# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS HOUSTON DIVISION

| JPT Group, LLC         | § |                       |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Plaintiff,             | § |                       |
|                        | § |                       |
| <b>v.</b>              | § |                       |
|                        | § |                       |
| Yellow Box Corporation | § | CASE NO: 4:15-cv-2873 |
|                        | § |                       |
|                        | § |                       |
| Defendants.            | § |                       |
|                        | § | JURY DEMANDED         |
|                        | § |                       |
|                        | § |                       |
|                        | § |                       |
|                        |   |                       |

# PLAINTIFF JPT GROUP'S ORIGINAL COMPLAINT

JPT Group, LLC ("JPT"), for its complaint of patent infringement against defendant Yellow Box Corporation ("Defendant" and "Yellow Box"), alleges as follows:

#### NATURE OF THE ACTION

- 1. JPT owns the Bernardo brand ("Bernardo"). Bernardo is an iconic American fashion brand. Since 1946, the Bernardo brand has inspired the women's sandal market with its sophisticated designs. Today Bernardo's sandal designs are distinctive and well-known in the footwear industry. Bernardo's patented designs are the result of significant investments in the Bernardo brand, innovative design work and product development.
- 2. Yellow Box has copied the innovative designs of the Bernardo brand and engaged in production and distribution of infringing products through retail and online stores. Rather than undertaking independent development, Yellow Box copied Bernardo's innovative designs, violating JPT's valuable intellectual property rights.

#### THE PARTIES

- 3. Plaintiff JPT is a Delaware limited liability company having a principal place of business in Bend, Oregon.
- 4. On information and belief, Yellow Box Corporation, is a California corporation having an office and place of business at 3230 East Imperial Highway, Suite 300, Brea, California 92821.

#### **JURISDICTION & VENUE**

- 5. This action arises under the patent statutes of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 271 *et seq*. Accordingly, the Court has federal question jurisdiction over this matter under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).
- 6. The court has personal jurisdiction over Yellow Box because it conducts, has conducted and does conduct, business within the State of Texas through sales outlets located within the State of Texas and in this District.
- 7. Upon information and belief, Yellow Box, has existing business relationships in Texas and has purposefully directed business activities to Texas consumers through multiple sales outlets, including consumers this District.
- 8. Upon information and belief, Yellow Box has committed and continues to commit acts of infringement in violation of 35 U.S.C. § 271 and has and continues to purposefully place infringing products into the stream of commerce. Upon information and belief, Yellow Box, either directly or through affiliates, distributors, franchisees and/or others, ship, distribute, offer for sale, sell and market products in the United States, the State of Texas and this District. Upon information and belief, Yellow Box expects their actions to have consequences within this District and derives substantial revenue from the sale of infringing products in interstate commerce and this District. The acts by Yellow Box caused injury to JPT within this District.

9. Venue is properly within this District in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 1391 (b) and (c) and § 1400 (b).

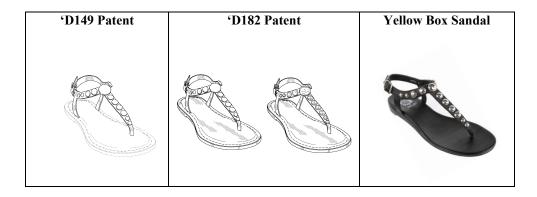
### FACTS AND BACKGROUND

### **The JPT Patents**

- 10. On September 23, 2008, United States Patent No. D577,182 (the "D182 Patent") entitled Sandal was duly and legally issued. A copy of the 'D182 Patent is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein.
- 11. On November 25, 2008, United States Patent No. D581,149 (the "D149 Patent") entitled Sandal was duly and legally issued. A copy of the 'D149 Patent is attached as Exhibit B and incorporated herein.
- 12. The above referenced patents relate to the ornamental designs claimed in the 'D149 Patent and 'D182 Patent (collectively the "JPT Patents"). JPT owns all right, title and interest in and to the JPT Patents by assignment dated February 11, 2014.
- 13. The ornamental designs of the JPT Patents are embodied in the successful *MOJO* sandal, which is sold by JPT under its Bernardo brand.

# Yellow Box's Infringement of the JPT Patents

14. As the representative side-by-side comparisons shown below reveal, Yellow Box misappropriated JPT's patented ornamental sandal designs in the accused products, including through its studded t-strap sandals as depicted below (each an "Accused Product" and collectively the "Accused Products"). On information and belief, a uniform product code of an Accused Product is 697408821124.



- 15. On information and belief, Yellow Box contracted with suppliers to have manufactured in China the Accused Products for sale in the U.S., Texas and this District. Shortly after manufacturing, Yellow Box began importing the Accused Products into the U.S., Texas and this District for sale through its sales outlets.
- 16. On information and belief, Yellow Box displayed or caused to be displayed the Accused Products in sales outlets and marketed them on their company website and third party websites.
- 17. On further information and belief, Yellow Box has sold significant volumes of the Accused Products through its sales outlets and distribution channels throughout the U.S., Texas and this District.
- 18. JPT has complied with the statutory requirement of placing a notice of the JPT Patents on the *MOJO* sandal sold under its Bernardo brand, which embody the JPT Patents. On information and belief, Yellow Box had notice of their infringement and the JPT Patents through JPT's statutory product marking, Yellow Box's product design process, and/or Yellow Box's monitoring of patents in connection with its release of new products.

### **Patent Infringement**

- 19. JPT incorporates herein the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 18 above.
- 20. Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 271 *et seq.*, Yellow Box has infringed the JPT Patents by the manufacture, use, sale, offer for sale, and importation of the Accused Products or alternatively by contributing or inducing others to manufacture, use, sell, offer for sale, or import the Accused Products, literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents.
- 21. Upon information and belief, Yellow Box applied the design of the JPT Patents, or a colorable imitation thereof, to the Accused Products for the purpose of sale, and/or selling or exposing for sale the Accused Products.
- 22. On information and belief, Yellow Box will continue to infringe the claims of the JPT Patents unless enjoined by this Court.
- 23. JPT has been damaged and will continue to be damaged by Yellow Box' infringing acts.
- 24. On information and belief, Yellow Box was actually aware of the JPT Patents and willfully committed acts of infringement.

# **JURY DEMAND**

25. JPT demands a trial by jury on all issues.

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, JPT prays the Court to:

- (a) grant a permanent injunction against Yellow Box's continued infringement;
- (b) award damages for Yellow Box's infringement of the JPT Patents under 35 U.S.C. § 284 or § 289;
- (c) in the event JPT elects to collect damages under 35 U.S.C. § 284, find that Yellow Box's infringement has been willful and increase such damages to three times the awarded amount;
- (d) award prejudgment and post judgment interest;

- (e) find that this case is an exceptional case under 35 U.S.C. § 285 and award attorneys' fees;
- (f) award costs; and
- (g) grant all other relief to which JPT is entitled.

Date: October 1, 2015

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ J. Reid Bumgarner

J. Reid Bumgarner State Bar No. 24053118 S.D. Tex. ID No. 631284 Port & Bumgarner LLP 6750 West Loop S., Suite 748 Bellaire, Texas 77401 Telephone: 713/893-7255

Email: RBumgarner@PortBumgarner.com

For Plaintiff JPT