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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEVADA

GNLV, Corp., a Nevada corporation,

Plaintiff,

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Kanter Associates SA, a corporation,

Defendant.

Case No.:

PLAINTIFF GNLV, CORP.'S
APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY
RESTRAINING ORDER AND
MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY
INJUNCTION

Plaintiff GNLV, Corp., through counsel, hereby moves the Court for (1) an *ex parte* temporary restraining order requiring Defendant to immediately cease and desist all use of Plaintiff's names, trademarks and domain names and requiring the domain name registrar to transfer the <www.thegoldennuggett.com> domain name ("Infringing Domain Name") to Plaintiff and place such Infringing Domain Names on hold; (2) a preliminary injunction requiring Defendant to transfer the Infringing Domain Name to Plaintiff; and (3) a preliminary injunction requiring the current domain name registrar(s) to transfer the Infringing Domain Name to Plaintiff.

This Motion is made pursuant to Rule 65 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and is based upon the attached Memorandum of Points and Authorities, the Declaration of Steven Scheinthal, the Declaration of Laraine Burrell, and the papers and pleadings on file herein and any oral argument that this Court may allow.

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER AND PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION

I. INTRODUCTION AND STATEMENT OF GOOD CAUSE IN COMPLIANCE WITH LR 7-5

This Motion is brought under Plaintiff's claims for violation of the Anti-cybersquatting Consumer Protection Act (the "ACPA"), trademark infringement, and unfair competition under the Lanham Act (15 U.S.C. §§ 1114 and 1125) and trademark infringement under Nevada law (collectively, the "Relevant Claims"). Plaintiff's Motion arises from Defendant's unauthorized use of the Plaintiff's marks and Defendant's registration of the Infringing Domain Names.

Defendant registered and used in bad faith the Infringing Domain Name and Plaintiff's marks. Defendant is likely to deceive the public into believing that Defendant is the Plaintiff, when it is not. Defendant is diluting Plaintiff's marks and is wrongfully benefiting and profiting from Plaintiff's goodwill. Therefore, Plaintiff seeks a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction requiring the transfer of the Infringing Domain Names to Plaintiff and enjoining Defendant from continuing its infringement of Plaintiff's marks during the pendency of this action.

Plaintiff is seeking a temporary restraining order *ex parte* to avoid irreparable injury that will result if Defendant receives advance notice of Plaintiff's request. See Declaration of Laraine Burrell ("Burrell Decl."), attached hereto as Exhibit 1, at ¶¶ 6-9. An *ex parte* order will prevent Defendant from transferring the Infringing Domain Name to other registrars and/or other registrants during the pendency of this action. As soon as Defendant receives notice of this action, it could easily and nearly instantaneously transfer the registration of the Infringing Domain Name from the current registrar to any number of other registrars located outside the United States as well as to other registrants unwilling to abide by this Court's orders. This is particularly likely where, as here, the Defendant is foreign. If this were to occur, Plaintiff would be deprived of the ability to recover

While registrars who are accredited by the Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and Numbers ("ICANN") are required to subscribe to ICANN's Uniform Dispute Resolution Policy ("UDRP"), which requires the registrar to obey and follow the order of a court of "competent jurisdiction" over the registrant to transfer a domain name, as to those registrars that are not within the jurisdiction of the court or that do not subscribe to the ICANN rules, neither the Lanham Act nor the courts will have any power over them. See UDRP Rule 4, at www.icann.org/udrp/udrp.htm.

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registration of the Infringing Domain Name and the ability to enforce its intellectual property rights. Accordingly, this Court should enter a temporary restraining order directing the Defendant and the Registrar to transfer the Infringing Domain Name to Plaintiff during the pendency of this action, thereby preventing any further migration of the Infringing Domain Names and the need to file additional lawsuits to chase the Infringing Domain Names in an attempt to recover the Infringing Domain Name.

II. STATEMENT OF FACTS

A. Facts Regarding Plaintiff.

Plaintiff GNLV, Corp., a Nevada corporation with its principal place of business in Las Vegas, Nevada, operates the "Golden Nugget" resort hotel casinos in Las Vegas, Nevada, and Laughlin, Nevada. See Declaration of Steven Scheinthal ("Scheinthal Decl."), attached hereto as Exhibit 2, at ¶ 3. The Golden Nugget" is a famous destination resort hotel casino located on the world-renowned "Glitter Gulch" in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Plaintiff GNLV, Corp. owns the mark GOLDEN NUGGET and variants thereto (the "GOLDEN NUGGET marks") and has obtained federal mark registrations for the GOLDEN NUGGET marks, including but not limited to:

- (a) GOLDEN NUGGET for casino and bar services (U.S. Reg. No. 1,554,155);
- (b) GOLDEN NUGGET for nightclub, bar, cabaret and casino services (U.S. Reg. No. 1,082,044); and
- (c) GOLDEN NUGGET for casino services (U.S. Reg. No. 1,203,988). ...
- (d) GOLDEN NUGGET for hotel and resort hotel services (U.S. Reg. No. 2,240,084.

<u>See id.</u> at ¶ 5. None of these federal trademark registrations has been abandoned, canceled or revoked. Each of these federal trademark registrations has become incontestable through the filing of Section 8 and 15 affidavits in the Patent and Trademark Office. <u>See id.</u>

Since the Golden Nugget opened in 1946, GNLV, Corp. and its predecessors in interest have continuously used the GOLDEN NUGGET marks in connection with advertising and promoting its property in the United States and around the world. See id. at ¶ 6. The GOLDEN NUGGET name

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and mark is among the most recognized and respected names in the resort hotel casino industry. In fact, the GOLDEN NUGGET name has become famous in the resort hotel casino industry. See id. at ¶ 6. GNLV, Corp. and its predecessors in interest have spent substantial sums of money to advertise and promote the GOLDEN NUGGET marks in print, broadcast media and on the Internet through the Golden Nugget web site, accessible throughout the United States and around the world at <goldennugget.com>. See id. at ¶ 7. A true and accurate copy of the home page for Plaintiff's web site is attached hereto as Exhibit 3. In addition, GNLV, Corp. and its predecessors in interest have made extensive use of the GOLDEN NUGGET marks on, among other things, signage, wearing apparel, souvenirs and promotional materials. See Scheinthal Decl at ¶ 7.

Based on its federal trademark registrations and extensive use, GNLV, Corp. owns the exclusive right to use its GOLDEN NUGGET marks in connection with hotel, casino and related services. See id. at ¶ 8. In fact, the uniqueness of the Golden Nugget resort hotel casino and the extensive advertising and promotion of the Golden Nugget have resulted in the GOLDEN NUGGET name and mark being distinctive and famous for resort hotel casino services. See id at ¶ 6.

B. Facts Regarding Defendant.

Upon information and belief, Defendant Kanter Associates SA is a corporation who regularly conducts business in Panama, Panama. Defendant regularly conducts business in the State of Nevada via a web site on the World Wide Web, which is accessible to Nevada residents.

On or about August 3, 2006, Defendant first registered the <www.thegoldennuggett.com> domain name with Fabulous.Com Solutions PTY LTD., a registrar for domain names. See WHOIS Records for <www.thegoldennuggett.com> attached hereto as Exhibit 4. This domain name contains Plaintiff's famous GOLDEN NUGGET trademark.

On or about April 11, 2011, Defendant updated the domain name registration and the infringing domain name is now linked to web sites which offer direct links to hotel and travel reservation services sites. See Homepages for web sites, attached hereto as Exhibit 5 and 6.

C. Factual Background Regarding the Internet and Domain Names.

Every web site on the World Wide Web of the Internet has a unique numerical address called an Internet Protocol address, comprised of four numbers ranging from 1 to 255, separated by

decimals, such as 137.34.23.198. See e.g., America Online, Inc. v. Huang, 106 F. Supp. 2d 848, 850-53 (E.D. Va. 2000). In response to the consideration that most individual users would have difficulty remembering strings of numbers, the domain name system ("DNS") was developed to make the World Wide Web more user friendly. The DNS associates a unique alphanumerical name, the "domain name," with each Internet Protocol address. See id.; Sporty's Farm L.L.C. v. Sportsman's Market, Inc., 202 F.3d 489, 492-93 (2d Cir. 2000).

Domain names are comprised of a letter string of up to 26 letters, known as a second-level domain ("SLD"), followed by a period (referred to in the pejorative as a "dot"), which is then followed by a generic top-level domain ("TLD"). See America Online, 106 F. Supp.2d at 850-53. TLDs include ".com," intended for commercial use, ".net" for networks, ".org" for non-profit organizations, and ".gov" for governmental entities, among several others. Significantly, the ".com" TLD, as well as several other TLDs, is an open domain, such that anyone can register a domain name in the ".com" TLD without oversight by the registrar.

Most businesses strongly prefer to create domain names for their web sites that couple the .com TLD with an SLD comprised of their distinctive trademark. See Sporty's Farm, 202 F.3d at 493. For example, Microsoft's web site is located at <microsoft.com>, and the Coca-Cola Company's web site is located at <coke.com>. However, there is no equivalent of the telephone book or directory assistance on the Internet. Therefore, consumers must intuitively locate a particular company's web site and, usually, guess that the company's web site is the same as its name. See Panavision Int'l, L.P. v. Toeppen, 141 F.3d 1316, 1327 (9th Cir. 1998). If a consumer cannot find a particular company's web site through this intuitive process, he will become discouraged and may fail to continue to search for a company's own web site. See id. Consequently, there is an inherent value attached to domain names that incorporate a company's trademark or marks confusingly similar to a company's trademark, such as a common misspelling.

Domain names are registered on a first-come, first-served basis. See e.g., Network Solutions, Inc. v. Umbro Int'l, Inc., 529 S.E. 2d 80, 84-85 (Va. 2000). The process for obtaining a domain name is rather mechanical. An individual interested in registering a domain name must contact one of the official registrars for domain names, such as Network Solutions, Inc. If the desired domain

name has not been registered, then the user may register or reserve the domain name for a fee. <u>See id.</u> However, there is no oversight process to ensure that the person or entity registering the domain name has any right to use the name, or to ensure that the domain name does not match a trademark held by someone other than the registrant. <u>See id.</u>

As a result of the fact that anyone can register any domain name as long as it is not already registered, many businesses attempt to register domain names based on their trademarks and, unfortunately, discover that the domain name employing their trademark has already been registered by another. In many cases, the domain names are registered by individuals or businesses who then attempt to sell the domain name employing the trademark back to the trademark owner. See Virtual Works, Inc. v. Volkswagen of Am., Inc., 238 F.3d 264, 267 (4th Cir. 2001). This conduct is referred to as "cyberpiracy" or "cybersquatting." See id.

Unlike a traditional trademark dispute, where identical marks can be used by multiple parties (e.g., *United Airlines* and *United Van Lines*), only one party can register a domain name. <u>See Victoria's Cyber Secret, Ltd. v. V. Secret Catalogue, Inc.</u>, 161 F.Supp.2d 1339, 1351 (S.D. Fla. 2001). Thus, the slight differences between domain names and registered marks, such as misspellings or the addition of minor or generic words to the disputed domain names are irrelevant to the cybersquatting analysis. <u>See id.</u>

III. LEGAL ARGUMENT

Plaintiff is entitled to an *ex parte* temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction directing the Registrar to transfer and place on hold the Infringing Domain Name pending trial. Plaintiff is also entitled to a preliminary injunction transferring the Infringing Domain Name and enjoining Defendant from further registration or use of the Infringing Domain Name for the pendency of the litigation.

To obtain a preliminary injunction, Plaintiff must show that: (1) it will suffer irreparable harm if injunctive relief is not granted; (2) it is likely to succeed on the merits; (3) the balance of equities tips in favor of the moving party; and (4) granting the injunction is in the public interest.

See Stanley v. University of Southern California, 13 F.3d 1313, 1319 (9th Cir. 1994). Alternatively, this Court may issue injunctive relief if it finds: (1) a combination of probable success on the merits Page 6 of 18

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and the possibility of irreparable injury if relief is not granted, or (2) the existence of serious questions going to the merits and that the balance of hardships tips sharply in its favor. See GoTo.com, Inc. v. Walt Disney Co., 202 F.3d 1199, 1205 (9th Cir. 2000). A "serious question" is one for which the moving party has a "fair chance" of success on the merits. See Stanley, 13 F.3d at 1319. In the instant case, Plaintiffs are entitled to a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction under either test.

A. Plaintiff Will Suffer Irreparable Injury if the Court Does Not Grant Preliminary Injunctive Relief.

A party seeking injunctive relief under Fed. R. Civ. P. 65 must demonstrate irreparable harm. meaning that "money damages alone will not suffice to restore the moving party to its rightful position." Clark Pacific v. Krump Constr., Inc., 942 F.Supp. 1324, 1346 (D. Nev. 1996). In cases involving mark infringement or mark dilution, it is well settled that irreparable harm is presumed. See GoTo.com, 202 F.3d at 1209; Toys "R" Us, Inc. v. Akkaoui, 40 U.S.P.Q.2d 1836 (N.D. Cal. 1996).

Generally, in cases involving intellectual property infringement, where a likelihood of success on the merits is demonstrated, not only is irreparable harm presumed, but preliminary injunctive must issue. See Candence Design Sys. Inc. v. Avant! Corp, 125 F.3d 824, 827 (9th Cir. 1997). Any other elemental analysis is unnecessary. See id. Therefore, upon a showing of success on the merits of the Relevant Claims, Plaintiff will have met its burden in establishing irreparable harm and will be entitled to injunctive relief.

Plaintiff Is Highly Likely to Succeed on the Merits. В.

Plaintiff's success on the merits is probable with respect to each of the Relevant Claims. However, Plaintiff is only required to demonstrate a probability of success on any one of the Relevant Claims to be entitled to the relief requested.

Plaintiff Is Likely to Succeed on the Merits of Its Anti-Cybersquatting Claim. (1)Plaintiff is likely to succeed on the merits of its claim under the Anti-Cybersquatting protection Act (the "ACPA"). That Act provides, in pertinent part:

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[A] person shall be liable in a civil action by the owner of a mark . . . if, without regard to the goods or services of the parties, that person -

- (i) has a bad faith intent to profit from that mark . . .: and
- (ii) registers, traffics in, or uses a domain name that -
 - **(I)** in the case of a mark that is **distinctive** at the time of the registration of the domain name, is identical or confusingly similar to that mark;
 - (II) in the case of a famous mark that is famous at the time of registration of the domain name, is identical or confusingly similar to that mark.

15 U.S.C. § 1125(d)(1)(A) (emphasis added). Thus, Defendant is liable under the ACPA if ithas a bad faith intent to profit from registering, trafficking in or using as a domain name a mark that is either identical or confusingly similar to a distinctive mark or identical, confusingly similar or dilutive of a famous mark.

First, Plaintiff's marks are famous and entitled to protection. Plaintiff's trademarks are arbitrary trademarks because they do not suggest the goods and services offered.² Entrepreneus Media, Inc. v. Smith, 279 F.3d 1135, 1141 n. 2 (9th Cir. 2002). Alternatively, Plaintiff's marks are suggestive trademarks because they "require imagination, thought or perception to link the trademark with the goods offered." Interstellar Starship Services, 304 F.3d at 943 n.6. Generally, arbitrary and suggestive trademarks "receive automatic protection because of their inherent distinctiveness." Id.

Courts consider several factors in assessing whether a person has the requisite "bad faith intent" to profit from the mark, as defined by the ACPA, including but not limited to:

- **(I)** the trademark or other intellectual property rights of the person, if any, in the domain name;
- the extent to which the domain name consists of the legal name of (II)the person or a name that is otherwise commonly used to identify

² For example, the use of "Amazon" as an online bookstore is an arbitrary trademark. See Interstellar Starship Services, Ltd. v. Epix, Inc., 304 F.3d 936, 943 n. 6 (9th Cir. 2002).

³ For example, the use of "Roach Motel" for insect traps is a suggestive trademark. See Interstellar Starship Services, 304 F.3d at 943 n. 6.

that person;

- (III) the person's prior use, if any, of the domain name in connection with the bona fide offering of any goods or services;
- (IV) the person's bona fide noncommercial or fair use of the mark in a site accessible under the domain name;
- (V) the person's intent to divert consumers from the mark owner's online location to a site assessable under the domain name that could harm the goodwill represented by the mark, either for commercial gain with the intent to tarnish or disparage the mark, by creating a likelihood of confusion as to the source, sponsorship, affiliation or endorsement of the site;
- (VI) the person's offer to transfer, sell or otherwise assign the domain name to the mark owner or any third party for financial gain without having used, or having an intent to use, the domain name in the bona fide offering of any goods or services, or the person's prior conduct indicating a pattern of such conduct;
- (VII) the person's provision of material and misleading false contact information when applying for the registration of the domain name, the person's intentional failure to maintain accurate contact information, or the person's prior conduct indicating a pattern of such conduct;
- (VIII) the person's registration or acquisition of multiple domain names which the person knows are identical or confusingly similar to marks of others that are distinctive at the time of registration of such domain names, without regard to the goods or services of the parties; and
- (IX) the extent to which the mark incorporated in the person's domain name registration is or is not distinctive and famous. . . .

15 U.S.C. § 1125 (d)(1)(B). A court is "not limited to considering just the listed factors when making [its] determination of whether the statutory criterion has been met. The factors are, instead, expressly described as indicia that 'may' be considered along with other factors." Sporty's Farm, 202 F.3d at 498 (emphasis added).

In applying these factors, it is clear that Plaintiff will be able to demonstrate Defendant's bad faith intent: (1) Defendant has no trademark rights in the registered domain name at issue; (2) the domain name at issue do not contain any of Defendant's legal names; (3) Defendant apparently

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made no use of the marks contained in the domain name at issue prior to registering the domain names; (4) Defendant has not made any bona fide noncommercial or fair use of the domain name at issue; (5) by using marks identical or confusingly similar to Plaintiff's famous trademarks in the domain name for its infringing site, Defendant intends to divert consumers from Plaintiff's web sites and to create a likelihood of confusion as to the source, sponsorship, affiliation or endorsement of Defendant's domain name which will undoubtedly harm the goodwill and reputation created by the Plaintiff's trademarks; and (6) the mark contained in the domain names at issue is confusingly similar to Plaintiff's distinctive trademarks, as discussed below. Accordingly, at least six of the nine factors clearly weigh in favor of finding that Defendant had the requisite bad faith intent to profit from the registration of domain names confusingly similar to Plaintiff's trademarks.

Plaintiff also satisfies the second element of its claim under the ACPA. The domain name registered by Defendant are either identical or confusingly similar to Plaintiff's registered trademarks. The Infringing Domain Name strongly resembles Plaintiff's trademarks. Defendant's domain name satisfies the "identical or confusingly similar" test of the ACPA, particularly since the domain name contains Plaintiff's marks with the exception of the addition of one "t" and the word "the." Therefore, this Court should issue a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction to protect Plaintiff's prior and exclusive rights in the marks based upon the probable success of Plaintiff's ACPA claim against Defendant.

> **(2)** Plaintiff Is Likely to Succeed on the Merits of Its Trademark Infringement and Unfair Competition Claims.

To succeed on the merits of its trademark infringement or unfair competition claims under the Lanham Act, Plaintiff must establish that Defendant's use of Plaintiff's marks causes a likelihood of confusion among the consuming public. See 15 U.S.C. § 1114(a); Metro Publishing Ltd. v. San Jose Mercury News, 987 F.2d 637, 640 (9th Cir. 1993). Such confusion can occur when

⁴ Defendant's registered Infringing Domain Name intentionally misspells Plaintiff GNLV, Corp.'s GOLDEN NUGGET trademark. The registration of domain names which intentionally misspell famous trademarks is a violation of the ACPA. See Victoria's Cyber Secret Ltd. Partnership v. V Secret Catalogue, Inc., 161 F. Supp. 2d 1339, 1351 (S.D. Fla. 2001), citing Shields v. Zuccarini, 254 F.3d 476, 485 & n. 5 (3d Cir. 2001).

the infringer's sole action was the registering of an infringing domain name. See Green Prods. Co. v. Independence Corn By-Prods. Co., 992 F.Supp. 1070, 1080 (N.D. Iowa 1997) (holding that the mere domain name registration of a competitor's mark resulted in a likelihood of confusion). In fact, Defendant's intent to deceive the public by adopting Plaintiff's names and marks to provide direct links to hotel resort services creates a presumption of confusion. See Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences v. Creative House Promotions, 944 F.2d 1446, 1456 (9th Cir. 1991). See also Lozano Enterprise v. La Opinion Publishing Co., 44 U.S.P.Q.2d 1764, 1767 (C.D. Cal. 1997), quoting Opticians Ass'n v. Independent Opticians, 920 F.2d 187, 193 (3d Cir. 1990) (holding that a defendant's use of marks identical to the plaintiff's marks for competitive services renders the confusion test under 15 U.S.C. § 1114 "open and shut"). Plaintiff is entitled to injunctive relief based upon Defendant's infringing use.

Even without the presumption of confusion, Plaintiff can demonstrate that there is a likelihood of confusion between its marks and Defendant's registered Infringing Domain Name. Generally, the likelihood of confusion between two marks is determined through the application of an eight-factor test, although not all factors must be considered. See AMF Inc. v. Sleekcraft Boats, et al., 599 F.2d 341, 348-49 (9th Cir. 1979) (identifying the eight factor test); Apple Computer, Inc. v. Formula Int'l, Inc., 725 F.2d 521, 526 (9th Cir. 1984) (holding that trial courts are not required to consider all factors). In GoTo.com, 202 F.3d at 1205, 1207, the Ninth Circuit found that, in the context of the Internet, only three of the eight Sleekcraft factors need to be addressed: (1) the similarity of the marks; (2) the relatedness of the goods or services; and (3) the simultaneous use of the Web as a marketing channel. See id. Plaintiff meets all three of these factors. There is a likelihood of confusion in the instant case because the Infringing Domain Name is either identical or extremely similar to Plaintiff's marks, the services offered under the Infringing Domain Name and Plaintiff's marks include resort hotel and travel services and Plaintiff and Defendant are simultaneously using the Internet as a marketing channel.

(a) The Marks are Identical or Extremely Similar.

Plaintiff's marks and Defendant's Infringing Domain Name are identical or extremely similar. Similarity of marks is tested on three separate levels: sight, sound and meaning, with Page 11 of 18

similarities given greater weight than differences. See Plough, Inc. v. Kreis Labs, 314 F.2d 635, 638 (9th Cir. 1963); Esso Standard Oil Co. v. Sun Oil Co., 97 U.S.App.D.C. 154, 157, 229 F.2d 37, 40, cert. denied, 351 U.S. 973 (1956). However, generic or common descriptive words or text used in connection with a mark cannot be considered in a sight, sound and meaning analysis. See Paccar, Inc. v. TeleScan Technologies, LLC, 319 F.3d 243, 252 (6th Cir. 2003), citing Instruct-O-Matic Corp. v. Inductotherm Corp., 747 F.2d 358, 363 (6th Cir. 1984) (stating that "[d]escriptive letters, syllables, or phrases are not considered in determining whether two marks are similar"). See also Alpha Indus., Inc. v. Alpha Steel Tube & Shapes, Inc., 616 F.2d 440, 444 n. 1 (9th Cir. 1980) (confirming that the Ninth Circuit does not consider descriptive text in determining similarity of marks).

Defendant's Infringing Domain Name contains the entirety of Plaintiff's mark with the exception of the addition of a "t" and the word "the." Defendant uses the text of the Infringing Domain Name for the same purpose and manner as Plaintiff's uses of its marks, and the text is either identical or extremely similar in sight, sound and meaning to Plaintiff's marks.

(b) Defendant's Goods and Services are Identical to Plaintiff's Goods and Services.

The goods and services used in connection with the Infringing Domain Names are, at a minimum, related if not identical to the services provided by Plaintiff under its marks. Plaintiff offers resort hotel services under their famous marks, and Defendant's Infringing Domain Name provides direct links to resort hotel and travel services. The unique nature of the Internet significantly increases the likelihood of confusion of the source of the goods and services offered in connection with similar marks. See GoTo.com, 202 F.3d at 1207.

However, even if Defendant utilized the Infringing Domain Name to offer goods and services wholly different from those offered by Plaintiff, Defendant would still be creating a likelihood of confusion between its web site and Plaintiff's marks. The United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit found in <u>GoTo.com</u> that "the use of remarkably similar trademarks on different websites creates a likelihood of confusion amongst web users" even when the goods and services are

not identical in nature. 202 F.3d at 1207. In fact, even the mere registration of the Infringing Domain Name is sufficient to create a likelihood of confusion. See Green Prods. Co., 992 F.Supp. at 1079 (stating that "[d]efendant's domain name and home page address are external labels that, on their face, cause confusion among Internet users and may cause Internet users who seek plaintiff's web site to expend time and energy accessing defendant's web site").

Accordingly, any use on the Internet by Defendant of the Infringing Domain Name or Plaintiff's marks would create a likelihood of confusion with those marks, even if Defendant's use was not similar in nature. In the present case, however, the goods and services are not merely deemed similar because they were provided in connection with the Internet, the goods and services were in fact the same, further increasing the likelihood of confusion and mandating remediation.

(c) The Marketing Channels Are the Same.

There can be no doubt that Plaintiff and Defendant are simultaneously using the Internet as a channel of trade. Plaintiff uses the Internet to advertise the services offered under their marks, including resort hotel and travel services. Defendant's use of the Internet make it possible for it to divert consumers searching for the Plaintiff's web sites to Defendant's web site, which utilizes the Infringing Domain Name.

The fact that the marketing channels are the same increases the likelihood of confusion for consumers. See Sleekcraft, 599 F.2d at 353. Moreover, the Internet as a marketing channel is "particularly susceptible to a likelihood of confusion." See GoTo.com, 202 F.3d at 1207. Finally, domain names on their face cause consumer confusion because consumers expending time and energy to access one website may be diverted to another's website. See Green Prods. Co., 992 F.Supp. at 1077.

Therefore, it is very probable that Plaintiff will prevail on its trademark infringement and unfair competition claims under the Lanham Act. Plaintiff is the owner of its marks with prior and exclusive rights, including, but not limited to, the right to exclude Defendant from using its marks. Defendant's use of the Infringing Domain Name and Plaintiff's marks causes a likelihood of confusion, and Plaintiff is entitled to a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction.

(3) Plaintiff Is Likely to Succeed on the Merits of Its Common Law Trademark Infringement Claim.

Plaintiff will likely succeed on the merits of its mark infringement claim against Defendant under Nevada common law. To show common law mark infringement, Plaintiff need only show:

(a) that Plaintiff is the owner of a protectable right in the marks, and (b) that Defendant's registration of the Infringing Domain Name is likely to "confuse, cause mistake or deceive an 'appreciable number' of reasonable customers" with respect to the marks. <u>A.L.M.N., Inc. v. Rosoff</u>, 757 P.2d 1319, 1321 (Nev. 1988).

(a) Plaintiff Has Protectable Rights in Its Marks.

As discussed above, Plaintiff has protectable rights in and to the marks based upon Plaintiff's federal registrations of the marks and based upon the exclusive and continuous use of the marks before or since the openings of their respective resort casinos.

(b) Defendant's Use of the Infringing Domain Names is Likely to Cause Confusion with Plaintiff's Marks.

Defendant's use of the Infringing Domain Name and Plaintiff's marks are likely to "confuse, cause mistake or deceive an 'appreciable number' of reasonable customers." See Rosoff, 757 P.2d at 1323. To determine the likelihood of confusion between similar marks, the Supreme Court of Nevada has adopted a seven factor test consisting of: (i) similarity of marks; (ii) similarity of services; (iii) marketing channels used; (iv) evidence of actual confusion; (v) strength of the mark; (vi) junior user's intent in adopting the mark; and (vii) degree of care likely to be exercised by the purchaser. <u>Id</u>. at 1324.

Plaintiff has already demonstrated the applicability of factors (i), (ii), (iii), (v), (vi) and (vii) in the discussion above. See Sections III.A, III.B(1), and III.B(2), supra. With regard to the fourth factor, courts do not require proof of actual confusion to find a likelihood of confusion. See e.g., Drexel Enters., Inc. v. Hermitage Cabinet Shop, Inc., 266 F. Supp. 532, 537 (N.D.Ga. 1967). Plaintiff has not as yet found it necessary to engage in the expense of conducting surveys to identify actual confusion but reserve the right to do so, as the longer the Infringing Domain Name is permitted to divert customers from Plaintiff's websites, the greater the likelihood of actual confusion.

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Plaintiff's probable success, therefore, on their common law mark infringement claim is very high. As Plaintiff is the owner of strong marks with prior, continuing and exclusive rights and as Defendant's use of the Infringing Domain Name and the marks causes a likelihood of confusion under Nevada law, this Court should issue a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction to preserve Plaintiff's rights in and to their marks.

C. Plaintiff Has Raised Serious Questions as to the Merits, and the Hardships Balance in Favor of Plaintiff.

Even if Plaintiff's success on the merits of the Relevant Claims, as discussed above, was not probable, Plaintiff would be entitled to the injunctive relief requested upon a showing that there are serious questions as to the merits of Plaintiff's claims and that the balance of hardships weigh in Plaintiff's favor. See A&M Records, Inc. v. Napster, Inc., 239 F.3d 1004, 1013 (9th Cir. 2001) (citation omitted).

The first prong of this alternative test requires a far lower showing than probable success on the merits. All that need be shown is the mere existence of serious questions as to the merits of Plaintiff's claims. See A&M, 239 F.3d at 1025 (where the first prong of the alternative test was met by the mere raising of meritorious issues that were the subject of the claims alleged). Plaintiff meets this prong as it has raised serious questions going to the merits of the Relevant Claims. These serious questions include, without limitation, all of the elements of each of the Relevant Claims upon which Plaintiff has demonstrated probable success. See id. (where the serious questions raised were merely elements of the claims for which the plaintiffs were seeking injunctive relief). As these serious questions have already been raised in the above probable success analysis, they need not be repeated here.

Further, the hardships strongly balance in favor of Plaintiff. Issuance of the injunction would merely require Defendant to stop using identical or confusingly similar names or marks. Defendant is permitted to register other, non-infringing domain names to provide consumers with access to resort hotel and travel services.

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In contrast, by failing to issue the injunction, Defendant would be allowed to continue generating business by virtue of Plaintiff's famous names and marks. Moreover, the continued use would also cause the dilution and tarnishment of Plaintiff's names and marks. Plaintiff would continue to suffer a loss of control over its goodwill and reputation, over which Defendant now exercises a disconcerting amount of worldwide control through the Internet.

Finally, issuance of the injunction will maintain the status quo. "[T]he status quo is the last uncontested status which preceded the pending controversy." Tanner Motor Livery, Ltd. v. Avis, Inc., 316 F.2d 804, 809 (9th Cir. 1963), cert denied, 375 U.S. 821 (1963). Defendant's acts referenced in Plaintiff's Complaint occurred on or about April 11, 2011, and continue to the present. Accordingly, an injunction would merely return the parties to the status quo that existed about 2 months ago, before Defendant began offering direct links to resort hotel and travel services over the Internet using the Plaintiff's famous name and marks.

D. Protection of Consumers Weighs in Favor of Injunctive Relief.

The primary goal of trademark law is to protect consumers against deception. <u>See Lozano</u>, 44 U.S.P.Q.2d at 1769, <u>citing International Order of Job's Daughters v. Lindeburg & Co.</u>, 633 F.2d 912, 918 (9th Cir. 1980). In this instance, the consequences of consumer deception are potentially very grave.

Consumers may falsely believe that they will be safe giving away their personal information to Defendant because consumers know that they are safe giving their personal information to Plaintiff's famous resort hotel casinos. Because there is a chance that consumers' personal information will not be safe when given to Defendant, it is imperative that consumers not be led into believing that they are dealing with Plaintiff's reputable businesses, when, in fact, they are not.

E. This Court Should Only Require Nominal Security.

In the event that the Court requires that a bond or other security be posted by Plaintiff, Plaintiff requests that the Court set an amount that is no greater than \$100 per domain name. Plaintiff is well established in Nevada. During the pendency of this litigation, Defendant would not suffer from having the registration for the Infringing Domain Name maintained with Fabulous.com PTY LTD. (registrar) for the pendency of the litigation.

F. In Addition to the Notice Requirements of Rules 4 and 5 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Notice Should be Permitted Via E-Mail.

Plaintiff requests that this Court permit service of the summons, complaint, motion, temporary restraining order and notice of the hearing on the preliminary injunction by e-mail, in addition to effectuating service as mandated by Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 and 5. Otherwise, a just, speedy and inexpensive determination of the preliminary injunction cannot be achieved. <u>See</u> Fed. R. Civ. P. 1.

If the Court grants Plaintiff's request for a temporary restraining order, the order will only remain in effect for ten (10) days and the hearing on the preliminary injunction must occur "at the earliest possible time" prior to the expiration of the temporary restraining order. Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(b). The process of serving the German-based Defendant with the summons, complaint, motion, temporary restraining order and order for hearing on the preliminary injunction could exceed the ten (10) day period and, most likely, not afford Defendant timely notice of the temporary restraining order and the preliminary injunction. And, as explained above, Plaintiff would be irreparably harmed if the temporary restraining order were to expire before it could be converted into a preliminary injunction. Therefore, in addition to regular service of the complaint, summons, motion and orders under Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 and 5, service by e-mail would ensure prompt notice to Defendant and would be reasonably calculated to provide sufficient and adequate notice to Defendant.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based upon the foregoing Points and Authorities, Plaintiff has shown that it meets either of the two alternative tests developed by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit for entitlement to injunctive relief. Plaintiff has demonstrated that success as to each or the Relevant Claims is, at the very least, probable. Alternatively, Plaintiff has raised serious questions and shown that the balance of hardships tips in its favor. Accordingly, Plaintiff respectively requests that the

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EXHIBIT 1

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LAURI S. THOMPSON, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 6846 thompsonl@gtlaw.com LARAINE BURRELL, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 8771 burrelll@gtlaw.com SHAUNA WELSH, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 11320 5 waishs@gtlaw.com GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP 3773 Howard Hughes Parkway Suite 400 North 7 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 Telephone: (702) 792-3773 8 Facsimile: (702) 792-9002 Counsel for Plaintiff, GNLV, Corp. 9

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEVADA

GNLV, Corp., a Nevada corporation,

Plaintiff,

v.

Kanter Associates SA, a corporation,

Case No.:

DECLARLATION OF LARAINE BURRELL, IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR EX PARTE TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

Defendant.

I, LARAINE BURRELL, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that the facts contained herein are of my personal knowledge, and if called upon, I could and would competently testify to them. This declaration is submitted in support of Plaintiff's Application for Temporary Restraining Order and Motion for Preliminary Injunction.

- 1. I am an associate with Greenberg Traurig, counsel for Plaintiff in the above-referenced matter. I have been employed by Greenberg Traurig, Las Vegas, or its predecessor-in-interest, Quirk & Tratos, since May of 2003.
- 2. This Declaration is submitted in support of Plaintiff's *ex parte* Motion for Temporary Restraining Order.

- 3. Greenberg Traurig has filed hundreds of anti-cybersquatting actions since the passage of the Anti-cybersquatting Consumer Protection Act (the "ACPA"), 15 U.S.C. § 1125(d)(1)(A), and I personally have filed over fifty anti-cybersquatting actions.
- 4. I have requested an *ex parte* Temporary Restraining Order in each anti-cybersquatting action I have filed.
- 5. Following the passage of the ACPA, plaintiffs quickly realized that providing notice to the Defendant of the lawsuit before the domain name in question was beyond the Defendant's immediate grasp resulted in the Defendant transferring that domain name to another registrant and/or another registrar. Such action by the Defendant negates the court's jurisdiction and requires the filing of a second lawsuit after the Plaintiff spends additional time and fees locating the domain name.
- 6. In the instant matter, Defendant registered and is using in bad faith the <thegoldennuggett.com> domain name (the "Infringing Domain Name") and Plaintiff's registered trademarks.
 - 7. Plaintiff is seeking an *ex parte* Temporary Restraining Order from this Court.
- 8. Plaintiff requires the Temporary Restraining Order to be granted *ex parte* because as soon as Defendant receives notice of this action, it could easily and nearly instantaneously transfer the registration of the Infringing Domain Name from the current registrar to any number of other registrars located outside the United States as well as to other registrants unwilling to abide by this Court's orders.
- 9. If Defendant transfers the Infringing Domain Name prior to the hearing on the Motion for Temporary Restraining Order, Plaintiff would be deprived of the ability to recover registration of the Infringing Domain Name and the ability to enforce its intellectual property rights.
- 10. Therefore, notice to the Defendant prior to the locking and transfer of the domain name, as requested in the Motion for Temporary Restraining Order would result in irreparable injury to Plaintiff.

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11. Because notice to the Defendant would result in immediate irreparable injury to the Plaintiff, the Plaintiff has made no effort to notify the Defendant of its request for a Temporary Restraining Order.

DATED: May 19, 2011

Laraine Burrell

EXHIBIT 2

	4 5 6 7 8 9	!	CATES DISTRICT COURT	
GREDMERG TRAURUG, LLP 3773 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 400 North Las Vegas, Norda 89169 Telephone. (702) 792-3773 Facinalic (702) 792-9002	11	GNLV, Corp., a Nevada corporation,	Case No.:	
	12	Plaintiff,		
	13	·	DECLARATION OF STEVEN SCHEINTHAL IN SUPPORT OF	
	14	V	PLAINTIFF'S APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER	
	15	Kanter Associates SA, a corporation,	AND MOTION FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION	
	16	Defendant.		
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	18			
	19	I, Steven Scheinthal, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States that		
	20	the facts contained herein are of my personal knowledge, and if called upon, I could and would		
	21	competently testify to them.		
	22	1. This declaration is submitted in support of Plaintiff's Application for Temporary		
	23	Restraining Order and Motion for Preliminary Injunction.		
	24	2. I am the Executive Vice President & General Counsel of Landry's Restaurants, Inc., I		
	25	have been employed by Landry's Restaurants, Inc. and its predecessors in interest since September,		
	26	1992.		
	27	3. Landry's Restaurants, Inc.	owns GNLV, Corp. who operates the "Golden Nugget"	
	28	resort hotel casino in Las Vegas, Nevada.		

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- 4. The Golden Nugget is a famous destination resort hotel casino located on the worldrenowned "Glitter Gulch" in downtown Las Vegas, Nevada.
- 5. Landry's Restaurants, Inc., through GNLV, Corp. owns the mark GOLDEN NUGGET and variants thereto (the "GOLDEN NUGGET Marks") and has obtained federal mark registrations for the GOLDEN NUGGET Marks, including but not limited to:
 - GOLDEN NUGGET for casino and bar services (U.S. Reg. No. 1,554,155); (a)
 - **(b)** GOLDEN NUGGET for nightclub, bar, cabaret and casino services (U.S. Reg. No. 1,082,044); and
- (c) GOLDEN NUGGET for casino services (U.S. Reg. No. 1,203,988). None of these federal mark registrations has been abandoned, canceled or revoked. Each of the marks has become incontestable through the filing of Section 8 and 15 affidavits in the Patent and Trademark Office.
- 6. Since the Golden Nugget opened in 1946, Landry's Restaurants, Inc. and its predecessors-in-interest have continuously used the mark GOLDEN NUGGET in connection with advertising and promoting the "Golden Nugget" properties in the United States and around the world. Consumers book substantial numbers of hotel rooms at the Golden Nugget resort hotel through the <goldennugget.com> website. The GOLDEN NUGGET name and mark are among the oldest, most recognized, and respected names in the gaming industry. In fact, the GOLDEN NUGGET name has become famous in the casino industry.
- 7. Landry's Restaurants, Inc. and its predecessors-in-interest have spent millions of dollars to advertise and promote the GOLDEN NUGGET Marks in print, broadcast media and on the Internet through the Golden Nugget web site, accessible throughout the United States and around the world at <goldennugget.com>. In addition, Landry's Restaurants, Inc. and its predecessors-ininterest have made extensive use of the GOLDEN NUGGET Marks on, among other things, signage, wearing apparel, souvenirs and promotional materials.
- 8. Based upon its federal trademark registrations and extensive use, Landry's Restaurants, Inc. owns the exclusive right to use the GOLDEN NUGGET Marks in connection with 28 | hotel, casino and related services.

- 9. No other entities are legitimately using any of Landry's Restaurants, Inc.'s marks for the provision of casino services. Further, Plaintiff continuously takes steps to ensure that any infringing uses of its federally registered marks cease immediately.
- 10. Each of Plaintiff's marks was famous prior to Defendant's registration and commercial use of the Infringing Domain Names <www.thegolddennuggett.com>.

Executed this // day of May, 2011, at Houston, Texas.

Steven Scheinthal

EXHIBIT 3



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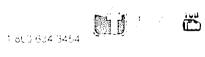


EXHIBIT 4



thegoldennuggett.com is

Rasarvad

Registrar: FABULOUS.COM PTY LTD.

Status: clientDeleteProhibited Status: dientTransferProhibited

Domain options I additional information: (Click bolow to expand)

- + if you own this domain...
- + if you are trying to register/buy this domain...
- + If you are researching this domain...

[Querying whels.varisign-grs.com]
[whols.varisign-grs.com]
[whols.varis Referral URL: http://www.fabulous.com Namo Server: NS1.DSREDIRECTION.COM Name Server: NS2.DSREDIRECTION.COM Status: clientDeleteProhibited Status: cilentTransferProhibited
Updated Date: 11-apr-2011
Creation Date: 03-aug-2006
Expiration Date: 03-aug-2006
Expiration Date: 03-aug-2001NOTICE: The expiration date displayed in this record is the date the registrar's appearantly of the domain name registration in the registry is currently set to expira. This date does not necessarily reflect the expiration date of the domain name registrant's agreement with the appearantly registrar. Users may consult the appearantly while database to view the registrar's reported date of expiration for this registration. Status: clientTransferProhibited

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Domain thegoldennuggett.com: Whois Privacy Services Pty Ltd Domain Hostmaster, Customer ID: 19314367913928 19314367913928-f336f1@whoisprivacyservices.com.au PO Box 923 Fortitude Valley QLD 4006 AU

Administrative contact: **Technical contact:** Billing contact: Whois Privacy Services Pty Ltd Domain Hostmaster, Customer ID: 19314367913928 19314367913928-f336f1@whoisprivacyservices.com.au PO Box 923 Fortitude Valley QLD 4006 AU Phone: Phone: +61.730070090 Fax: Phone: +61.730070091

Record dates:

Record created on: 2006-08-03 15:48:31 UTC Record modified on: 2011-04-11 06:08:01 UTC

Record expires on: 2011-08-03 UTC

Nameservers:

ns1.dsredirection.com: ns2.dsredirection.com:

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thegoldennuggett.com is

Reserved

Status:

clientDeleteProhibited

Status:

clientTransferProhibited

Registrar: FABULOUS.COM PTY LTD.

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- + if you own this domain...
- + if you are trying to register/buy this domain...
- + if you are researching this domain...

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for detailed information. Domain Namo: THEGOLDENNUGGETT.COM

or detailed information. Domain Namo: THEGOLDENNUGGETT.CO: Registrar: FABULOUS.COM PTY LTD.

Registrar: FABULOUS,COM PTY LTD.
Whols Server: whols.fabulous.com
Referral URL: http://www.fabulous.com
Namo Server: NS1.DSREDIRECTION.COM

Name Server: NS2.DSREDIRECTION.COM Status: cilentDeleteProhibited Status: cilentTransferProhibited Updated Dato: 11-apr-2011

Creation Date: 03-aug-2006
Expiration Date: 03-aug-2011NOTICE: The expiration date displayed in this record is the date the

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City of Panama, PA

Administrative contact:

Technical contact:

Billing contact:

Kanter Associates SA

Admin

kanter@fastmail.fm

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Phone: +507.41225948152

Fax:

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Record created on: 2006-08-03 15:48:31 UTC Record modified on: 2011-04-11 06:08:01 UTC

Record expires on: 2011-08-03 UTC

Nameservers:

ns1.dsredirection.com: ns2.dsredirection.com:

Note: Automated collection of data from this database is strictly prohibited.

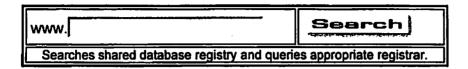


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