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**United States District Court
Central District of California**

OTTER PRODUCTS LLC; TREEFROG
DEVELOPMENTS, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

ACE COLORS FASHION, INC.;
ELECTRONICOS; SHAYNA'S CELL
PHONE ACCESSORIES; VANESSA
ACCESSORIES,

Defendants.

Case No. 2:14-cv-00141-ODW(ASx)

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE RE.
DEFENDANT VANESSA
ACCESSORIES'S ABILITY TO
PROCEED PRO SE**

20 On January 7, 2014, Plaintiffs Otter Products LLC and Treefrog Developments,
21 Inc. filed a trademark-infringement suit against Defendants Ace Colors Fashion, Inc.,
22 Electronicos, Shayna's Cell Phone Accessories, and Vanessa Accessories. (ECF
23 No. 1.) On February 25, 2014, Defendant Vanessa Accessories filed an answer pro se
24 through an individual named Jose Rosales. (ECF No. 14.)

25 It is well-settled that a corporation and other artificial entities may not represent
26 themselves in federal court. *Rowland v. Cal. Men's Colony, Unit II Men's Advisory*
27 *Council*, 506 U.S. 194, 201-02 (1993); *see also* L.R. 83-2.2.2. But this rule does not
28 apply to sole proprietorships, as they do not have a legal existence independent of

1 their owners. *See Nova Exp. v. United States*, 80 Fed. Cl. 236, 238–39 (Fed. Cl.
2 2008); *Bd. of Trs. of Laborers Health & Welfare Trust Fund for N. Cal. v. Perez*,
3 No. C-10-2002 JSW JCS, 2011 WL 6151506, at *4 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 7, 2011).

4 It is unclear what legal status Vanessa Accessories is organized as. Vanessa
5 Accessories alleges in its Answer that “Defendant Jose Rosales is an individual doing
6 business as Vanessa Accessories.” (Answer ¶ 6.) It therefore appears that Vanessa
7 Accessories is likely a sole proprietorship.

8 The Court **ORDERS** Vanessa Accessories through its representative to file a
9 declaration establishing what type of legal entity it is by **Wednesday, March 19,**
10 **2014**. No hearing will be held. Failure to timely respond to this Order will result in
11 the Court striking Vanessa Accessories’s Answer for want of licensed counsel.

12 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

13
14 March 5, 2014

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18 **OTIS D. WRIGHT, II**
19 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**