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

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RONALD A. KATZ TECHNOLOGY LICENSING, L.P.,	3 Y
Plaintiff, v.  BMG COLUMBIA HOUSE, INC., COSTCO WHOLESALE CORP., and KOHL'S CORP.,	CASE NO. 2:07cv 237  Jury Trial Demanded
Defendants.	

# PLAINTIFF RONALD A. KATZ TECHNOLOGY LICENSING, L.P.'S

# **COMPLAINT FOR PATENT INFRINGEMENT**

Plaintiff, Ronald A. Katz Technology Licensing, L.P. ("Katz Technology Licensing"), by counsel, alleges as follows:

# THE PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff Katz Technology Licensing is a limited partnership organized under the laws of the State of California, and having a principal place of business at 9220 Sunset Blvd. #315, Los Angeles, CA 90069.
- 2. On information and belief, Defendant BMG Columbia House, Inc. ("BMG Columbia House") is a New York entity maintaining its principal place of business at One Penn Plaza, 250 West 34<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10119.
- 3. On information and belief, Defendant Costco Wholesale Corp. ("Costco") is a Washington entity maintaining its principal place of business at 999 Lake Drive, Issaquah, WA 98027.

4. On information and belief, Defendant Kohl's Corp. ("Kohl's") is a Wisconsin entity maintaining its principal place of business at N56 W17000 Ridgewood Drive, Menomonee Falls, WI 53051.

## JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 5. This is a civil action for patent infringement arising under the United States patent statutes, 35 U.S.C. § 1 et seq.
- 6. This Court has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).
- 7. Upon information and belief, Defendant BMG Columbia House is subject to this Court's personal jurisdiction because it does and has done substantial business in this judicial district, including: (i) operating infringing automated telephone call processing systems, including without limitation the Columbia House customer service telephone system, that allow its customers, including customers within this State and in this District, to perform product ordering and customer service functions over the telephone; and/or (ii) regularly doing or soliciting business, engaging in other persistent courses of conduct, and/or deriving substantial revenue from services provided to individuals in this State and in this District.
- 8. Upon information and belief, Defendant Costco is subject to this Court's personal jurisdiction because it does and has done substantial business in this judicial district, including: (i) operating at least one Costco retail store and/or office in this District; (ii) operating infringing automated telephone call processing systems, including without limitation the Costco Wholesale pharmacy, Costco.com pharmacy, Costco Cash Card, Costco Wholesale customer service, Costco.com customer service, and Costco Rebate Hotline telephone systems, that allow its customers, including customers within this State and in this District, to perform pharmacy refill,

financial, and customer service functions over the telephone; and/or (iii) regularly doing or soliciting business, engaging in other persistent courses of conduct, and/or deriving substantial revenue from services provided to individuals in this State and in this District. In addition, Defendant Costco has designated an agent for service of process in the State of Texas.

- 9. Upon information and belief, Defendant Kohl's is subject to this Court's personal jurisdiction because it does and has done substantial business in this judicial district, including: (i) operating at least one Kohl's retail store and/or office in this District; (ii) operating infringing automated telephone call processing systems, including without limitation the Kohl's customer service and Kohl's Credit Center telephone systems, that allow its customers, including customers within this State and in this District, to perform financial and customer service functions over the telephone; and/or (iii) regularly doing or soliciting business, engaging in other persistent courses of conduct, and/or deriving substantial revenue from services provided to individuals in this State and in this District. In addition, Defendant Kohl's has designated an agent for service of process in the State of Texas.
- 10. Venue is proper in this judicial district under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)-(c) and 1400(b).

#### **BACKGROUND FACTS**

- 11. Ronald A. Katz ("Mr. Katz"), founder of Katz Technology Licensing, is the sole inventor of each of the patents in suit. Mr. Katz has been widely recognized as one of the most prolific and successful inventors of our time, and his inventions over the last forty-plus years have been utilized by literally millions of people.
- 12. In 1961, Mr. Katz co-founded Telecredit Inc. ("Telecredit"), the first company to provide online, real-time credit authorization, allowing merchants to verify checks over the

telephone. Further innovations from Telecredit include the first online, real-time, point-of-sale credit verification terminal, which enabled merchants to verify checks without requiring the assistance of a live operator, and the first device that used and updated magnetically-encoded cards in automated teller machines. Multiple patents issued from these innovations, including patents co-invented by Mr. Katz.

- 13. Telecredit was eventually acquired by Equifax, and has now been spun off as Certegy, a public company traded on the New York Stock Exchange. Certegy continues to provide services in the credit and check verification field established by Mr. Katz and Telecredit.
- 14. Mr. Katz's inventions have not been limited to telephonic check verification. Indeed, Mr. Katz is responsible for advancements in many fields of technology. Among his most prominent and well-known innovations are those in the field of interactive call processing. Mr. Katz's inventions in that field are directed to the integration of telephonic systems with computer databases and live operator call centers to provide interactive call processing services.
- 15. The first of Mr. Katz's interactive call processing patents issued on December 20, 1988. More than fifty U.S. patents have issued to Mr. Katz for his inventions in the interactive call processing field, including each of the patents-in-suit.
- 16. In 1988, Mr. Katz partnered with American Express to establish FDR Interactive Technologies, later renamed Call Interactive, to provide interactive call processing services based on Mr. Katz's inventions. The American Express business unit involved in this joint venture later became known as First Data.
- 17. Early clients of Call Interactive included *The New York Times*, ABC's *Monday Night Football*, KABC Radio, CBS News, and Beatrice Foods (Hunt-Wesson division).

- 18. Many of these clients utilized Call Interactive technology for high-profile events. For example, CBS News hired Call Interactive to operate an interactive, real-time telephone poll to gauge viewer reaction to President George H.W. Bush's 1992 State of the Union address.
- 19. Mr. Katz sold his interest in Call Interactive to American Express in 1989 but continued to provide advisory services to Call Interactive until 1992. American Express later spun off the First Data business unit into a separate corporation, and with that new entity went Mr. Katz's interactive call processing patents and the Call Interactive call processing business. The former Call Interactive, now known as First Data Voice Services, continues to provide call processing solutions today.
- 20. In 1994, Mr. Katz formed Katz Technology Licensing, which acquired the rights to the entire interactive call processing patent portfolio, including the rights to each of the patents-in-suit, from First Data, the owner of all of the Katz interactive call processing patents at that time.
- 21. The marketplace has clearly recognized the value of Mr. Katz's inventions. Indeed, over 150 companies have licensed the patents-in-suit. Licensees include IBM, Hewlett-Packard, Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, Wells Fargo, HSBC, Verizon, Sprint, Microsoft, Delta Airlines, Merck, Sears, and Home Shopping Network. These licenses and others acknowledge the applicability of the patents-in-suit to multiple fields of use, including but not limited to financial services call processing, automated securities transactions, automated credit card authorization services, automated wireless telecommunication services and support, automated health care services, and product and service support.
- 22. Each of the defendants employs the inventions of certain of the patents-in-suit. Katz Technology Licensing, through its licensing arm A2D, L.P., has attempted to engage each

defendant in licensing negotiations, but to date, none of the defendants have agreed to take a license to any of the patents-in-suit.

## THE PATENTS-IN-SUIT

- 23. On May 29, 1990, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 4,930,150 ("the '150 Patent"), entitled "Telephonic Interface Control System," to Ronald A. Katz, sole inventor. The '150 Patent expired on December 20, 2005.
- On December 17, 1991, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 5,073,929 ("the '929 Patent"), entitled "Voice-Data Telephonic Control System," to Ronald A. Katz, sole inventor. The '929 Patent expired on December 20, 2005.
- 25. On July 7, 1992, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 5,128,984 ("the '984 Patent"), entitled "Telephone Interface Call Processing System With Call Selectivity," to Ronald A. Katz, sole inventor.
- 26. On October 5, 1993, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 5,251,252 ("the '252 Patent"), entitled "Telephone Interface Call Processing System With Call Selectivity," to Ronald A. Katz, sole inventor.
- 27. On October 19, 1993, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 5,255,309 ("the '309 Patent"), entitled "Telephone-Interface Statistical Analysis System," to Ronald A. Katz, sole inventor. The '309 Patent expired on December 20, 2005.
- 28. On November 2, 1993, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 5,259,023 ("the '023 Patent"), entitled "Telephone-

Interface Statistical Analysis System," to Ronald A. Katz, sole inventor. The '023 Patent expired on December 20, 2005.

- 29. On September 27, 1994, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 5,351,285 ("the '285 Patent"), entitled "Multiple Format Telephonic Interface Control System," to Ronald A. Katz, sole inventor. The '285 Patent expired on December 20, 2005.
- 30. On October 1, 1996, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 5,561,707 ("the '707 Patent"), entitled "Telephonic-Interface Statistical Analysis System," to Ronald A. Katz, sole inventor. The '707 Patent expired on December 20, 2005.
- 31. On November 4, 1997, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 5,684,863 ("the '863 Patent"), entitled "Telephonic-Interface Statistical Analysis System," to Ronald A. Katz, sole inventor. The '863 Patent expired on December 20, 2005.
- 32. On July 28, 1998, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 5,787,156 ("the '156 Patent") entitled "Telephonic-Interface Lottery System," to Ronald A. Katz, sole inventor. The '156 Patent expired on December 20, 2005.
- 33. On September 29, 1998, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 5,815,551 ("the '551 Patent"), entitled "Telephonic-Interface Statistical Analysis System," to Ronald A. Katz, sole inventor. The '551 Patent expired on December 20, 2005.

- 34. On October 27, 1998, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 5,828,734 ("the '734 Patent"), entitled "Telephone Interface Call Processing System With Call Selectivity," to Ronald A. Katz, sole inventor.
- 35. On April 27, 1999, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 5,898,762 ("the '762 Patent"), entitled "Telephonic-Interface Statistical Analysis System," to Ronald A. Katz, sole inventor. The '762 Patent expired on December 20, 2005.
- 36. On June 29, 1999, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 5,917,893 ("the '893 Patent"), entitled "Multiple Format Telephonic Interface Control System," to Ronald A. Katz, sole inventor. The '893 Patent expired on December 20, 2005.
- 37. On October 26, 1999, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 5,974,120 ("the '120 Patent"), entitled "Telephone Interface Call Processing System With Call Selectivity," to Ronald A. Katz, sole inventor.
- 38. On March 7, 2000, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 6,035,021 ("the '021 Patent"), entitled "Telephonic-Interface Statistical Analysis System," to Ronald A. Katz, sole inventor. The '021 Patent expired on December 20, 2005.
- 39. On November 14, 2000, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 6,148,065 ("the '065 Patent"), entitled "Telephonic-Interface Statistical Analysis System," to Ronald A. Katz, sole inventor. The '065 Patent expired on July 10, 2005.

- 40. On January 1, 2002, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 6,335,965 ("the '965 Patent"), entitled "Voice-Data Telephonic Interface Control System," to Ronald A. Katz, sole inventor. The '965 Patent expired on December 20, 2005.
- 41. On August 13, 2002, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 6,434,223 ("the '223 Patent"), entitled "Telephone Interface Call Processing System With Call Selectivity," to Ronald A. Katz, sole inventor. The '223 Patent expired on July 10, 2005.
- 42. On May 27, 2003, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 6,570,967 ("the '967 Patent"), entitled "Voice-Data Telephonic Interface Control System," to Ronald A. Katz, sole inventor. The '967 Patent expired on July 10, 2005.
- 43. On January 13, 2004, the United States Patent and Trademark Office duly and legally issued United States Patent No. 6,678,360 ("the '360 Patent"), entitled "Telephonic-Interface Statistical Analysis System," to Ronald A. Katz, sole inventor. The '360 Patent expired on July 10, 2005.

# COUNT I (PATENT INFRINGEMENT BY BMG COLUMBIA HOUSE)

- 44. Katz Technology Licensing realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1-43 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 45. Katz Technology Licensing is the sole holder of the entire right, title, and interest in the '929, '984, '252, '309, '707, '863, '156, '551, '762, '965, '223, '967 and '360 Patents.
- 46. Upon information and belief, BMG Columbia House operates automated telephone systems, including without limitation the Columbia House customer service telephone

system, that allow its customers to perform product ordering and customer service functions over the telephone.

- 47. BMG Columbia House directly and contributorily infringed, and induced others to infringe, one or more claims of each of the patents identified in paragraph 45 of this Complaint by making, using, offering to sell, and/or selling within the United States automated telephone systems, including without limitation the Columbia House customer service telephone system, that allow its customers to perform product ordering and customer service functions over the telephone.
- 48. BMG Columbia House continues to infringe, contributorily infringe, and induce others to infringe the '984 and '252 Patents.
- 49. BMG Columbia House's infringement of the patents identified in paragraph 45 of this Complaint has been willful.
- 50. Katz Technology Licensing has been, and continues to be, damaged and irreparably harmed by BMG Columbia House's infringement, which will continue unless BMG Columbia House is enjoined by this Court.

# COUNT II (PATENT INFRINGEMENT BY COSTCO)

- 51. Katz Technology Licensing realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1-43 of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 52. Katz Technology Licensing is the sole holder of the entire right, title, and interest in the '252, '023, '707, '863, '734, '120, '021 and '360 Patents.
- 53. Upon information and belief, Costco operates automated telephone systems, including without limitation the Costco Wholesale pharmacy, Costco.com pharmacy, Costco Cash Card, Costco Wholesale customer service, Costco.com customer service, and Costco

Rebate Hotline telephone systems, that allow its customers to perform pharmacy refill, financial, and customer service functions over the telephone.

- 54. Costco has directly and contributorily infringed, and induced others to infringe, one or more claims of each of the patents identified in paragraph 52 of this Complaint by making, using, offering to sell, and/or selling within the United States automated telephone systems, including without limitation the Costco Wholesale pharmacy, Costco.com pharmacy, Costco Cash Card, Costco Wholesale customer service, Costco.com customer service, and Costco Rebate Hotline telephone systems, that allow its customers to perform pharmacy refill, financial, and customer service functions over the telephone.
- 55. Costco continues to infringe, contributorily infringe, and induce others to infringe the '252, '734 and '120 Patents.
- 56. Costco's infringement of the patents identified in paragraph 52 of this Complaint has been willful.
- 57. Katz Technology Licensing has been, and continues to be, damaged and irreparably harmed by Costco's infringement, which will continue unless Costco is enjoined by this Court.

# COUNT III (PATENT INFRINGEMENT BY KOHL'S)

- 58. Katz Technology Licensing realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1-43 as if fully set forth herein.
- 59. Katz Technology Licensing is the sole holder of the entire right, title, and interest in the '150, '309, '285, '863, '551, '734, '893, '120, '065, '965, '223 and '360 Patents.
- 60. Upon information and belief, Kohl's has operated automated telephone systems, including without limitation the Kohl's customer service and Kohl's Credit Center telephone

systems, that allow its customers to perform financial and customer service functions over the telephone.

- 61. Kohl's has directly and contributorily infringed, and induced others to infringe, one or more claims of each of the patents identified in paragraph 59 of this Complaint by making, using, offering to sell, and/or selling within the United States automated telephone systems, including without limitation the Kohl's customer service and Kohl's Credit Center telephone systems, that allow its customers to perform financial and customer service functions over the telephone.
- 62. Kohl's infringement of the patents identified in paragraph 59 of this Complaint has been willful.
- 63. Katz Technology Licensing has been damaged and irreparably harmed by Kohl's infringement.

## REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Katz Technology Licensing respectfully requests the following relief:

- A. A judgment holding BMG Columbia House liable for infringement of the patents identified in paragraph 45 of this Complaint;
- B. A permanent injunction against BMG Columbia House, its officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, parent and subsidiary corporations, assigns and successors in interest, and those persons in active concert or participation with them, enjoining them from continued acts of infringement of the '984 and '252 Patents;

- C. An accounting for damages resulting from BMG Columbia House's infringement of the patents identified in paragraph 45 of this Complaint, together with pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;
- D. A judgment holding that BMG Columbia House's infringement of the patents identified in paragraph 45 of this Complaint is willful, and a trebling of damages pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284;
- E. A judgment holding Costco liable for infringement of the patents identified in paragraph 52 of this Complaint;
- F. A permanent injunction against Costco, its officers, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, parent and subsidiary corporations, assigns and successors in interest, and those persons in active concert or participation with them, enjoining them from continued acts of infringement of the '252, '734 and '120 Patents;
- G. An accounting for damages resulting from Costco's infringement of the patents identified in paragraph 52 of this Complaint, together with pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;
- H. A judgment holding that Costco's infringement of the patents identified in paragraph 52 of this Complaint is willful, and a trebling of damages pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284;
- I. A judgment holding Kohl's liable for infringement of the patents identified in paragraph 59 of this Complaint;
- J. An accounting for damages resulting from Kohl's infringement of the patents identified in paragraph 59 of this Complaint, together with pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;

- K. A judgment holding that Kohl's infringement of the patents identified in paragraph 59 of this Complaint is willful, and a trebling of damages pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 284;
- L. A judgment holding this Action an exceptional case, and an award to Plaintiff
  Katz Technology Licensing for its attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 285; and
  - M. Such other relief as the Court deems just and equitable.

Dated: June 8, 2007

Respectfully submitted

By:

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#### **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 38, Plaintiff Ronald A. Katz Technology

Licensing, L.P. hereby demands trial by jury.

Dated: June 8, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorneys for Plaintiff

Ronald A. Katz Technology Licensing, L.P.

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