ĺ	Case 2:19-cv-07818 Document 1 Filed (09/10/19 Page 1 of 19 Page ID #:1	
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5 6 7 8 9 10	William C. Rava (pro hac vice forthcorn Christian W. Marcelo (pro hac vice forthcoming) WRava@perkinscoie.com CMarcelo@perkinscoie.com PERKINS COIE LLP 1201 Third Avenue, Suite 4900 Seattle, WA 98101 Telephone: 206.359.8000 Facsimile: 206.359.9000	ming)	
11 12	Attorneys for Plaintiff Nintendo of America Inc.		
13	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT		
1415	CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA		
16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	NINTENDO OF AMERICA INC., a Washington corporation Plaintiff, v. MATTHEW STORMAN, an individual, JOHN DOES 1-10, individuals and/or corporations, Defendant.	Case No. 2:19-CV-07818 COMPLAINT FOR: 1) COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT, 17 U.S.C. 501; 2) FEDERAL TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT AND UNFAIR COMPETITION, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1114, 1125(a); 3) UNFAIR COMPETITION, CAL. BUS. & PROF. CODE § 17200 DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL	
		COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL	

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For its complaint, plaintiff Nintendo of America Inc. ("NOA") alleges as follows:

I. NATURE OF ACTION

1. Defendant Matthew Storman and persons of unknown identity ("Defendants") own and operate the website www.romuniverse.com (the "Website") built largely on brazen and mass scale infringement of Nintendo's intellectual property rights. The Website is among the most visited and notorious online hubs for pirated Nintendo video games. Through the Website, Defendants reproduce, distribute, monetize, and offer for download thousands of unauthorized copies of Nintendo's video games. This includes games for nearly every video game system Nintendo has ever produced including hundreds of games for its recently released Nintendo Switch. According to the Website, as of the date of filing this Complaint, hundreds of thousands of copies of Nintendo games have been illegally downloaded through the Website including nearly 300,000 downloads of copies of pirated Nintendo Switch games and more than 500,000 copies of pirated Nintendo 3DS games.

II. PARTIES

2. NOA is a Washington corporation with its headquarters and principal place of business in Redmond, Washington. NOA is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Nintendo Co., Ltd. ("NCL") (collectively with NOA, "Nintendo"), a Japanese company with its headquarters and principal place of business in Kyoto, Japan. Nintendo is in the business of developing and distributing electronic video game systems, video games, accessories, and other copyrighted works. NOA is responsible for the marketing and sale of Nintendo products in the United States and elsewhere in the Western Hemisphere. NOA is also responsible for enforcing Nintendo's intellectual property rights in the Western Hemisphere.

- 3. On information and belief, defendant Matthew Storman is a natural person who resides in this District. Defendant Storman owns or controls the Website.
- 4. John Does 1-10 are individuals or corporations working in active concert and participation with defendant Storman to operate, control, and/or profit from the Website.
- 5. Defendants store, categorize, and reproduce unauthorized copies of Nintendo video games and related copyrighted works and distribute those copies. For example, infringing Nintendo Switch game files can be easily searched, located, and downloaded from the Website. In reproducing and distributing these copies, Defendants make extensive use of Nintendo's copyrights and trademarks for their own profit.
- 6. Upon information and belief, each of the Defendants was, at all times mentioned in this Complaint, acting as the agent, employee, or alter ego of every other defendant, and in doing the things mentioned herein, was acting within the course and scope of such agency, employment, or other relationship and with full knowledge and consent of each of the other Defendants.

III. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 7. This Court has federal question jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338, because this action alleges violations of the Lanham Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 1114 and 1125(a)) and the Copyright Act (15 U.S.C. § 501, *et seq.*).
- 8. This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over the remaining claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367.
- 9. This Court has personal jurisdiction over defendant Storman, who resides in the Central District of California. NOA does not currently know the identity or location of the Doe defendants.
- 10. Venue is appropriate pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b) and 1400(a), because defendant Storman resides in the federal judicial district of the Central

District of California and a substantial part of the infringing acts occurred in this District.

IV. FACTS AND BACKGROUND

A. Nintendo, Its Business, and Its Intellectual Property Rights

- 11. "Nintendo" is a famous brand throughout the United States and the world, known by consumers of all ages for its fun and innovative video games, video game systems, and its beloved video game characters.
- 12. Nintendo develops, manufactures, markets, and distributes electronic video game hardware, software, and related accessories. Nintendo has released a variety of video game systems, such as the Nintendo Entertainment System, released in 1985. Nintendo has since released additional video game systems including the Super Nintendo Entertainment System in 1991, Nintendo 64 in 1996, Nintendo GameCube in 2001, Nintendo DS in 2004, Wii in 2006, Nintendo DSi in 2008, Nintendo 3DS in 2011, and Nintendo Switch in 2017. To this day, Nintendo continues to make games for each of these systems available to the public.
- 13. Nintendo is widely recognized as one of the best-selling video game system developers in the world, and also one of the most recognized international companies in the world. Nintendo products—including its video game systems and games—have achieved worldwide renown and have made the Nintendo brand famous throughout the world.
- 14. Nintendo built its popularity and market achievements through substantial creative and financial investment in the development of new video games, products, and intellectual property, as well as in marketing. Nintendo garnered tremendous consumer awareness and goodwill through its commitment to developing and delivering innovative, fun, and memorable video game systems and games. Nintendo's video game systems and games are enjoyed by tens of millions of consumers in the United States and abroad.

- 15. The Nintendo 3DS and Nintendo Switch are two of Nintendo's most popular video game systems, and the games for these systems have also been immensely popular. Nintendo has sold more than 100 million units of these two systems and hundreds of millions of games for the two systems.
- 16. Nintendo has made substantial investments in the development, marketing, and promotion of its innovative products and services. Nintendo has acquired intellectual property and authorizes licensees who create and publish many popular video games specifically and exclusively for play on Nintendo's video game systems. Nintendo video games can take years and millions of dollars to develop.
- 17. NOA holds registered copyrights and registered trademarks for various Nintendo video games, video game systems, video game characters, and related word and design marks, including without limitation those listed in Exhibit A (copyrights) and Exhibit B (trademarks).

B. Online Piracy and Nintendo's Efforts to Protect Its Intellectual Property Rights

- 18. The popularity of Nintendo's video games and video game systems has made Nintendo the target of intellectual property pirates, who benefit from Nintendo's investments and innovation by making and distributing unauthorized copies of Nintendo video games.
- 19. In the world of video game piracy, unauthorized copies of video games often take the form of copies of the read-only memory files or read-only memory images of Nintendo's games, commonly referred to as "ROMs." The name refers to the process of copying the software that constitutes a video game from the read-only memory found in a game cartridge or disk. These unauthorized copies—"ROMs"—can be played on computers, phones, and other devices through the use of an "emulator," a piece of software designed to mimic the functionality of the physical video game system like the Nintendo 3DS or Nintendo Switch. ROMs can

also be played on Nintendo's hardware using hacking techniques.

- 20. Illegal copying of video game software is an international problem. Nintendo has taken many steps to halt the illegal copying, marketing, sale, and distribution of Nintendo video games designed to be played on Nintendo video game systems. For example, Nintendo employs technological protection measures and digital rights management tools to prevent piracy and supports law enforcement authorities who target internet piracy around the world.
- 21. Nintendo's efforts have included registration of the intellectual property rights in and to its video game systems and software in the United States and around the world. In addition, Nintendo protects and enforces its rights through legal actions brought around the world to stop individuals and companies from trafficking in pirated copies of its video games.

C. Defendants' Infringing Activities

- 22. In or around 2009, defendant Storman sent an email to the members of the Website noting that he would be adding new content including ROMs for various Nintendo video game systems. In this same e-mail, defendant Storman advertised that Website users could purchase Premium Memberships for \$30 per year to get access to unlimited downloads and download speeds with no advertisements.
- 23. In 2018, around the time that Nintendo successfully enforced its intellectual property rights against other infringing ROM websites, defendant Storman bragged that his Website would continue to offer Nintendo ROMs. After the removal of the other infringing ROM websites, internet traffic to the Website increased.
- 24. Defendants own and operate the Website which offers downloads of thousands of illegal copies of Nintendo video games, profiting from their blatant and willful infringement of Nintendo's intellectual property.

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25. The Website has attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors a month, reaching nearly 400,000 visitors a month in March 2019, with over 20% of those visitors residing in the United States and a significant portion of Website traffic generated by Nintendo Switch and 3DS piracy-related keywords.

- 26. Defendants have acted and are acting with the purpose of causing injury to Nintendo or with the substantial certainty that such injury would result.
- 27. The homepage of the Website claims to be "the best romsite in the universe" and offers a search bar allowing users to search for specific ROMs to download.

the best on site in the universe.

What are you looking for?

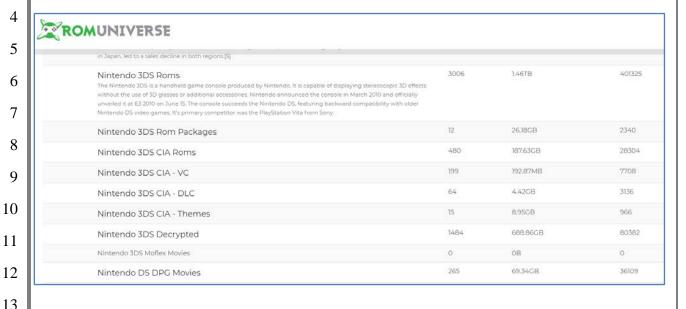
Welcome to RomUniverse

60000 Roms Movies eBooks 375000 Members.
Chat & Forum Free Downloads High Speed Download Upgrade Available

28. The Website contains and offers to the public an immense library of unauthorized copies of video games, primarily Nintendo video games designed for nearly every video game system Nintendo has ever produced. This includes, for instance, the list of copyrighted games provided in Exhibit A.

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29. Visitors to the Website can use the search bar to locate pirated games, or browse through a catalog of pirated games organized by the system for which the games were originally developed:



30. Once visitors to the Website select a particular video game system (such as the Nintendo Switch), they are taken to a dedicated page for that system which lists all of the pirated games offered by Defendants for download for that system.

19 20 Switch Roms The Nintendo Switch is a video game console developed by Nintendo and was released on March 3, 2017. It is a hybrid console that can be used as both a stationary and portable device. Its wireless Joy-Con controllers, which include standard buttons and directional analog sticks for user input, motion sensing, and high-definition tactile feedback, can attach to both sides of the console to support handheld-style play. They can also connect to a Grip accessory to provide a traditional home console gamepad form, or be used individually in the hand like the Will Remote and Nunchuk, supporting local multiplayer modes. The Nintendo Switch's software supports online gaming through standard Internet connectivity, as well as local wireless ad hoc connectivity with other Switch consoles. Nintendo Switch games and software are available on both physical flash-based ROM cartridges and digital distribution via Nintendo eShop; the system does not use region locking. As an eighth-generation console, the Nintendo Switch competes with Microsoft's Xbox One and Sony's PlayStation 4. 21 22 23 Mario Kart 8 Deluxe v002 (Ali) (En, Ja, Fr, De, Es, It, NI, Pt, Ru) (Team HR) **** Super Mario Odyssey v001 (3PN) (En. Ja. Fr. Ge, Es. It. NI, Ru) (3RP) 15 Aug 2018 : 10:38 24 New Super Mario Bros. U Deluxe (All) (En, Ja, Fr, De, Es, It, NI, Pt, Ru, Ko, 10 Jan 2019 14:34 25 25 May 2018 1713 Super Mario Odyssey (All) (En, Fr, De, Es, It, NI, Ru, Ja) (BigBlueBox) 13 Oct 2018 : 19:51 26 Super Mario Party (Japan) (En, Ja, Fr, Ge, Es, It, De, Pt, Ru, Ko, Tw, Ch)

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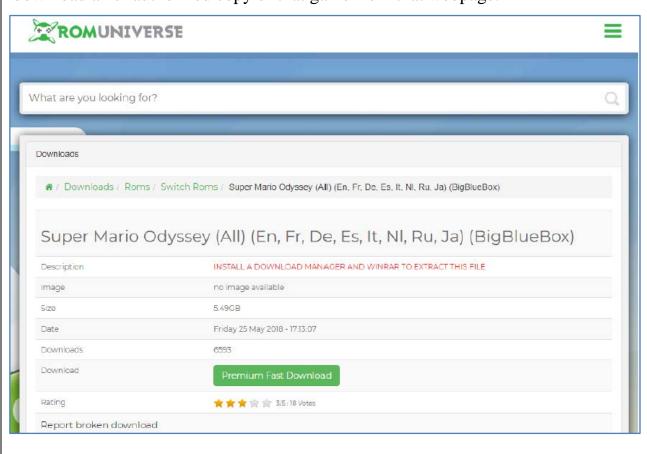
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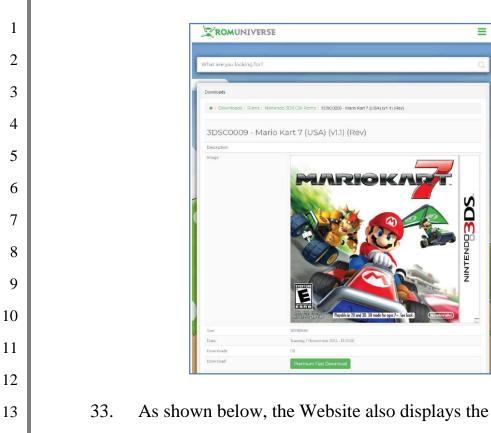
31. Next, visitors to the Website can select a particular pirated game and are then taken to a dedicated webpage for that game. The visitor can then download an unauthorized copy of that game from that webpage.



32. For several of the pirated games that the Website offers for download, the Website also displays an image of the video games' original "box art," many of which include Nintendo's registered copyrights for commercial packaging and graphic designs on the packaging, as well as Nintendo's registered trademarks (for example, images of Mario and the Nintendo logo):

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COMPLAINT AND DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL



As shown below, the Website also displays the total number of games available for each video game system, the total number of downloads of each game, and the total file size for the library of games for each video game system. For instance, the Website advertises that it offers more than 3000 games for the Nintendo 3DS, amounting to over 1.4TB of memory, with more than 500,000 downloads. Likewise, the Website advertises that it offers more than 200 games for the Nintendo Switch constituting more than 1TB of memory and has provided nearly 300,000 downloads of those games. These numbers increase daily.

The Nintendo 3DS is a handheld game console produced by Nintendo. It is capable of displaying stereoscopic 3D effects without the use of 3D plasses or additional accessories. Nintendo announced the console in March 2010 and officially unwelled it at £3 2010 on June 15. The console succeeds the Nintendo DS, featuring backward compatibility with older Nintendo DS video games. It's primary competitor was the PlayStation Vita from Sony.			
Nintendo 3DS Rom Packages	12	26.18GB	2390
Nintendo 3DS CIA Roms	480	187.63GB	28966
Switch Roms The Nintendo Switch is a video game console developed by Nintendo and was released on March 3, 2017. It is a hybrid console that can be used as both a stationary and portable device. Its wireless Joy-Con controllers, which include standard buttons and directional analog sticks for user input, motion sensing, and high-definition tactile feedback, can attach to both sides of the console to support handheid-style play. They can also connect to a Grip accessory to provide a traditional home console gamepad form, or be used individually in the hand like the WII Remote and Nunchuk, supporting local multiplayer modes. The Nintendo Switch's software supports online gaming through standard internet connectivity, as well as local wireless ad noc connectivity with other Switch consoles. Nintendo Switch games and software are available on both physical flash-based ROM cartridges and digital distribution with Nintendo eShopt, the system does not use region locking. As an eighth-generation console, the Nintendo Switch competes with Microsoft's Xbox One and Sony's PlayStation 4.	247	1.08TB	200070
Nintendo Switch Scene Roms New content is added instantly upon release from the scene. This category includes all scene releases for the Nintendo Switch, including eShop, Proper, DLC and Updates. The rar file contains a nfo and a nsp or xci file.	3082	5.77TB	89323
Nintendo Switch Roms Trimmed (XCI) Trimmed XCI files are roms that have the useless filler data removed resulting in a smaller size rom.	367	1.72TB	141435

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Nintendo 3DS Roms

34. Once downloaded, the pirated games can be played on computers, phones, and other devices with an emulator. When the pirated games are played, they display counterfeit copies of Nintendo's trademarks.

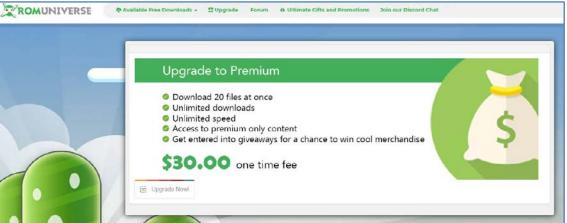


Similarly, counterfeit copies of Nintendo's marks appear during the 35. game play of the pirated games.



36. In addition to the vast library of pirated Nintendo 3DS and Nintendo Switch games, the Website offers for download thousands of other games for nearly every other Nintendo video game system.

37. Since at least as early as January 2013, Defendants have offered paid "Premium Memberships" for the Website for \$30 per year. Premium Memberships now require a one-time payment of \$30 and allow users to download an unlimited number of pirated games, with higher speeds than non-members. Non-members are also restricted in the number of pirated games they can download. Currently, non-members can only download one free game before being required to purchase a Premium Membership for additional downloads.



- 38. Payment for the Premium Memberships is paid to Defendants through the use of a third-party payment processor, GumRoad.com.
- 39. As a direct result of Defendants' infringement of Plaintiffs' copyrights and trademarks, Defendants' Website has become enormously popular. The Website has received hundreds of thousands of visitors each month and currently received more than 75,000 visitors each month. These visitors are drawn to the Website by the widespread availability of free, unauthorized copies of Nintendo's video games and other highly valuable intellectual property. Defendants are directly profiting and have profited from their exploitation of Nintendo's intellectual property through donations, paid memberships, and advertising on the Website.

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V. FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION: COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

(The Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. §§ 106 et seq. and 501)

- 40. NOA incorporates by reference and re-alleges the preceding paragraphs.
- 41. NOA owns numerous registered copyrights related to Nintendo video games, characters, BIOS firmware for Nintendo video game systems, Nintendo musical compositions and audio recordings. These include without limitation the copyrighted works identified in Exhibit A. NOA has received Certificates of Copyright Registration from the Register of Copyrights for each of the copyrighted works identified in Exhibit A. These copyrights are in full force and effect and are enforceable by NOA.
- 42. According to the Website, tens of thousands of copies of the pirated works identified in Exhibit A have been downloaded through use of the Website.
- 43. Through the Website, Defendants regularly reproduce, distribute, publicly perform, and display unauthorized copies of the Nintendo video games, commercial packaging, and other copyrighted works, including the copyrighted works identified in Exhibit A, all without Nintendo's permission.
- 44. The Website offers at least 247 pirated Nintendo Switch games and more than 3000 pirated Nintendo 3DS games for download, and on information and belief, these pirated games infringe hundreds of NOA's separately registered copyrighted works, including NOA's copyright registrations for the works identified in Exhibit A.
- 45. The foregoing acts of Defendants constitute direct infringement in violation of NOA's exclusive rights in its copyrighted works under 17 U.S.C. § 106.

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- 46. Defendants are also liable under the Copyright Act for inducing the infringing acts of the users of the Website. Defendants operate the Website with the object of promoting its use to infringe NOA's copyrights.
- 47. Defendants are also liable under the Copyright Act as contributory infringers for the infringing acts of users of the Website. Defendants have actual and constructive knowledge of the infringing activity of users of the Website and knowingly cause or otherwise materially contribute to those infringements of NOA's copyrights.
- 48. Defendants are also vicariously liable for the infringing acts of users of the Website. Defendants have the right and ability to control and supervise the infringing activities that occur through the use of the Website, and at all relevant times have derived a direct financial benefit from the infringement of NOA's copyrights.
- 49. The foregoing acts of infringement by Defendants have been willful, intentional, and purposeful, or in reckless disregard of NOA's rights.
- 50. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' infringement of NOA's exclusive rights under Section 106 of the Copyright Act, NOA is entitled to damages as well as Defendants' profits under 17 U.S.C. § 504(b).
- 51. Alternatively, and at NOA's election, NOA is entitled to the maximum statutory damages available under 17 U.S.C. § 504(c) in the amount of \$150,000 per each infringement of NOA's copyrighted works or for such other amount as may be proper.
- 52. NOA is entitled to its attorneys' fees and full costs pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505.
- Defendants' conduct is causing, and unless enjoined and restrained by 53. this Court, will continue to cause Nintendo great and irreparable injury that cannot be fully compensated for or measured monetarily. NOA has no adequate remedy at

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law. NOA is entitled to a permanent injunction prohibiting any further infringement of NOA's exclusive rights under the Copyright Act.

VI. SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT

(The Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. §§ 1114 and 1125(a))

- 54. NOA incorporates by reference and re-alleges the preceding paragraphs.
- 55. NOA owns federal registrations for the trademarks identified in Exhibit B hereto. These registrations are in full force and effect and are enforceable.
- 56. The pirated games offered by Defendants through the Website use and incorporate NOA's registered trademarks, including in the opening credits for each game.
- 57. Additionally, Defendants use NOA's registered trademarks and counterfeit copies of NOA's registered trademarks, including the trademarks identified in Exhibit B, on the Website to promote the sale of the pirated games and to encourage visitors to download or play unauthorized copies of NOA's copyrighted works, thereby infringing NOA's registered trademark.
- 58. Defendants' actions constitute use in interstate commerce of a false designation of origin, false or misleading description of fact, or false or misleading representation of facts that is likely to cause confusion or mistake, or to deceive as to the affiliation, connection, or association of the goods and services with NOA, or as to origin, sponsorship, or approval of the goods and services provided by Defendants in violation of Section 43(a) of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a).
- 59. Defendants' actions also constitute the use in interstate commerce of a reproduction, counterfeit, copy, or colorable imitation of a registered trademark of NOA in connection with the sale, offering for sale, distribution, or advertising of goods or services on or in connection with which such use is likely to cause

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will continue to do so if not enjoined.

1	68. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' conduct alleged			
2	herein, Defendants have been unjustly enriched and should be ordered to disgorge			
3	any and all profits earned as a result of such unlawful conduct.			
4	PRAYER FOR RELIEF			
5	WHEREFORE, plaintiff NOA seeks the following relief:			
6	A. For judgment in favor of NOA, and against Defendants, for damages			
7	in such amounts as may be proven at trial;			
8	B. An award of statutory damages as allowed by law, in an amount up to			
9	\$150,000 for the infringement of each NOA copyrighted work and up to			
10	\$2,000,000 for the infringement of each NOA trademark through use of counterfeit			
11	marks;			
12	C. An award of enhanced damages or profits, whichever is greater, under			
13	Section 35 of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1117, and as otherwise provided by law			
14	D. Based on Defendants' willful and deliberate infringement of NOA's			
15	intellectual property, and to deter such conduct in the future, NOA be awarded			
16	punitive damages;			
17	E. An accounting of all Defendants' profits and gains from the Website;			
18	F. For the costs and expenses of this action, as well as NOA's reasonable			
19	attorneys' fees;			
20	G. Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;			
21	H. A permanent injunction enjoining Defendants and their agents,			
22	servants, employees, and all those in active concert or participation with Defendants			
23	to:			
24	a. Permanently cease all copying, distributing, selling, performing,			
25	displaying, playing, or otherwise using any unauthorized copy			
26	of a NOA copyrighted work, or any derivative thereof;			
27	b. Permanently cease using, or inducing or enabling others to use,			
28	and reproduction, counterfeit, copy, or colorable imitation of			
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