# FINNEGAN

Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner, LLP

## SEARCH ORDERS AND EFFECTIVE CO-OPERATION WITH STATE AUTHORITIES

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#### **Search and Seizure Orders**

Available only for counterfeit goods

- pre-judgment
- without notice (ex parte)
- Authority
  - Lanham Act Section 35, 15 U.S.C. § 1116(d)(1)(A)
- Not available in standard infringement cases

#### **Growth in Counterfeiting**

- 10,000 percent growth in counterfeiting over the past two decades
  - Globalization
  - Advanced Technology
  - Internet

#### **Traditional Model of Counterfeiting**







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#### **Traditional Model of Counterfeiting**

Manufacturer Manufacturer Manufacturer Importer / Distributor Retailer Retailer Retailer Retailer Consumer Consumer Consumer Consumer Consumer Consumer Consumer Consumer Consumer

#### Seizure Remedy in U.S. (Physical Assets)

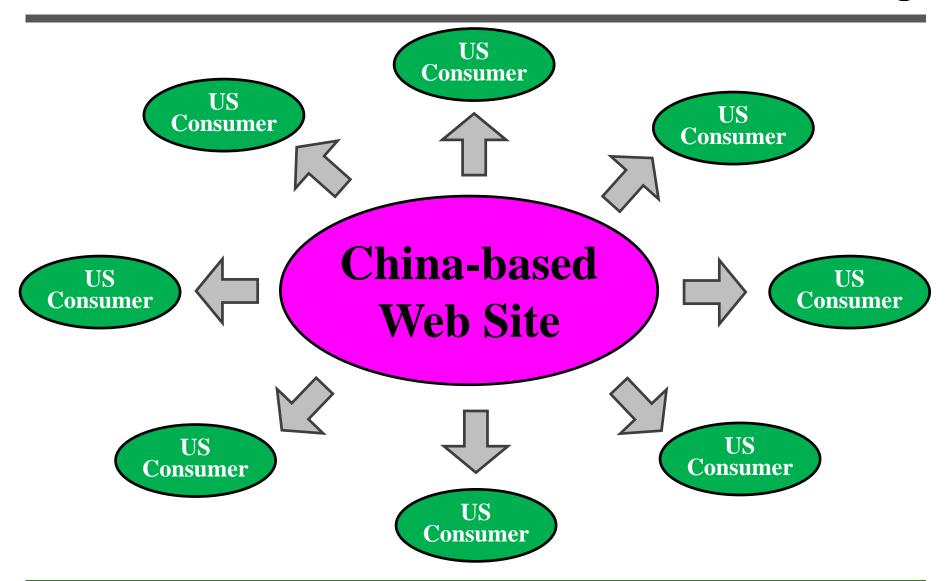
- Seizure of goods bearing counterfeit marks
- Seizure of "means of making" such counterfeit marks
- Seizure of "records documenting the manufacture, sale, or receipt of things involved in such violation," Lanham Act § 34(d), 15 U.S.C. § 1116(d)
- Seizure mechanics
  - Notice to U.S. Attorney in specific judicial district
  - U.S. Marshal or other law enforcement officer present

#### **Current Model of Counterfeiting**





#### **E-Commerce Model of Counterfeiting**



#### Shipping Labels Do Not Reveal Identity of Seller

Тоштова адміністрація УКРАЇНА	/вага! Цив. інструкції іворотному бо	or instructions au verso  arai  a. incrpyiqui на opornomy bou	
Cadeau   Convince   Co			
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parts of miniatures, GIFT, not for sale	0,29	204	
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	10 70	1200	

Forge Discount
Level 18
40 Bank Street (HQ3)
Canary Wharf London E14 5NR
T +44 20 3059 7800

 Virtual offices and shell companies are the norm

### Low Risk, High Returns Make it the Perfect Crime

Easy to put up rogue websites and ship goods

 Easy to keep inventory and assets outside United States

Easy to remain anonymous

Difficulty of enforcement and monetary recovery

#### **Pursuing Enforcement Actions**

- Civil actions
  - Seizure of physical assets vs. financial assets
- Criminal Enforcement
- Customs

- Evaluate harm and prioritize enforcement
- Investigate

#### **Enforcement through Customs**

- Record marks with Customs agents in the suspected counterfeiting jurisdictions, e.g., both import and export jurisdictions
- Benefit: Seizure of counterfeit (and in some jurisdictions, gray market) goods
- Keep recordations current and renew them prior to expiration
- Provide manuals and training to Customs' personnel

#### **Civil Actions: Selecting the Defendant**

- Individual counterfeiters
  - Identity of seller not needed
- Intermediaries/facilitators
  - Contributory liability
  - Online marketplaces (eBay, Amazon.com, sell.com, Alibaba, Taobao)
  - Payment processors
- Source of the problem
  - In many instances, organized crime/terrorist groups
  - Generally requires the use of ex parte seizures, asset restraints, and close coordination with law enforcement officials in several countries

#### Asset Freeze Remedy for Counterfeiting in U.S.

- Restraint of Assets (i.e., bank accounts)
  - A district court is empowered to freeze funds pursuant to a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction where the plaintiff has an equitable claim in the funds
  - Lanham Act authorizes the award of an accounting of a counterfeiter's profits
  - Courts have inherent authority to issue an order restraining a defendant's assets to preserve plaintiff's rights to an equitable accounting
  - Once assets are frozen, burden shifts to defendant to demonstrate how much of the frozen assets are not the proceeds of counterfeiting activities

#### Damages in U.S.

- Actual damages or defendant's profits trebled and attorney's fees (absent extenuating circumstances)
- Under 15 U.S.C. § 1117(c) (as amended), instead of actual damages, Plaintiff can elect to instead recover statutory damages of:
  - up to \$200,000 per counterfeit mark per type of goods/services sold, or
  - up to \$2,000,000 per if willful
- No attorney's fees if statutory damages elected
  - K&N Eng'g, Inc. v. Bulat, 259 Fed. Appx. 994 (9th Cir. 2007)