

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
MARSHALL DIVISION**

**AML IP, LLC,  
Plaintiff,**

**v.**

**ASHLEY FURNITURE INDUSTRIES,  
LLC,  
Defendant**

**Civil Action No. 2:24-cv-00004**

**JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

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**PLAINTIFF’S FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT**

AML IP, LLC (“AML”) files this First Amended Complaint and demand for jury trial seeking relief from patent infringement of the claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,876,979 (“the ‘979 patent”) (referred to as the “Patent-in-Suit”) by Ashley Furniture Industries, LLC d/b/a Ashley Furniture HomeStore formally known as Ashley Furniture Industries, Inc. (“Ashley”).

**I. THE PARTIES**

1. Plaintiff AML is a Texas Limited Liability Company with its principal place of business located in Harris County, Texas.

2. On information and belief, Ashley is a private company existing under the laws of the Wisconsin, with a regular and established place of business located at 1201 N Central Expy, Plano, TX 75075. On information and belief, Defendant sells and offers to sell products and services throughout Texas, including in this judicial district, and introduces products and services that perform infringing methods or processes into the stream of commerce knowing that they would be sold in Texas and this judicial district. Defendant may be served through its registered agent

Corporation Service Company d/b/a CSC-Lawyers Incorporating Service Company, 211 E. 7th Street, Suite 620 Austin, Texas 78701 or anywhere they may be found.

## **I. JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

3. This Court has original subject-matter jurisdiction over the entire action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a) because Plaintiff's claim arises under an Act of Congress relating to patents, namely, 35 U.S.C. § 271.

4. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant because: (i) Defendant is present within or has minimum contacts within the State of Texas and this judicial district; (ii) Defendant has purposefully availed itself of the privileges of conducting business in the State of Texas and in this judicial district; and (iii) Plaintiff's cause of action arises directly from Defendant's business contacts and other activities in the State of Texas and in this judicial district.

5. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and 1400(b). Defendant has committed acts of infringement and has a regular and established place of business in this District. Further, venue is proper because Defendant conducts substantial business in this forum, directly or through intermediaries, including: (i) at least a portion of the infringements alleged herein; and (ii) regularly doing or soliciting business, engaging in other persistent courses of conduct and/or deriving substantial revenue from goods and services provided to individuals in Texas and this District.

## **II. INFRINGEMENT**

### **A. Infringement of the '979 Patent**

6. On April 5, 2005, U.S. Patent No. 6,876,979 (“the ‘979 patent,” included as exhibit A) entitled “Electronic Commerce Bridge System” was duly and legally issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. AML IP, LLC owns the ‘979 patent by assignment.

7. The ‘979 patent relates to a novel and improved methods and apparatuses for conducting electronic commerce.

8. Ashley maintains, operates, and administers payment products and services that facilitate purchases from a vendor using a bridge computer that infringes one or more claims of the ‘979 patent, including one or more of claims 1-13, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Defendant put the inventions claimed by the ‘979 Patent into service (i.e., used them); but for Defendant’s actions, the claimed-inventions embodiments involving Defendant’s products and services would never have been put into service. Defendant’s acts complained of herein caused those claimed-invention embodiments as a whole to perform, and Defendant’s procurement of monetary and commercial benefit from it.

9. Support for the allegations of infringement may be found in the following preliminary table in Exhibit B. These allegations of infringement are preliminary and are therefore subject to change.

10. Defendant has and continues to induce infringement. Defendant has actively encouraged or instructed others (e.g., its customers and/or the customers of its related companies), and continues to do so, on how to use its products and services (e.g., payment products and services that facilitate purchases from a vendor using a bridge computer) such as to cause infringement of one or more of claims 1-13 of the ‘979 patent, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Moreover, Defendant has known of the ‘979 patent and the technology underlying it from at least

the filing date of the prior lawsuit, February 18, 2022.<sup>1</sup> For clarity, direct infringement is previously alleged in this complaint.

11. Defendant has and continues to contributorily infringe. Defendant has actively encouraged or instructed others (e.g., its customers and/or the customers of its related companies), and continues to do so, on how to use its products and services (e.g., payment products and services that facilitate purchases from a vendor using a bridge computer) and related services such as to cause infringement of one or more of claims 1-13 of the '979 patent, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents. Further, there are no substantial noninfringing uses for Defendant's products and services. Moreover, Defendant has known of the '979 patent and the technology underlying it from at least the filing date of the prior lawsuit, February 18, 2022.<sup>2</sup> For clarity, direct infringement is previously alleged in this complaint.

12. Defendant has caused and will continue to cause Plaintiff damage by direct and indirect infringement of (including inducing infringement of) the claims of the '979 patent.

### **III. CONDITIONS PRECEDENT**

13. Plaintiff is a non-practicing entity, with no products to mark. Plaintiff has pled all statutory requirements to obtain pre-suit damages. Further, all conditions precedent to recovery are met.

### **IV. JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff hereby requests a trial by jury on issues so triable by right.

### **V. PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for relief as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> Plaintiff reserves the right to amend if discovery reveals an earlier date of knowledge.

<sup>2</sup> Plaintiff reserves the right to amend if discovery reveals an earlier date of knowledge.

- a. enter judgment that Defendant has infringed the claims of the '979 patent;
- b. award Plaintiff damages in an amount sufficient to compensate it for Defendant's infringement of the '979 patent in an amount no less than a reasonable royalty or lost profits, together with pre-judgment and post-judgment interest and costs under 35 U.S.C. § 284;
- c. award Plaintiff an accounting for acts of infringement not presented at trial and an award by the Court of additional damage for any such acts of infringement;
- d. declare this case to be "exceptional" under 35 U.S.C. § 285 and award Plaintiff its attorneys' fees, expenses, and costs incurred in this action;
- e. declare Defendant's infringement to be willful and treble the damages, including attorneys' fees, expenses, and costs incurred in this action and an increase in the damage award pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284;
- f. a decree addressing future infringement that either (i) awards a permanent injunction enjoining Defendant and its agents, servants, employees, affiliates, divisions, and subsidiaries, and those in association with Defendant from infringing the claims of the Patents-in-Suit, or (ii) awards damages for future infringement in lieu of an injunction in an amount consistent with the fact that for future infringement the Defendant will be an adjudicated infringer of a valid patent, and trebles that amount in view of the fact that the future infringement will be willful as a matter of law; and
- g. award Plaintiff such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

**Ramey LLP**

*/s/ William P. Ramey, III*

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