•	Case 2:10-cv-04489-PSG -RC Docum	ent 1 Filed 06/17/10	Page 1 of 10	
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1	BUCHALTER NEMER A Professional Corporation			
2	RICHARD P. ORMOND (SBN: 207442) JESSIE K. REIDER (SBN: 237113)			
4	JESSIE K. REIDER (SBN: 237113)         1000 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1500         Los Angeles, CA 90017-2457         Telephone: (213) 891-0700         Facsimile: (213) 896-0400			
5	Email: rormond@buchalter.com			
6				FILED
7	$\frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}$			
8	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT			
9	CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA			
10				(00)
11	DZ HART LTD. LIABILITY CO., a California limited liability	Const Q. 44	89 PSG	(RCx)
12	company,	DZ HART LTD. COMPLAINT F	LIABILITY C	0.'S
13	Plaintiff,	DECLARATOR	OR Y JUDGMENI	
14	vs.			
15	B.K. Taylor,			
16	Defendant.			
17				
18	Plaintiff DZ Hart Ltd. Liability Co. ("Plaintiff") alleges as follows:			
19	JURISDICTION AND VENUE			
20	1. This Court has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1338, 2201 and			
21	2202. This is an action for declaratory judgment arising under the Copyright Act,			
22	17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.			
23	2. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendant B.K. Taylor			
24	("Defendant") because Defendant, on information and belief, conducts business in			
25	the State of California and within this district, including the negotiation and/or			
26	execution of several agreements with F	Plaintiff.		
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3. Venue is proper in this court under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b) because a
 substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to this action and Defendant's
 allegations of infringement occurred in this judicial district.

4 4. An actual case or controversy has arisen between the parties.
 5 Defendant has threatened litigation against Plaintiff, and has asserted that Plaintiff
 6 does not have ownership rights to certain intellectual property. These statements
 7 threaten injury to Plaintiff.

## THE PARTIES

9 5. Plaintiff is a California limited liability company with a principal place
10 of business in Calabasas, California.

6. Plaintiff is informed and believes and thereupon alleges that Defendant
 resides in the state of Michigan, and conducts significant business in the state of
 California.

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# **FACTS**

7. Plaintiff is the owner of certain intellectual property, including the
 ODD RODS trademark and rights to certain works of visual art, including artwork
 based on the Odd Rods characters ("Plaintiff IP").

In or about October 26, 2006, Plaintiff and Defendant entered into a
 consulting agreement, whereby it was contemplated that the Defendant would
 design artwork for Plaintiff ("Consulting Agreement"). No products were ever
 created as a result of the Consulting Agreement and it was terminated by mutual
 agreement on or about January 15, 2009.

9. Since as early as March 2010, Plaintiff and its related entities have
been negotiating with a third party to commercialize animated online
advertisements based on the Plaintiff IP ("Project").

26 10. The artwork for the Project has not yet been finalized by Plaintiff or its
27 third party partners.

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1 11. Defendant alleges that it created and owns all of the Odd Rods
 2 collection, a term which the Defendant does not define ("Disputed IP").

12. 3 On or about June 11, 2010, Defendant, through his attorney, contacted one of Plaintiff's partners by e-mail. In that communication, Defendant advised of 4 his belief that he owned the Disputed IP and that Plaintiff intended on using or 5 incorporated the Disputed IP into the Project. Defendant further represented to 6 7 Plaintiff's partner that he had a previous cooperation agreement with the Plaintiff 8 that related to the work to be included in the Project. Defendant fails to acknowledge however that this purported agreement was never executed by the 9 10 Parties. Finally, Defendant contends that Plaintiff did not inform its partners of 11 Defendant's ownership of the Disputed IP and that Plaintiff's partner should 12 contact Defendant before the issue became a matter of litigation.

13 13. Upon receipt of this email, Plaintiff's business partners contacted
14 Plaintiff questioning whether Plaintiff had rights to Plaintiff IP, and whether the
15 Project should move forward.

- 16 14. On or about June 14, 2010, Defendant sent Plaintiff's partner an 17 unexecuted discussion draft of a proposed cooperation agreement as between Plaintiff and Defendant that, if executed, would have governed the use of the 18 19 Plaintiff's IP and the Disputed IP. This agreement was never executed by the 20 Parties. Defendant also sent Plaintiff's partner a copy of a termination letter whereby the Consulting Agreement was terminated. Defendant's representations 21 22 gave the false implication that the proposed cooperation agreement was in fact 23 executed and controlled the relationship between the Plaintiff and the Defendant.
- 24 15. Plaintiff denies that Defendant has, or ever had, exclusive rights to the25 Disputed IP.

16. To the extent Defendant ever had rights in the Disputed IP, said rights
have lapsed due to abandonment and/or termination of all such rights. Upon
information and belief, the original Odd Rods collection, to the extent not created

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## Case 2:10-cv-04489-PSG -RC Document 1 Filed 06/17/10 Page 4 of 10

1	by the Plaintiff, is in the public domain. Further, to the extent Defendant does have		
2	any rights in and to the Disputed IP, the Plaintiff IP does not infringe the Disputed		
3	IP.		
4	17. Plaintiff has never acknowledged Defendant's claimed rights in the		
5	Disputed IP.		
6	18. Plaintiff denies that Plaintiff and Defendant ever entered into an		
7	agreement related to the Project or which acknowledges Defendant's rights in the		
8	Disputed IP.		
9	19. Plaintiff denies that Defendant has any rights that can be enforced		
10	against Plaintiff, the Project, or Plaintiff IP.		
11	FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF		
12	Declaratory Judgment That Defendant Does Not Have		
13	Exclusive Rights to Disputed IP		
14	20. Plaintiff repeats the averments in paragraphs 1 through 19, inclusive,		
15	as though fully set forth herein.		
16	21. An actual controversy now exists between the parties as to whether the		
17	Defendant has exclusive rights to the Disputed IP.		
18	22. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to a declaratory		
19	judgment against Defendant that Defendant does not have exclusive rights to the		
20	Disputed IP.		
21	SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF		
22	Declaratory Judgment That Defendant Can Not		
23	Enforce Disputed IP Against Plaintiff		
24	23. Plaintiff repeats the averments in paragraphs 1 through 19, inclusive,		
25	as though fully set forth herein. 24. An actual controversy now exists between the parties as to whether the		
26			
27	Defendant can enforce the Disputed IP against the Plaintiff.		
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1	25. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to a declaratory		
2	judgment against Defendant that Defendant can not enforce the Disputed IP against		
3	Plaintiff or any of Plaintiff's related entities or business partners.		
4	THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF		
5	Declaratory Judgment For Defendant's Non-Interference		
6	26. Plaintiff repeats the averments in paragraphs 1 through 19, inclusive,		
7	as though fully set forth herein.		
8	27. An actual controversy now exists between the parties as to whether the		
9	Defendant is entitled to interfere with or have any involvement with the Plaintiff,		
10	the Project or the Plaintiff's IP.		
11	28. By reason of the foregoing, Plaintiff is entitled to a declaratory		
12	judgment against Defendant that Plaintiff and its related entities and business		
13	partner can proceed to commercialize the Plaintiff IP, and future versions,		
14	derivations and creations based on or incorporating the Plaintiff IP, without further		
15	interference from Defendant or Defendant's agents or representatives.		
16	PRAYER FOR RELIEF		
17	WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that the Court enter judgment in its favor as		
18	follows:		
19	On the First Claim for Relief,		
20	29. A declaration that Defendant does not have exclusive rights to the		
21	Disputed IP;		
22	30. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper;		
23	On the Second Claim for Relief,		
24	31. A declaration that Defendant can not enforce the Disputed IP against		
25			
26	Plaintiff or any of Plaintiff's related entities or business partners;		
27	32. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper;		
28	On the Third Claim for Relief,		
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1	33.	A declaration that Plaintiff and its related antition of the		
		A declaration that Plaintiff and its related entities and business partners		
2	can proceed to commercialize the Plaintiff IP, and future versions, derivations and			
3		creations based on or incorporating the Plaintiff IP, without further interference		
4	from Defendant or Defendant's agents or representatives;			
5	34. \$	Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper;		
6		On All Claims for Relief,		
7	35. I	For costs of suit; and		
8	36. I	For such other and further relief as the Court may deem proper.		
9	Respectfully	submitted,		
10	DATED: Jun	e 16, 2010		
11				
12		By: RICHARD P. ORMOND		
13		JESSIE K. REIDER Attorneys for Plaintiff		
14		DZ HART LTD. LIABILITY CO., a California limited liability company		
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# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

#### NOTICE OF ASSIGNMENT TO UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR DISCOVERY

This case has been assigned to District Judge Philip S. Gutierrez and the assigned discovery Magistrate Judge is Rosalyn M. Chapman.

The case number on all documents filed with the Court should read as follows:

### CV10- 4489 PSG (RCx)

Pursuant to General Order 05-07 of the United States District Court for the Central District of California, the Magistrate Judge has been designated to hear discovery related motions.

All discovery related motions should be noticed on the calendar of the Magistrate Judge

#### NOTICE TO COUNSEL

A copy of this notice must be served with the summons and complaint on all defendants (if a removal action is filed, a copy of this notice must be served on all plaintiffs).

Subsequent documents must be filed at the following location:

[X] Western Division 312 N. Spring St., Rm. G-8 Los Angeles, CA 90012 Southern Division 411 West Fourth St., Rm. 1-053 Santa Ana, CA 92701-4516 Eastern Division 3470 Twelfth St., Rm. 134 Riverside, CA 92501

Failure to file at the proper location will result in your documents being returned to you.

Case 2:10-cv-04489-PSG -RC Docum RICHARD P. ORMOND SBN: 07442 BUCHALTER NEMER A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION 1000 WILSHIRE BLVD., SUITE 1500 LOS ANGELES, CA 90017 TEL.: 213.891.0700 FAX: e: 213.896.0400 Email: rormond@buchalter.com	nent 1 Filed 06/17/10 Page 8 of 10
UNITED STATES I CENTRAL DISTRIC	
DZ HART LTD. LIABILITY CO., a California limited liability company PLAINTIFF(S) V.	CASE NUMBER <b>CV10</b> 4489 <b>PSG (RCX)</b>
B. K. TAYLOR DEFENDANT(S).	SUMMONS

### TO:DEFENDANT(S): B.K. TAYLOR

A lawsuit has been filed against you.

Within 21 days after service of this summons on you (not counting the day you received it), you must serve on the plaintiff an answer to the attached complaint amended complaint amended complaint counterclaim cross-claim or a motion under Rule 12 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The answer or motion must be served on the plaintiff's attorney, <u>RICHARD P. ORMOND</u>, whose address is <u>1000</u> <u>WILSHIRE BLVD., SUITE 1500, LOS ANGELES, CA 90017</u>. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be entered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You also must file your answer or motion with the court.

Clerk, U.S. District Court

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ JUN 1 7 2010

**CHRISTOPHER POWERS** By:

Deputy Clerk

(Seal of the Court)

ORIGINAL

[Use 60 days if the defendant is the United States or a United States agency, or is an officer or employee of the United States. Allowed 60 days by Rule 12(a)(3)].

Case Nited States District C	COURT, CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		
I (a) PLAINTIFFS (Check box if you are representing yourself ) DZ HART LTD. LIABILITY CO., a California limited companyh	DEFENDANTS		
<ul> <li>(b) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address and Telephone Number. If you are rep yourself, provide same.)</li> <li>RICHARD P. ORMOND</li> <li>BUCHALTER NEMER</li> <li>1000 WILSHIRE BLVD., STE. 1500</li> <li>LOS ANGELES, CA 90017</li> <li>TEL: 213.891.0700</li> </ul>	presenting Attorneys (If Known)		
II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an X in one box only.)	I. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES - For Diversity Cases Only (Place an X in one box for plaintiff and one for defendant.)		
	itizen of This State PTF DEF PTF DEF PTF DEF DEF DEF DEF DEF DEF DEF		
2 U.S. Government Defendant 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	tizen of Another State 2 2 2 Incorporated and Principal Place 5 5 5 of Business in Another State		
	tizen or Subject of a Foreign Country 3 3 5 Foreign Nation 6 6		
IV. ORIGIN (Place an X in one box only.)         I Original       2 Removed from       3 Remanded from       4 Reinstated or       5 Transferred from another district (specify):       6 Multi-       7 Appeal to District         Proceeding       State Court       Appellate Court       Reopened       5 Transferred from another district (specify):       6 Multi-       1 Appeal to District			
V. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: JURY DEMAND: 🗌 Yes 🖄 No (C	Litigation Magistrate Judge		
CLASS ACTION under F.R.C.P. 23: Yes X No	MONEY DEMANDED IN COMPLAINT: \$ 0.00		
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION (Cite the U. S. Civil Statute under which you are f 17 USC § 101, ET SEQ. COPYRIGHT CLAIM VII. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an X in one box only.)	filing and write a brief statement of cause. Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity.)		
400 State Reapportionment       110 Insurance       PERSON         410 Antitrust       120 Marine       310 Air         430 Banks and Banking       130 Miller Act       315 Air         450 Commerce/ICC       140 Negotiable Instrument       1320 Ass         460 Deportation       0verpayment &       320 Ass         460 Deportation       150 Recovery of       320 Ass         470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt       0verpayment &       Sla         0rganizations       151 Medicare Act       340 Ma         480 Consumer Credit       152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loan (Excl. Veterans)       355 Mo         810 Selective Service       153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits       360 Other         875 Customer Challenge 12       153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits       360 Other         890 Other Statutory Actions       195 Contract Product       362 Per         891 Agricultural Act       195 Contract Product       368 Ast         893 Environmental Matters       210 Land Condemnation       1rju         894 Energy Allocation Act       210 Cand Condemnation       1rju         900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice       230 Rent Lease & Ejectment Access to Justice       240 Torts to Land         950 Constitutionality of State       290 All	irplane Product       370 Other Fraud       Sentence Habeas       720 Labor/Mgmt.         iability       371 Truth in Lending       Corpus       Relations         issault, Libel &       380 Other Personal       530 General       730 Labor/Mgmt.         ander       Property Damage       535 Death Penalty       Reporting &         d. Employers'       385 Property Damage       540 Mandamus/       Disclosure Act         ability       Product Liability       Other       740 Railway Labor Act		
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY: Case Number:	UYIU 4489 1		

AFTER COMPLETING THE FRONT SIDE OF FORM CV-71, COMPLETE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW.

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e ye'	f Cubit	ALLEDSIAL		OVER SHEET		
				dismissed, remanded or closed? 🛛 No 🗍 Yes		
VIII(b). RI	If yes, list case number(s):					
Civil cases			se and the present case:			
(Check all t	□ B. □ C.	Call for determinat For other reasons v	would entail substantial duplica	ns, happenings, or events; or y related or similar questions of law and fact; or tion of labor if heard by different judges; or <u>and</u> one of the factors identified above in a, b or c also is present.		
IX. VENUI	E: (When completing the	following informat	tion, use an additional sheet if r	necessary.)		
(a) List th	e County in this District; here if the government, i	California County ts agencies or empl	outside of this District; State if loyees is a named plaintiff. If th	other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named plaintiff resides.		
County in	this District:*	······		California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country		
LOS AN	GELES COUNTY					
(b) List th	e County in this District; here if the government, i	California County ts agencies or empl	outside of this District; State if loyees is a named defendant. If	other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH named defendant resides. this box is checked, go to item (c).		
County in	this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country		
				OAKLAND COUNTY		
(c) List the Note:	e County in this District; In land condemnation c	California County o ases, use the locati	outside of this District; State if ion of the tract of land involve	other than California; or Foreign Country, in which EACH claim arose. ed.		
County in	this District:*			California County outside of this District; State, if other than California; or Foreign Country		
	Los 1	Ange les	Į.			
* Los Ange Note: In Ian	les, Orange, San Bernar	dino, Riverside, V	enfura, Santa Barbara, or Sa e track of land involved	an Luis Obispo Counties		
X. SIGNAT	URE OF ATTORNEY ((	OR PRO PER):	KIChard K.	Date JUNE 17, 2010		
or ourc.	i papers as required by lav	$\sim$ mus rom, appro-	CHARD P. ORMOND vil Cover Sheet and the informa ved by the Judicial Conference of	0. K per A Hy to Sight, ation contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings of the United States in September 1974, is required pursuant to Local Rule 3 -1 is not filed ing the civil docket sheet. (For more detailed instructions, see separate instructions sheet.)		
	stical codes relating to So					
	Nature of Suit Code	Abbreviation	Substantive Statement of C	Cause of Action		
	861	ΗΙΑ	All claims for health insuran Also, include claims by hosp program. (42 U.S.C. 1935FF	the benefits (Medicare) under Title 18, Part A, of the Social Security Act, as amended. pitals, skilled nursing facilities, etc., for certification as providers of services under the F(b))		
	862	BL	All claims for "Black Lung" (30 U.S.C. 923)	benefits under Title 4, Part B, of the Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety Act of 1969.		
	863	DIWC	All claims filed by insured w amended; plus all claims file	vorkers for disability insurance benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as d for child's insurance benefits based on disability. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))		
	863	DIWW	All claims filed for widows or widowers insurance benefits based on disability under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. 405(g))			
	864	SSID	All claims for supplemental security income payments based upon disability filed under Title 16 of the Social Security Act, as amended.			
	865	RSI	All claims for retirement (old age) and survivors benefits under Title 2 of the Social Security Act, as amended. (42 U.S.C. (g))			