

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

MATTEL, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

THE PARTNERSHIPS and
UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATIONS
IDENTIFIED ON SCHEDULE “A”,

Defendants.

Case No. 24-cv-03746

COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Mattel, Inc. (“Mattel” or “Plaintiff”) hereby brings the present action against the Partnerships and Unincorporated Associations identified on Schedule A attached hereto (collectively, “Defendants”) and alleges as follows:

I. 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.*, 28 U.S.C. § 1338(a)-(b) and 28 U.S.C. § 1331.

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 business activities toward consumers in the United States, including Illinois, through at least the fully interactive e-commerce stores¹ operating under the seller aliases identified in Schedule A attached hereto (the “Seller Aliases”). Specifically, Defendants have targeted sales to Illinois residents by setting up and operating e-commerce stores that target United States

¹ The e-commerce store URLs are listed on Schedule A hereto under the Online Marketplaces.

consumers using one or more Seller Aliases, offer shipping to the United States, including Illinois, accept payment in U.S. dollars and/or funds from U.S. bank accounts and, on information and belief, have sold products using infringing and counterfeit versions of Mattel's federally registered trademarks to residents of Illinois. Each of the Defendants is committing tortious acts in Illinois, is engaging in interstate commerce, and has wrongfully caused Mattel substantial injury in the State of Illinois.

II. INTRODUCTION

3. This action has been filed by Mattel to combat e-commerce store operators who trade upon Mattel's reputation and goodwill by offering for sale and/or selling unauthorized and unlicensed products using infringing and counterfeit versions of Mattel's federally registered trademarks (the "Counterfeit Products"). Defendants create e-commerce stores operating under one or more Seller Aliases that are advertising, offering for sale, and selling Counterfeit Products to unknowing consumers. E-commerce stores operating under the Seller Aliases share unique identifiers, establishing a logical relationship between them and that Defendants' counterfeiting operation arises out of the same transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences. Defendants attempt to avoid and mitigate liability by operating under one or more Seller Aliases to conceal both their identities and the full scope and interworking of their counterfeiting operation. Mattel is forced to file this action to combat Defendants' counterfeiting of its registered trademarks, as well as to protect unknowing consumers from purchasing Counterfeit Products over the Internet. Mattel has been and continues to be irreparably damaged through consumer confusion, dilution, and tarnishment of its valuable trademarks as a result of Defendants' actions and seeks injunctive and monetary relief.

III. THE PARTIES

Plaintiff

4. Mattel, Inc. is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business located at 333 Continental Boulevard, El Segundo, CA 90245.

5. Mattel, through its family of companies, is a leading designer, developer, marketer, manufacturer and distributor of well-known children's toys and games under its iconic brands, including, but not limited to: Barbie, UNO, Thomas & Friends, Hot Wheels, American Girl, and Fisher-Price.

6. Mattel sells its products worldwide through major retailers, quality toy stores and online marketplaces, including, but not limited to: Wal-Mart, Target Stores, Walgreens, Amazon, and many others.

7. One of Mattel's most popular and successful brands is Barbie, a famous and world-renowned fashion doll line.

8. The first Barbie doll was created in the late 1950's by Ruth Handler after recognizing that her daughter Barbara had more limited toy choices than her son, Ken. For example, her son had toys with which he could imagine himself as a firefighter, an astronaut, a cowboy, and a doctor, among other things. Girls, on the other hand, were mostly playing with bits of cardboard in the form of paper dolls used to express fashion play, or baby dolls with which they could imagine themselves as a mother or caregiver. There was no such thing as a three-dimensional fashion doll. Ruth realized that there was a market for such a doll with which girls could play with fashion and dream of growing up.

9. The Barbie doll was first introduced at the American International Toy Fair in New York on March 9, 1959, a date which has since become recognized by Mattel as Barbie's birthday.

10. However, at the Toy Fair that year, the Barbie doll was not an immediate hit. The toy buyers, who at the time were mostly men, generally did not know what to make of a fashion doll in the form of an adult woman for children. Still, Ruth understood that when the doll got into girls' hands, they would see the doll as a platform for imaginative play. Ultimately, when girls saw the first commercial for the Barbie doll, orders for the doll went through the roof, to the point where Mattel could not manufacture enough dolls to keep up with the demand.

11. The Barbie doll soon became famous around the world, dramatically impacting the way that children interacted with dolls, and the Barbie brand has since expanded to a vast range of commercial products and entertainment, including, but not limited to, doll accessories, playhouses, toy cars and other toy vehicles, books, movies, games, puzzles, clothing, beverages, candy, food, and more (collectively, the "Barbie Products").

12. During the first year of production, approximately 300,000 original Barbie dolls were sold. To date, more than one billion Barbie brand dolls have been sold across 150 different countries, as well as additional sales of non-toy Barbie Products in over 45 categories. Total annual sales under the Barbie brand are more than a billion dollars, with much of that revenue stemming from sales of Barbie Products other than toys.

13. The impact of the Barbie brand has reached heights and received honors rarely seen in the toy world. For example, the Barbie character has appeared in films, including the *Toy Story* franchise and the recent blockbuster *Barbie* movie, has had a section of Times Square briefly renamed "Barbie Boulevard", has been depicted in a painting by the artist Andy Warhol, has landed the cover of *Time Magazine* and in 2023 became the first and only fictional character to be

named as one of *Forbes*' most powerful women in the world, and is part of the Smithsonian Institution's collection in the National Museum of American History. In 2023, Director Greta Gerwig's film *Barbie* was released as the first live action adaptation of the Barbie brand. The *Barbie* film was the highest grossing film worldwide for that year and has been nominated for more than 450 awards.





14. The Barbie brand has been a global success that resonates with children and adults worldwide, making Barbie one of the most recognizable brands around the world. Among the purchasing public, genuine Barbie Products are instantly recognizable as such.

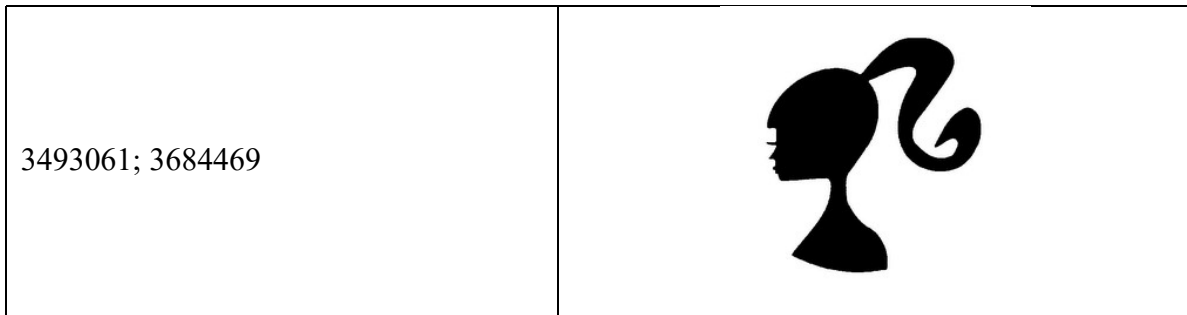
15. The BARBIE trademark was first used in 1959, and products have continuously been sold under the BARBIE trademark and other trademarks (collectively, the "BARBIE Trademarks"). As a result of this long-standing use by Mattel, strong common law trademark rights and goodwill have amassed in the BARBIE Trademarks. The BARBIE Trademarks are registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, a non-exclusive list of which is included below.

Registration No.	Trademark
0689055; 0741208; 0768331; 0768397; 0772298; 0810106; 0813733; 0814091; 0814995; 0816601; 0817200; 1000125; 1041587; 1300766; 1693139; 1746477; 1754535; 1769285; 1773571; 1775637; 1795564; 1795876; 1946918; 2040801; 2151953; 2203306; 2410087; 2469935; 2495195; 2678386; 3287023; 6267201; 6267202; 6302628; 6324165; 6325496; 7157088	BARBIE
4720463	BARBIE AND THE NUTCRACKER
6719769	BARBIE BIG CITY, BIG DREAMS

3083593	BARBIE COLLECTOR
5602185; 5602186	BARBIE DREAMHOUSE ADVENTURES
5233292	BARBIE DREAMTOPIA
5441651	BARBIE LIVE! IN THE DREAMHOUSE
5371526	BARBIE SIGNATURE
726935; 780598; 3317103; 6595905	KEN
3210590	BABY DOCTOR
5449612	BABYSITTERS INC.
4412006	BALLET WISHES
4227182	BEACH CRUISER
3319393	BFMC
3494631	BLACK LABEL
6038017	BMR1959
4071738	CAREER OF THE YEAR
2931614	CHELSEA
6686535	CHELSEA CAN BE...
6629906	CHRISTIE
5370938	CLUB CHELSEA
6097805	COLOR REVEAL
1461136	COURTNEY
5782681	DOGGY DAYCARE
6267675	DREAM CLOSET
1671877	DREAM HOUSE
5546538	DREAMCAMPER

6382383	FASHION FUN FOR EVERYONE
3702525	FASHIONISTAS
6647901	FAST CAST CLINIC
6267600	FLIGHT OF FASHION
6207164	FRESH 'N' FUN
4891547	GLAM GETAWAY
3024502	GOLD LABEL
1046919	HAPPY BIRTHDAY
6085856	HOLIDAY BARBIE
5613219	INSPIRING WOMEN
5618951	MYTHICAL MUSE
2261294	NIKKI
6383700	PINK COLLECTION
3189837	PINK LABEL
3093909	PLATINUM LABEL
6284544	PRANCE & SHIMMER
6207163	PRINCESS ADVENTURE
6442742	RAINBOW MAGIC
2968401	RAQUELLE
3060989	SILKSTONE
774892	SKIPPER
877712	STACEY
1567336	STACIE
1476090	STEVEN

3084790	TAFFY
1477905	TERESA
6229735	TINY WISHES
5689325	TOTALLY HAIR
6755261	TRIBUTE COLLECTION
4281537	ULTIMATE CLOSET
5836167	ULTIMATE CURLS
5214711	YOU CAN BE ANYTHING
3236501	ZOO DOCTOR
2087842	
2150392	
2639971	
6290394	



16. The above U.S. registrations for the BARBIE Trademarks are valid, subsisting, in full force and effect, and many are incontestable pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1065. The registrations for the BARBIE Trademarks constitute *prima facie* evidence of their validity and of Mattel's exclusive right to use the BARBIE Trademarks pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1057(b). Incontestable status under 15 U.S.C. § 1065 provides that the registrations for the BARBIE Trademarks are conclusive evidence of the validity of Mattel's BARBIE Trademarks and of the registrations of the BARBIE Trademarks, of Mattel's ownership of the BARBIE Trademarks, and of Mattel's exclusive right to use the BARBIE Trademarks in commerce. 15 U.S.C. §§ 1115(b), 1065. True and correct copies of the United States Registration Certificates for the above-listed BARBIE Trademarks are attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**.

17. The BARBIE Trademarks are distinctive when applied to Barbie Products, signifying to the purchaser that the products come from Mattel and are manufactured to Mattel's quality standards. Mattel ensures that products bearing the BARBIE Trademarks are manufactured to the highest quality standards.

18. The BARBIE Trademarks are famous marks as that term is used in 15 U.S.C. § 1125(c)(1). The innovative marketing and product designs of the Barbie Products have enabled the Barbie brand to achieve widespread recognition and fame. The widespread fame, outstanding reputation, and significant goodwill associated with the Barbie brand have made the BARBIE Trademarks valuable assets of Mattel.

19. Mattel is among a limited number of companies that not only develop and produce global entertainment properties, characters, and content, but also monetize that content through the creation, sale, and licensing of products. Mattel has expended substantial time, money, and other resources in advertising and promoting the BARBIE Trademarks. In fact, Mattel has expended millions of dollars in advertising, promoting, and marketing featuring the BARBIE Trademarks. Barbie Products have also been the subject of extensive unsolicited publicity resulting from their high-quality, innovative designs. As a result, products bearing the BARBIE Trademarks are widely recognized and exclusively associated by consumers, the public, and the trade as being high-quality products sourced from Mattel. Barbie Products have become among the most popular of their kind in the U.S. and the world. The BARBIE Trademarks have achieved tremendous fame and recognition which has only added to the distinctiveness of the marks. As such, the goodwill associated with the BARBIE Trademarks is of incalculable and inestimable value to Mattel.

20. Barbie Products are distributed and sold to consumers through authorized retail channels throughout the United States, including through authorized retailers in Illinois.

The Defendants

21. Defendants are individuals and business entities of unknown makeup who own and/or operate one or more of the e-commerce stores under at least the Seller Aliases identified on Schedule A and/or other seller aliases not yet known to Mattel. On information and belief, Defendants reside and/or operate in the People's Republic of China or other foreign jurisdictions with lax trademark enforcement systems, or redistribute products from the same or similar sources in those locations. Defendants have the capacity to be sued pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 17(b).

22. On information and belief, Defendants, either individually or jointly, operate one or more e-commerce stores under the Seller Aliases listed in Schedule A attached hereto. Tactics used by Defendants to conceal their identities and the full scope of their operation make it virtually impossible for Mattel to discover Defendants' true identities and the exact interworking of their network. If Defendants provide additional credible information regarding their identities, Mattel will take appropriate steps to amend the Complaint.

IV. DEFENDANTS' UNLAWFUL CONDUCT

23. The success of the Barbie brand has resulted in significant counterfeiting of the BARBIE Trademarks. Consequently, Mattel has a worldwide anti-counterfeiting program and regularly investigates suspicious e-commerce stores identified in proactive Internet sweeps and reported by consumers. In recent years, Mattel has identified many fully interactive, e-commerce stores offering Counterfeit Products on online marketplace platforms such as Amazon, eBay, AliExpress, Alibaba, Walmart, Wish.com, Etsy, DHgate, and Temu, including the e-commerce stores operating under the Seller Aliases. The Seller Aliases target consumers in this Judicial District and throughout the United States. According to a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) report, in 2021, CBP made over 27,000 seizures of goods with intellectual property rights (IPR) violations totaling over \$3.3 billion, an increase of \$2.0 billion from 2020. *Intellectual Property Rights Seizure Statistics, Fiscal Year 2021*, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (**Exhibit 2**). Of the 27,000 in total IPR seizures, over 24,000 came through international mail and express courier services (as opposed to containers), most of which originated from China and Hong Kong. *Id.*

24. Third party service providers like those used by Defendants do not adequately subject new sellers to verification and confirmation of their identities, allowing counterfeiters to

“routinely use false or inaccurate names and addresses when registering with these e-commerce platforms.” **Exhibit 3**, Daniel C.K. Chow, *Alibaba, Amazon, and Counterfeiting in the Age of the Internet*, 40 NW. J. INT’L L. & BUS. 157, 186 (2020); *see also* report on “Combating Trafficking in Counterfeit and Pirated Goods” prepared by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans (Jan. 24, 2020), attached as **Exhibit 4** and finding that on “at least some e-commerce platforms, little identifying information is necessary for a counterfeiter to begin selling” and recommending that “[s]ignificantly enhanced vetting of third-party sellers” is necessary. Counterfeiters hedge against the risk of being caught and having their websites taken down from an e-commerce platform by preemptively establishing multiple virtual store-fronts. **Exhibit 4** at p. 22. Since platforms generally do not require a seller on a third-party marketplace to identify the underlying business entity, counterfeiters can have many different profiles that can appear unrelated even though they are commonly owned and operated. **Exhibit 4** at p. 39. Further, “E-commerce platforms create bureaucratic or technical hurdles in helping brand owners to locate or identify sources of counterfeits and counterfeiters.” **Exhibit 3** at 186-187.

25. Defendants have targeted sales to Illinois residents by setting up and operating e-commerce stores that target United States consumers using one or more Seller Aliases, offer shipping to the United States, including Illinois, accept payment in U.S. dollars and/or funds from U.S. bank accounts and, on information and belief, have sold Counterfeit Products to residents of Illinois.

26. Defendants concurrently employ and benefit from substantially similar advertising and marketing strategies. For example, Defendants facilitate sales by designing the e-commerce stores (including product detail pages) operating under the Seller Aliases so that they appear to unknowing consumers to be authorized online retailers, outlet stores, or wholesalers. E-commerce

stores operating under the Seller Aliases look sophisticated and accept payment in U.S. dollars and/or funds from U.S. bank accounts via credit cards, Alipay, Amazon Pay, and/or PayPal. E-commerce stores operating under the Seller Aliases often include content and images that make it very difficult for consumers to distinguish such stores from an authorized retailer. Mattel has not licensed or authorized Defendants to use any of the BARBIE Trademarks, and none of the Defendants are authorized retailers of Barbie Products.

27. Many Defendants also deceive unknowing consumers by using the BARBIE Trademarks without authorization within the content, text, and/or meta tags of their e-commerce stores to attract various search engines crawling the Internet looking for websites relevant to consumer searches for Barbie Products. Other e-commerce stores operating under the Seller Aliases omit using the BARBIE Trademarks in the item title to evade enforcement efforts while using strategic item titles and descriptions that will trigger their listings when consumers are searching for Barbie Products.

28. E-commerce store operators like Defendants commonly engage in fraudulent conduct when registering the Seller Aliases by providing false, misleading, and/or incomplete information to e-commerce platforms to prevent discovery of their true identities and the scope of their e-commerce operation.

29. E-commerce store operators like Defendants regularly register or acquire new seller aliases for the purpose of offering for sale and selling Counterfeit Products. Such seller alias registration patterns are one of many common tactics used by e-commerce store operators like Defendants to conceal their identities and the full scope and interworking of their counterfeiting operation, and to avoid being shut down.

30. Even though Defendants operate under multiple fictitious aliases, the e-commerce stores operating under the Seller Aliases often share unique identifiers such as templates with common design elements that intentionally omit any contact information or other information for identifying Defendants or other seller aliases they operate or use. E-commerce stores operating under the Seller Aliases include other notable common features, such as use of the same registration patterns, accepted payment methods, check-out methods, keywords, advertising tactics, similarities in price and quantities, the same incorrect grammar and misspellings, and/or the use of the same text and images. Additionally, Counterfeit Products for sale by the Seller Aliases bear similar irregularities and indicia of being counterfeit to one another, suggesting that the Counterfeit Products were manufactured by and come from a common source and that Defendants are interrelated.

31. E-commerce store operators like Defendants are in constant communication with each other and regularly participate in QQ.com chat rooms and through websites such as sellerdefense.cn and kuajingvs.com regarding tactics for operating multiple accounts, evading detection, pending litigation, and potential new lawsuits.

32. Counterfeiters such as Defendants typically operate under multiple seller aliases and payment accounts so that they can continue operation in spite of Mattel's enforcement. E-commerce store operators like Defendants maintain off-shore bank accounts and regularly move funds from their financial accounts to off-shore accounts outside the jurisdiction of this Court to avoid payment of any monetary judgment awarded to Mattel. Indeed, analysis of financial account transaction logs from previous similar cases indicates that off-shore counterfeiters regularly move funds from U.S.-based financial accounts to off-shore accounts outside the jurisdiction of this Court.

33. Upon information and belief, Defendants are working in active concert to knowingly and willfully manufacture, import, distribute, offer for sale, and sell Counterfeit Products in the same transaction, occurrence, or series of transactions or occurrences. Defendants, without any authorization or license from Mattel, have jointly and severally, knowingly and willfully used and continue to use the BARBIE Trademarks in connection with the advertisement, distribution, offering for sale, and sale of Counterfeit Products into the United States and Illinois over the Internet.

34. Defendants' unauthorized use of the BARBIE Trademarks in connection with the advertising, distribution, offering for sale, and sale of Counterfeit Products, including the sale of Counterfeit Products into the United States, including Illinois, is likely to cause and has caused confusion, mistake, and deception by and among consumers and is irreparably harming Mattel.

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

35. Mattel hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

36. This is a trademark infringement action against Defendants based on their unauthorized use in commerce of counterfeit imitations of the federally registered BARBIE Trademarks in connection with the sale, offering for sale, distribution, and/or advertising of infringing goods. The BARBIE Trademarks are highly distinctive marks. Consumers have come to expect the highest quality from Barbie Products offered, sold, or marketed under the BARBIE Trademarks.

37. Defendants have sold, offered to sell, marketed, distributed, and advertised, and are still selling, offering to sell, marketing, distributing, and advertising products using counterfeit reproductions of the BARBIE Trademarks without Mattel's permission.

38. Mattel is the exclusive owner of the BARBIE Trademarks. Mattel's United States Registrations for the BARBIE Trademarks (**Exhibit 1**) are in full force and effect. On information and belief, Defendants have knowledge of Mattel's rights in the BARBIE Trademarks and are willfully infringing and intentionally using counterfeit versions of the BARBIE Trademarks. Defendants' willful, intentional, and unauthorized use of the BARBIE Trademarks is likely to cause and is causing confusion, mistake, and deception as to the origin and quality of the Counterfeit Products among the general public.

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

40. Mattel has no adequate remedy at law and, if Defendants' actions are not enjoined, Mattel will continue to suffer irreparable harm to its reputation and the goodwill of the BARBIE Trademarks.

41. The injuries and damages sustained by Mattel have been directly and proximately caused by Defendants' wrongful reproduction, use, advertisement, promotion, offering to sell, and sale of Counterfeit Products.

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

42. Mattel hereby re-alleges and incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs.

43. Defendants' promotion, marketing, offering for sale, and sale of Counterfeit 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 Mattel or the origin, sponsorship, or approval of Defendants' Counterfeit Products by Mattel.

44. By using the BARBIE Trademarks in connection with the Counterfeit Products, Defendants create a false designation of origin and a misleading representation of fact as to the origin and sponsorship of the Counterfeit Products.

45. Defendants' false designation of origin and misrepresentation of fact as to the origin and/or sponsorship of the Counterfeit Products to the general public involves the use of counterfeit marks and is a willful violation of Section 43 of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125.

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

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Mattel 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 BARBIE Trademarks 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 Barbie Product or is not authorized by Mattel to be sold in connection with the BARBIE Trademarks;
 - b. passing off, inducing, or enabling others to sell or pass off any product as a genuine Barbie Product or any other product produced by Mattel, that is not Mattel's or not produced under the authorization, control, or supervision of Mattel and approved by Mattel for sale under the BARBIE Trademarks;

- c. committing any acts calculated to cause consumers to believe that Defendants' Counterfeit Products are those sold under the authorization, control, or supervision of Mattel, or are sponsored by, approved by, or otherwise connected with Mattel;
 - d. further infringing the BARBIE Trademarks and damaging Mattel's goodwill; and
 - e. manufacturing, 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 Mattel, nor authorized by Mattel to be sold or offered for sale, and which bear any of Mattel's trademarks, including the BARBIE Trademarks, or any reproductions, counterfeit copies, or colorable imitations thereof;
- 2) Entry of an Order that, upon Mattel's request, those with notice of the injunction, including, without limitation, any online marketplace platforms such as eBay, AliExpress, Alibaba, Amazon, Walmart, Wish.com, Etsy, Temu, and DHgate (collectively, the "Third Party Providers") shall disable and cease displaying any advertisements used by or associated with Defendants in connection with the sale of counterfeit and infringing goods using the BARBIE Trademarks;
- 3) That Defendants account for and pay to Mattel all profits realized by Defendants by reason of Defendants' unlawful acts herein alleged, and that the amount of damages for infringement of the BARBIE Trademarks be increased by a sum not exceeding three times the amount thereof as provided by 15 U.S.C. § 1117;
- 4) In the alternative, that Mattel be awarded statutory damages for willful trademark counterfeiting pursuant to 15 U.S.C. § 1117(c)(2) of \$2,000,000 for each and every use of the BARBIE Trademarks;

- 5) That Mattel be awarded its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and
- 6) Award any and all other relief that this Court deems just and proper.

Dated this 8th day of May 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Justin R. Gaudio

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