

1
2
3
4
5
6
7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
9

10 GINA CHAMPION-CAIN, an individual;
11 LUV SURF, LP, a California limited
12 partnership; ANI COMMERCIAL CA I,
13 LLC, a California limited liability
14 company; and ANI COMMERCIAL CA
15 II, LP, a California limited partnership,

Plaintiffs,

v.

16 BRIAN MACDONALD, an individual;
17 LOVESURF, INC., a Delaware
18 corporation; and DOES 1-10, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: 14-cv-2540-GPC-BLM

ORDER:

**VACATING CLERK'S ENTRY OF
DEFAULT AS TO LOVESURF, INC.
(ECF Nos. 140, 141);**

**VACATING ORDER ON
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO STRIKE
ANSWER AND DISMISS
COUNTERCLAIM OF DEFENDANT
LOVESURF, INC. (ECF No. 139);
AND**

**RESETTING HEARING FOR
FEBRUARY 17, 2017 AT 1:30 P.M.
ON PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO
STRIKE ANSWER AND DISMISS
COUNTERCLAIM OF DEFENDANT
LOVESURF, INC. (ECF Nos. 132.)**

25
26 **I. Order on Motion to Strike Answer and Dismiss Counterclaim of**
27 **Defendant Lovesurf, Inc. (Dkt. No. 139)**

28 On January 17, 2017, Plaintiffs and Counter-Defendants Gina Champion-Cain,

1 Luv Surf, L.P., ANI Commercial CA I, LLC, and ANI Commercial CA II, L.P.’s
2 (collectively, “Plaintiffs”) filed a motion to strike the answer of Defendant Lovesurf, Inc.,
3 strike the counterclaim of Defendant Lovesurf, Inc., and enter default as to Defendant
4 Lovesurf, Inc. on the grounds that Lovesurf, Inc. cannot proceed in the instant litigation
5 without counsel. (Dkt. No. 132.) A hearing was scheduled for February 17, 2017 at 1:30
6 p.m. The Court directed any response to be filed on or by January 27, 2017, and any
7 reply to be filed on or by February 3, 2017. (Dkt. No. 133.)

8 On January 27, 2017, the Court conducted a status hearing regarding the upcoming
9 trial.¹ (Dkt. No. 139.) Defendant Brian MacDonald failed to appear or otherwise
10 respond. (*Id.*) Based on Mr. MacDonald’s failure to respond and appear, and based on
11 Plaintiffs’ representations to the Court that Defendant Lovesurf, Inc. had not been
12 represented by counsel since Defendants’ counsel of record withdrew on October 14,
13 2016, (Dkt. Nos. 123, 132), the Court granted Plaintiff’s motion prior to the hearing
14 scheduled for February 17, 2017, thereby striking the answer of Defendant Lovesurf, Inc.
15 and dismissing the counterclaim of Defendant Lovesurf, Inc, (Dkt. No. 139). (*Id.*) The
16 Court concluded that Lovesurf, Inc. may not appear in this Court proceeding *pro se*. *See*
17 CivLR 83.3 (“All other parties, including corporations, partnerships and other legal
18 entities, may appear in court only through an attorney permitted to practice pursuant to
19 Civil Local Rule 83.3.”).

20 **II. Clerk’s Entry of Default (Dkt. Nos. 140, 141.)**

21 In accordance with the above, and pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
22 55(a), the Court directed the Clerk of the Court to enter default as to Defendant Lovesurf,
23 Inc. on January 27, 2017. (Dkt. No. 140.) The Clerk of the Court entered default as to
24 Defendant Lovesurf, Inc. on January 27, 2017. (Dkt. No. 141.)

27
28 ¹ The Court set the January 27, 2017 status hearing on October 14, 2016, with all parties present,
including Mr. MacDonald. (Dkt. No. 123.)

1 **III. Order to Show Cause Hearing**

2 As detailed above, Defendant Brian MacDonald failed to appear at a status hearing
3 on January 27, 2017. (Dkt. No. 139.) On January 27, 2017, the Court ordered Mr.
4 MacDonald to show cause why his individual counterclaim should not be dismissed, and
5 why his individual answer should not be stricken. (Dkt. No. 140.) The Court set a
6 hearing regarding the Order to Show Cause on February 2, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. and directed
7 Mr. MacDonald to appear at this hearing.

8 On February 2, 2017, the Court conducted the Order to Show Cause hearing. (Dkt.
9 No. 142.) Mr. MacDonald appeared telephonically, and Steven Cologne, Esq. appeared
10 on behalf of Plaintiffs. (*Id.*) At the hearing, Mr. MacDonald advised the Court that he
11 has presently procured counsel, and that he was unaware of the January 27, 2017 status
12 hearing. Mr. MacDonald also represented orally at the hearing that Lovesurf, Inc. has
13 filed a petition for bankruptcy.² The Court confirmed the jury trial set for February 21,
14 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

15 As of February 2, 2017, and Mr. MacDonald has confirmed, no counsel has yet
16 made an appearance in this Court on Defendants' behalf. As Lovesurf, Inc., a
17 corporation, may not appear in Court without an attorney, Defendants are advised that
18 counsel must enter an appearance according to proper procedure. *See* CivLR 83.3.
19 Defendants are further advised that a Notice of Bankruptcy must be filed according to
20 proper procedure with the Court, and that Defendants must properly serve opposing
21 counsel for Plaintiffs according to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and this Court's
22 Civil Local Rules.

23 In light of Mr. MacDonald's representation that the address on file with the Court
24 is not accurate, the Court directed Mr. MacDonald to file a Notice of Change of Address
25
26

27
28 ² Plaintiffs' counsel represented at the hearing that Plaintiffs have not received notice of any relevant
bankruptcy filings from Defendants.

1 with the Court according to proper procedure.³ The Court reminds Mr. MacDonald that
2 pursuant to Civil Local Rule 83.11,

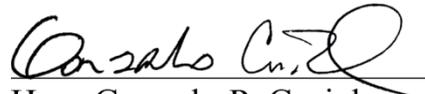
3 *A party proceeding pro se must keep the court and opposing parties advised as to*
4 *current address.* If mail directed to a pro se plaintiff by the clerk at the plaintiff's
5 last designated address is returned by the Post Office, and if such plaintiff fails to
6 notify the court and opposing parties within 60 days thereafter of the plaintiff's
7 current address, the court may dismiss the action without prejudice for failure to
8 prosecute.

9 CivLR 83.11(b) (emphasis added).

10 Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 60(a), the Court **VACATES** the Clerk
11 of the Court's entry of default as to Defendant Lovesurf, Inc. (Dkt. Nos. 140, 141) and
12 **VACATES** the Court's Order granting Plaintiffs' motion to strike Defendant Lovesurf,
13 Inc.'s answer and dismiss Defendant Lovesurf Inc.'s counterclaim (Dkt. No. 139). The
14 Court **RESETS** the hearing on Plaintiffs' motion to strike Defendant Lovesurf, Inc.'s
15 answer and dismiss Defendant Lovesurf, Inc.'s counterclaim (Dkt. No. 132) on **February**
16 **17, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.**

17 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

18 Dated: February 2, 2017

19 
20 Hon. Gonzalo P. Curiel
21 United States District Judge

22
23 cc:
24 Brian MacDonald
25 32158 Camino Capistrano #104-501
26 San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675-3720

27 _____
28 ³ A courtesy copy of this Order is being mailed to the address that Mr. MacDonald provided orally at the hearing.