## **EXHIBIT 7**

The Honorable James L. Robart 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 8 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE 9 SOARING HELMET CORPORATION, a NO. C 09-0789 JLR Washington Corporation, 10 Plaintiff, DECLARATION OF JEANNE 11 DEMUND IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S RESPONSE TO 12 v. DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT NANAL, INC., a Nevada corporation, d/b/a 13 LEATHERUP.COM, 14 Defendant. 15 My name is Jeanne DeMund. I reside in Renton, Washington. I am over 16 1. the age of eighteen and I am competent to testify to, and have personal knowledge of, the 17 18 facts stated herein. 19 I am the Vice-President of Soaring Helmet Corporation, a Washington 2. 20 Corporation, duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Washington with 21 its principal place of business in Kent, Washington. Soaring Helmet Corporation is a 22 wholesaler of motorcycle helmets and accessories.

Declaration of Jeanne DeMund – 1

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- 3. In addition to motorcycle helmets, Soaring Helmet also sells a variety of motorcycle-related riding apparel and accessories, such as motorcycle jackets, vests, pants, boots, goggles, chest protectors, gear bags, and head wraps.
- 4. Soaring Helmet Corporation is the owner of the VEGA trademark (the "Mark"), which was registered on the principal register of the PTO on August 12, 1997 and was assigned Registration Number 2,087,637 for "motorcycle helmets". From March 18, 1994, and continuously to the present, Soaring Helmet Corporation has owned and used the trademark VEGA® in interstate commerce in the United States.
- 5. Soaring Helmet also owns the federally registered trademark VEGA TECHNICAL GEAR (Registration No. 3639490) for "motorcycle helmets and protective clothing".
- 6. Since it first adopted the Marks, Soaring Helmet Corporation has sold a wide and diverse variety of helmets and technical gear to customers throughout the United States using the Marks. Soaring Helmet Corporation has invested substantial sums of money, effort and time to use, advertise, promote and develop the Marks. As a result, the Marks have become an integral and indispensable part of Soaring Helmet's business.
- 7. Soaring Helmet sells exclusively through authorized distributors of its products. Soaring Helmet only sells through legitimate, reputable retailers, and Soaring Helmet requires potential dealers to provide proof of legitimacy including copies of their business licenses, sales tax permits, business telephone listing information, as well as photos of their store interior and exterior.

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8. As a matter of corporate policy, Soaring Helmet also requires its dealers to sell VEGA® products at no less than Soaring Helmet's manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP). Soaring Helmet terminates relationships with dealers that violate this policy by selling VEGA® products at a discount. Attached as <u>Exhibit A</u> is a true and correct copy of our corporate policy.

- 9. Each of our sales representatives is required to be familiar with our corporate policy, and to make sure our retailers are familiar with our policy. Our corporate policy is printed in our catalogue, which is published annually, and is provided to each of our current and potential retailers, along with our price list.
- When the internet began to be a factor in retail sales, Soaring Helmet developed a policy that included selling only through legitimate dealers, and not establishing internet-only sales outlets (such as Leatherup.com) as dealers. Our brick-and-mortar retailers are very sensitive to this distinction, as there is a strong sense among our retailers that selling on internet-only sites diminishes and taints the value of the product.
- 11. We recognize that many legitimate dealers are actively selling on the internet, and we can accommodate that activity within our selling policy guidelines by allowing internet sales only by retailers that also have a brick-and-mortar store. We screen prospective dealers carefully, either through on-site sales calls by our sales representatives, or by requiring numerous proofs of legitimacy as part of the application process, and by seeking independent confirmation of store location via internet mapping

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and satellite photo technology, specifically, Google Earth. We reject applications from dealers that cannot confirm to our satisfaction that they meet our criteria.

- 12. We have in fact stopped doing business with a number of our dealers who did not agree with our policy, and who sold our products online at a discount. We have cut off bricks-and-mortar dealers for discounting, even if they were not selling on line, and declined to do business with dealers whose business model is deep discounting, thereby keeping our policy consistent.
- 13. It has been my experience, based on 16 years in the industry, that dealers in this industry are very sensitive to discounting, particularly on the internet. Our corporate policies were developed because internet sales and particularly internet discounting is such a hot button issue for our dealers. The motorcycle industry at the retail level is composed overwhelmingly of individually owned stores, or small chains with few outlets, who perceive internet discounting as harmful to their interests. They watch carefully for unfair discounting, and brands that allow this are quickly tainted.
- 14. To the best of my knowledge, Nanal or Leatherup.com has never sold VEGA® Helmets. They have certainly never been an authorized retailer.
- 15. Any perception by dealers that we allow deep discounting is a very serious issue for us. Not only is Nanal claiming to offer VEGA® helmets when they are not able to supply them, and are not now nor ever have been a dealer of ours, but they are offering those helmets in a way that is extremely damaging to our reputation.

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16. There are many forums for motorcycle store owners to share their experiences with different brands, including franchise dealer meetings for dealers who carry the main brands of motorcycles, or "20 Groups" where dealers who are not geographic competitors meet to train on managing their business and compare notes. We have attracted many dealers through this type of word of mouth advertising, in part because of our internet and selling policies. Any perception by dealers that we allow deep discounting is a very serious issue for us and will result in a loss of our reputation as well as a loss of sales.

17. When I became aware of Leatherup.com's false Google advertisement of "50% off VEGA Helmets", via a phone call from VEGA sales representative Claudia Mallard, I immediately went to the Leatherup.com website. I began looking for a contact phone number, intending to resolve the matter directly with the company. This is how I attempt to handle all potential trademark or sales issues involving another company. When I found the 800 number on the website, I called and asked to speak to the owner. I was told he was not available. When I asked for his name, I was told they did not give out that information. I asked for the general manager, and was told there was no one

18. At that point, I went back to the website and found a "contact us" form. I sent an e-mail request, using the "contact us" form, for the owner or general manager to contact me by phone or e-mail to discuss the "50% off VEGA Helmets" advertisement.

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available to speak with.

INVICTA LAW GROUP, PLLC 1000 SECOND AVENUE, SUITE 3310 SEATTLE, WA 98104-1019 FAX (206) 903-6365 TEL (206) 903-6364 I gave my name, title, company, phone and e-mail information to allow communication.

I never received any response.

- 19. In frustration at Nanal's lack of response, I asked my trademark attorneys to pursue the issue. They had similar difficulties in locating, and communicating with, the owner of Nanal, but were finally able to file and serve this lawsuit.
- 20. Incredibly, while this litigation was pending, a different sales representative, Joy Loga from Maryland, called to report that she had received a call from a large customer of Soaring Helmet. The customer is one of Soaring Helmet's top dealers, and has been doing business with Soaring Helmet since 2007. His sales of VEGA® helmets range from \$150,000-nearly \$300,000 annually.
- 21. Joy reported that the customer asked her if Soaring Helmet was now making leather jackets, and pointed her to the Leatherup.com website. There, she saw the "XElement Vega Leather Jacket". She called me to ask if we had licensed our name, or were making leather jackets. I told her that we were not.
- 22. I went to the Leatherup.com website and saw the advertisement which used our trademark. I called my attorneys and told them about this new infringement.
- 23. To this day, the XElement Extreme VEGA jacket is sold on other websites, such as eBay.com and Cobragear.com.
- 24. To date, we have spent over \$600,000 in advertising expenditures for our VEGA® brand since 1994. We have advertised on our website, vegahelmet.com, since 1996. Sales are not made through our website, but it is interactive in that interested

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buyers can enter their zip code, and will be sent the name of an authorized dealer in their area.

- 25. We advertise VEGA® products at the following trade shows: V-Twin Expo and Advanstar Dealernews Powersports Expo. We produce over 10,000 printed catalogues each year which are distributed to retail dealers, and we advertise in industry and consumer magazines such as Dealer News, Motorcycle Industry Magazine, Iron Horse Magazine, Wing World Magazine, and others. We have sales representatives in nearly every state, and have maintained the same toll-free telephone customer service number since 1995.
- 26. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendant's trademark infringement, Soaring Helmet Corporation has suffered and continues to suffer damages, both direct and consequential to its business, goodwill, reputation and profits.

I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington that the foregoing statement is true and correct.

Jeanne DeMund

DATED: NOVEMBER 22, 2010

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3	I hereby certify that I elec
4	using the CM/ECF system which
5	persons/attorneys of record:
6	Ms. Katherine Hendricks Ms. Stacia N. Lay
7	HENDRICKS & LEWIS, PLLC 901 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4100 Seattle, WA 98164
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9	Dated this 22 <sup>nd</sup> day of Nove
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CERTIFICATE	OF SERVICE	

I hereby certify that I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system which will send notification of such filing to the following persons/attorneys of record:

Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2010, at Seattle, Washington.

Katy M. Albritton Legal Assistant

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