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8 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
9 **SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**  
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11 GINA CHAMPION-CAIN, an  
12 individual; LUV SURF, LP, a  
13 California limited partnership; ANI  
14 COMMERCIAL CA I, LLC, a  
California limited liability company;  
and ANI COMMERCIAL CA II, LP, a  
California limited partnership,

15 Plaintiffs,

16 v.

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

19 Defendants.  
20

CASE NO. 14-cv-2540-GPC-BLM

**ORDER ON *EX PARTE***  
**APPLICATIONS**

[ECF Nos. 37, 38, 41]

21 Since filing their reply brief supporting their preliminary injunction motion on  
22 April 20, 2015, Plaintiffs have filed three *ex parte* applications relating to the pending  
23 preliminary injunction motion.

24 On May 22, 2015, Plaintiffs filed an *Ex Parte* Application for Leave to Submit  
25 New Evidence in Support of Motion for Preliminary Injunction. (ECF No. 37.)  
26 Defendants filed a response on June 2, 2015. (ECF No. 42.)

27 On May 27, 2015, Plaintiffs filed an *Ex Parte* Motion for Order Permitting Oral  
28 Argument and Limited Witness Testimony on Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary

1 Injunction. (ECF No. 38.) Defendants filed a response on June 3, 2015. (ECF No.  
2 43.)

3 Finally, on June 2, 2015, Plaintiffs filed an *Ex Parte* Application for Leave to  
4 Submit Additional Evidence in Support of Motion for Preliminary Injunction. (ECF  
5 No. 41.) Defendants filed their opposition on June 3, 2015. (ECF No. 45.) Plaintiffs  
6 filed a reply on June 11, 2015. (ECF No. 48.)

## 7 DISCUSSION

### 8 A. New Evidence

9 In their May 22, 2015 and June 2, 2015 applications, Plaintiffs seek leave to  
10 submit new evidence showing likelihood of irreparable harm, which is a required  
11 element for obtaining a preliminary injunction. (ECF No. 37 at 2; ECF No. 41 at 2-3.)  
12 Specifically, Plaintiffs wish to submit the following:

- 13 1. An email, dated May 15, 2015, from Nordstrom informing a  
14 representative for Plaintiffs that Nordstrom will stop selling Plaintiffs'  
15 merchandise (Ex. A, ECF No. 37) as a result of a cease and desist letter  
16 sent by Defendants (Ex. B, ECF No. 37).
- 17 2. An email, dated May 13, 2015, from Defendant Brian MacDonald to the  
18 organizer of the "Sisters of the Sea" female surf competition asking that  
19 she not publish Luv Surf's logo or brand on "Sisters of the Sea"  
20 marketing materials because they were stolen. (Ex. A, ECF No. 41.)
- 21 3. An email, dated May 27, 2015, from Defendant Brian MacDonald to one  
22 of Plaintiffs' brand ambassadors encouraging her not to do business with  
23 Plaintiffs because Luv Surf is "a[n] embarrassing copy of LOVESURF."  
24 (Ex. B, ECF No. 41.)
- 25 4. Screenshots of Defendants' website wherein Defendants discuss the  
26 Nordstrom issue and cite to other content showing that Luv Surf is a "rip-  
27 off brand." (Ex. C, ECF No. 41.)

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1 Defendants object to this evidence on various grounds, including that  
2 (1) Defendants claim priority on the mark, so it would be improper to prevent them  
3 from competing for customers, (2) Defendants will suffer prejudice because they will  
4 not have an opportunity to address this evidence before the hearing on the preliminary  
5 injunction motion, (3) Plaintiffs cite no authority for their requests, (4) determinations  
6 of the truth or falsity of Defendants' speech must be made at trial, not as part of a  
7 preliminary injunction determination, (5) Plaintiffs' cannot show irreparable harm  
8 anyway because of their long delay in bringing the preliminary injunction motion, and  
9 (6) the evidence does not show a threat of *future* harm (and any existing harm can be  
10 remedied through monetary damages). (ECF Nos. 43, 45.)

11 The Court finds the three emails, the cease and desist letter, and the screenshots  
12 listed above to be directly relevant to Plaintiffs' showing of irreparable harm and will  
13 consider them in relation to Plaintiffs' pending preliminary injunction motion. District  
14 courts have broad discretion to consider arguments first raised in a reply brief, *Lane v.*  
15 *Dept. of Interior*, 523 F.3d 1128, 1140 (9th Cir. 2008) (*citing Glenn K. Jackson, Inc.*  
16 *v. Roe*, 273 F.3d 1192, 1201–02 (9th Cir. 2001)), and, given that Plaintiffs filed their  
17 applications prior to the hearing, the Court believes it has discretion to consider the  
18 new evidence. All three emails were sent well after Plaintiffs filed their reply brief, so  
19 Plaintiffs could not have included them in their briefing on the motion. The  
20 screenshots were taken by Chris Kramer, who filed a declaration supporting Plaintiffs'  
21 application. (Kramer Decl. ¶ 6, ECF No. 41-1 at 3.) Though Mr. Kramer does not state  
22 the date on which he took the screenshots, the exhibits themselves contain content  
23 describing events that took place in June of 2015, so they appear to be recent as well.  
24 (*See id.*; Ex. C, ECF No. 41.) Additionally, the exhibits were attached to Plaintiffs' *ex*  
25 *parte* applications, so Defendants had the opportunity to review them and present their  
26 arguments in their opposition briefs. (*See* ECF Nos. 42, 43, 45.) Further, in order to  
27 prevent prejudice to Defendants, the Court also will allow Defendants the opportunity  
28 to address this evidence at the hearing. *See Provenz v. Miller*, 102 F.3d 1478, 1483

1 (9th Cir. 1996) (a court admitting arguments submitted for the first time in a reply brief  
2 should protect the non-moving party against unfair surprises by allowing it an  
3 opportunity to respond); *Lewis v. Gotham Ins. Co.*, No. 09CV252 L (POR), 2009 WL  
4 3698028, at \*1 (S.D. Cal. Feb. 4, 2010) (when considering new arguments raised in a  
5 reply brief, the court should either “provide oral argument to the non-moving party, or  
6 allow the non-moving party to file a sur-reply”).

### 7 **B. Testimony**

8 In Plaintiffs’ May 27, 2015 application, Plaintiffs request oral argument on their  
9 preliminary injunction motion and the opportunity to offer “percipient / expert  
10 testimony.” (ECF No. 38.) It appears the testimony they seek to present is that of their  
11 forensic analyst, Peter Garza. (*Id.*) Defendants object to Mr. Garza providing any  
12 testimony. (ECF No. 43.)

13 The Court will hold a hearing on Plaintiffs’ preliminary injunction motion on  
14 May 18, 2015. However, Plaintiffs cite no authority in support of their request to  
15 present expert testimony. Moreover, given the parties’ ongoing dispute regarding  
16 whether Plaintiffs’ filing of Mr. Garza’s declaration violated the parties’ protective  
17 order or their separate agreement regarding his review of Defendants’ computer files,  
18 the Court finds it inappropriate to allow the opportunity for further disclosures at this  
19 time. Plaintiffs’ request for witness testimony, therefore, is denied.

### 20 **CONCLUSION**

21 For the foregoing reasons, the Court orders as follows:


- 22 1. Plaintiffs’ *Ex Parte* Application for Leave to Submit New Evidence in  
23 Support of Motion for Preliminary Injunction (ECF No. 37) is  
24 **GRANTED**.
- 25 2. Plaintiffs’ *Ex Parte* Motion for Order Permitting Oral Argument and  
26 Limited Witness Testimony on Plaintiffs’ Motion for Preliminary  
27 Injunction (ECF No. 38) is **GRANTED** to the extent that the Court will  
28 hear oral argument by counsel on June 18, 2015, and **DENIED** to the

1 extent Plaintiffs seek permission to present witness testimony.

- 2 3. Plaintiffs' *Ex Parte* Application for Leave to Submit Additional Evidence  
3 in Support of Motion for Preliminary Injunction (ECF No. 41) is  
4 **GRANTED.**

5 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

6 DATED: June 17, 2015

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8 HON. GONZALO P. CURIEL  
9 United States District Judge  
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