VOLKSWAGEN

GROUP OF AMERICA



The Honorable Jeffrey S. White United States District Court Judge Phillip Burton United States Courthouse 450 Golden Gate Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102-3434 David Geanacopoulos

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL

PHONE: 703 364 7240 FAX: 703 364 7080

DAVID.GEANACOPOULOS@VW.COM

OCTOBER 19, 2009

Re: Volkswagen AG v. Verdier Microbus and Camper No. C 09-00231 JSW, 2009 WL 928130 N.D. Cal., 2009

Dear Judge White:

Your Honor's thoughtful reasoning and discussion of the trade dress issues regarding the distinctive shape of the VW Microbus have recently been the topic of discussion in the automotive industry. In particular, the ability of automobile manufacturers to protect their famous designs is extremely important to the viability of the automobile industry as new, foreign and off-shore manufacturers begin manufacturing automobiles. Your Opinion helps parties on both sides of the issue to understand their rights and to guide their conduct.

VOLKSWAGEN GROUP OF AMERICA, INC 2200 FERDINAND PORSCHE DRIVE HERNDON, VA 20171 PHONE + 1 703 364 7000

In addition, your ruling has been cited in at least three trademark cases, including *Maxim Integrated Products, Inc. v. Quintana*, --- F.Supp.2d ----, 2009 WL 2136963 (N.D.Cal. July 16, 2009); CytoSport, *Inc. v. Vital Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*, 617 F.Supp.2d 1051 (E.D.Cal. May 06, 2009); and *Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. v. Brosnan*, 2008 WL 6806990 (N.D.Cal. September 04, 2008).

Because of the interest that has been generated by Your Honor's Opinion, and Your Honor's thoughtful discussion of several issues that Volkswagen believes significantly add to and advance trademark law in the automotive find structure. Volkswagen respectfully urges the Court to give serious consideration to publish the Opinion in the Federal Supplement so that the Opinion will be more additional parties in the trademark enforcement area and also more authoritative.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,

David Geanacopoulos

General Counsel

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