs be awarded attorneys' fees;
h. Pla	Plaintiff be awarded prejudgment and post-judgment interest on all monetary awards	
i. Pla	 i. Plaintiff be awarded a declaration of Judgment under 28 U.S.C. §2201. j. Plaintiff be awarded costs of suit; and 	
j. Pla		
k. Pla	intiff be granted such or	ther and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.
JURY DE	MAND	
Plaintiff he	ereby demands that all i	ssues be tried by a jury under FED. R. CIV. P. 38(b).
		COSTALLAN
Dated: March 22,	, 2023	COSTALAW
		By: /s/ Joseph P. Costa Joseph P. Costa
		ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF SAVVIER FITNESS
		LLC
Complaint		8 SAVVIER FITNESS, LLC v. SUPER-
	the damages to be e. Pla except where such Codes §17200. A sumers of those in f. Defi curred by Plaintiff the state statutes of g. This tional case within h. Pla i. Pla j. Pla k. Pla JURY DE Plaintiff he	the damages to be awarded to Plaintiff as e. Plaintiff be awarded all dar except where such damages are not off Codes §17200. As to this section, Plaintif sumers of those monies received through f. Defendants be required to curred by Plaintiff in this action pursuant the state statutes cited in this Complaint; g. This Court find that Defer tional case within the meaning of 35 U. h. Plaintiff be awarded prejud i. Plaintiff be awarded a deci j. Plaintiff be awarded costs k. Plaintiff be granted such o JURY DEMAND Plaintiff hereby demands that all i Dated: March 22, 2023