

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

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POLLIWALKS, INC. )  
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 Plaintiff, )  
 )  
 v. ) Civil Action No. \_\_\_\_\_ )  
 )  
 BBC INTERNATIONAL, LLC and ) JURY TRIAL DEMANDED )  
 FAMILY DOLLAR STORES, INC. )  
 )  
 Defendants. )  

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**COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT**

Plaintiff, Polliwalks, Inc. (“Polliwalks”), by its undersigned counsel, for its complaint against BBC International, LLC (“BBC”) and Family Dollar Stores, Inc. (“Family Dollar”, and collectively with BBC, “Defendants”), states as follows:

**NATURE OF ACTION**

1. This is an action for patent infringement arising under the Patent Laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. §1 et seq.

**THE PARTIES**

2. Polliwalks is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and has its principal place of business in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

3. Upon information and belief, BBC’s has offices in Randolph, Massachusetts and Boca Raton, Florida. BBC purports to be a full service footwear supplier.

4. Upon information and belief, Family Dollar (NYSE: FDO) purports to be a small-format convenience and value retailer with over 7,600 stores in 45 states, including more than 100 stores in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

5. Upon information and belief, Defendants offer to sell products, and, in fact sell products throughout the United States, including in this judicial district and introduce products that infringe one or more claims in United States Patent No. 8,371,043 (the “ ‘043 Patent””) and United States Patent No. 8,371,044 (the “ ‘044 Patent””) into the stream of commerce knowing that they would be sold in this judicial district and elsewhere in the United States.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

6. This is an action for patent infringement arising under the Patent laws of the United States, Title 35 of the United States Code.

7. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this case under 28 U.S.C. §§1331 and 1338(a).

8. Venue is proper in this judicial district under 28 U.S.C. §§1391 and 1400.

9. Joinder of BBC and Family Dollar in this action is proper as BBC manufactures, imports into the United States and markets to Family Dollar its infringing products which infringing products Family Dollar markets and sells to consumers in this judicial district all as part of the same transaction or series of transactions concerning the same infringing products.

### **COUNT I** **(Infringement of the ‘043 Patent)**

10. Polliwalks hereby incorporates paragraphs 1 through 9 by reference as though set forth fully herein.

11. On February 12, 2013, the United States Patent and Trademark Office (the “USPTO”) duly and legally issued the ‘043 Patent. Polliwalks owns the entire right, title and

interest in the '043 Patent and such ownership rights are confirmed by assignments recorded in the USPTO. A true and accurate copy of the '043 Patent is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

12. BBC makes, imports, uses, sells or offers for sale a three-dimensional sculpted shoe featuring a "Spiderman" character and spider web (the "Infringing Product") that infringes one or more claims of the '043 Patent.

13. Family Dollar uses, sells, offers for sale to consumers, the Infringing Product that is sold to Family Dollar by BBC. True and accurate photographs of the Infringing Product are appended hereto as Exhibit 2.

14. BBC has also infringed one or more claims of the '043 Patent by knowingly and actively inducing others to infringe, by contributing to the infringement of others, including but not limited to Family Dollar, and by intentionally aiding, assisting and encouraging the infringement by others, including but not limited to Family Dollar through the sale, offer for sale, manufacture and use of the Infringing Products.

15. Defendants were made aware of the '043 Patent and their infringement thereof at least as early as its receipt of correspondence from counsel for Polliwalks providing notice of the '043 Patent and Defendants infringement thereof which was sent to each of the Defendants on or about May 23, 2013. The letters were sent United States Priority Mail with a tracking number. BBC responded to these letters and thereby confirmed the receipt thereof.

16. Upon information and belief, since at least the time Defendants received notice, Defendants have induced and continue to induce others to infringe at least one claim of the '043 Patent under 35 U.S.C. §271 (b) by, among other things, and with specific intent or willful blindness, actively aiding and abetting, others to infringe, including, but not limited to,

Defendants' customers, whose use, and on the part of retailers, sale, offer for sale and use of the Infringing Product constitutes direct infringement of at least one claim of the '043 Patent.

17. In particular, Defendants' actions that aid and abet others such as their distributors, partners and/or customers to infringe include advertising and distributing the Infringing Product. Upon information and belief, Defendants have engaged in such actions with specific intent to cause infringement or with willful blindness to the resulting infringement because Defendants have had actual knowledge of the '043 Patent since at least the date Defendants received notice from Polliwalks' counsel notifying Defendants of their infringement of the '043 Patent.

18. Despite Polliwalks' counsel's notice regarding the '043 Patent, Defendants have continued to infringe the '043 Patent. On information and belief, Defendants' infringement has been and continues to be willful.

19. Polliwalks has been harmed by Defendants' infringing activities.

**COUNT II**  
**(Infringement of the '044 Patent)**

20. Polliwalks hereby incorporates paragraphs 1 through 19 by reference as though set forth fully herein.

21. On February 12, 2013, the USPTO duly and legally issued the '044 Patent. Polliwalks owns the entire right, title and interest in the '044 Patent and such ownership rights are confirmed by assignments recorded in the USPTO. A true and accurate copy of the '044 Patent is attached hereto as Exhibit 3.

22. BBC makes, imports, uses, sells or offers for sale the Infringing Product that infringe one or more claims of the '044 Patent.

23. Family Dollar uses, sells, offers for sale to consumers, the Infringing Products that are sold to Family Dollar by BBC. See Exhibit 2.

24. BBC has also infringed one or more claims of the '044 Patent by knowingly and actively inducing others to infringe, by contributing to the infringement of others, including but not limited to Family Dollar, and by intentionally aiding, assisting and encouraging the infringement by others, including but not limited to Family Dollar through the sale, offer for sale, manufacture and use of the Infringing Products.

25. Defendants were made aware of the '044 Patent and their infringement thereof at least as early as its receipt of correspondence from counsel for Polliwalks providing notice of the '044 Patent and Defendants infringement thereof which was sent to each of the Defendants on or about May 23, 2013. The letters were sent United States Priority Mail with a tracking number. BBC responded to these letters and thereby confirmed their receipt thereof.

26. Upon information and belief, since at least the time Defendants received notice, Defendants have induced and continue to induce others to infringe at least one claim of the '044 Patent under 35 U.S.C. §271 (b) by, among other things, and with specific intent or willful blindness, actively aiding and abetting, others to infringe, including, but not limited to, Defendants' customers, whose use, and on the part of retailers, sale, offer for sale and use of the Infringing Product constitutes direct infringement of at least one claim of the '044 Patent.

27. In particular, Defendants' actions that aid and abet others such as their distributors, partners and/or customers to infringe include advertising and distributing the Infringing Product. Upon information and belief, Defendants have engaged in such actions with specific intent to cause infringement or with willful blindness to the resulting infringement because Defendants have had actual knowledge of the '044 Patent since at least the date

Defendants received notice from Polliwalks' counsel notifying Defendants of their infringement of the '044 Patent.

28. Despite Polliwalks' counsel's notice regarding the '044 Patent, Defendants have continued to infringe the '044 Patent.

29. On information and belief, Defendants' infringement of the '044 Patent has been and continues to be willful.

30. Polliwalks has been harmed by Defendants' infringing activities.

### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Polliwalks demands judgment for itself and against the Defendants, as follows:

- A. An adjudication that Defendants have infringed the '043 Patent;
- B. An adjudication that Defendants have infringed the '044 Patent;
- C. for injunctive relief, both preliminary and permanent, enjoining Defendants, and their officers, directors agents, servants, employees, and all their entities and individuals acting in concert with them or on their behalf from further infringement of either the '043 Patent and/or the '044 Patent;
- D. An Award of damages to be paid by Defendants adequate to compensate Polliwalks for Defendants' past infringement of either the '043 Patent and/or the '044 Patent, and any continuing or future infringement through the date such judgment is entered, including interest, costs, expenses and an accounting of all infringing acts;
- E. for an award of enhanced damages resulting from Defendants' willful infringement of the '043 Patent, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285;

- F. for an award of enhanced damages resulting from Defendants' willful infringement of the '044 Patent, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285;
- G. for an award of attorneys' fees pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285 based on, but not limited to, Defendants' willful infringement of the '043 Patent;
- H. for an award of attorneys' fees pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285 based on, but not limited to, Defendants' willful infringement of the '044 Patent;
- I. for an award of costs, pre-judgment and post-judgment interest on any damages awarded, pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284 and other applicable law; and
- J. for such other and further relief as the Court deems just and reasonable.

**DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 38, Polliwalks hereby demands a trial by jury in this action on all claims and issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted,

POLLIWALKS, INC.,

By its counsel,

Dated: June 14, 2013

*/s/ Jeffrey E. Francis*

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Jeffrey E. Francis, BBO #639944

[jfrancis@pierceatwood.com](mailto:jfrancis@pierceatwood.com)

Joseph Maraia (BB) # 650569)

jmaria@pierceatwood.com

PIERCE ATWOOD LLP

100 Summer Street

Suite 2250

Boston, MA 02110

(617) 488-8136