**Docket number:** 23-CCB-0182

June 30, 2023

Alan DeHerrera		G. K. Skaggs, Inc.
CLAIMANT	, <u> </u>	RESPONDENT

## ORDER TO AMEND NONCOMPLIANT CLAIM

The Copyright Claims Board finds that your claim does not comply with the requirements of the CASE Act and related regulations. The claim cannot move forward unless it is amended.

If you wish to proceed with this claim, you must file an amended claim by **July 31, 2023**. If you do not, the Board must dismiss your claim without prejudice, although you may file again in the future before the Board or in federal court. If you file an amended claim and it is found compliant, you will be notified and directed to proceed with service. There is no additional filing fee for an amended claim. 17 U.S.C. § 1506(f)(1)(B).

To make your amended claim compliant, you must resolve the issues identified below. 37 C.F.R. § 224.1(c)(2). You may also choose to correct or edit any errors or other information in your claim before you file it again. You do not need to provide a legal argument in your claim – just a statement of facts and circumstances. Being specific in your description gives the other party and the Board more information about your claim. There is no character limit, so please be as detailed as possible.

## Claimant Information

The claim must include the claimant's mailing address, and if the claimant is represented by an attorney, it must also include the attorney's mailing address. 37 C.F.R. § 222.2(c)(2)-(3). Your claim provides only the attorney's address, and that address is entered for both the attorney and for the claimant. You may correct this issue by filing an amended claim that states the mailing addresses of the claimant and counsel in the appropriate fields.

## **Registration Information**

The Board can only hear a copyright infringement claim if, before the claim was filed, (1) the Copyright Office issued a registration certificate for the copyrighted work or (2) the legal or beneficial owner of the copyright applied to register the copyright by delivering a completed application, deposit, and fee to the Copyright Office, and the Copyright Office has not refused the application. 17 U.S.C. § 1505(a). The registration number listed for one of the works appears to be the title for the work. In your amended claim, please list the correct registration number for the work at issue.

## **Substantial Similarity**

Your claim also does not include enough facts that explain the similarities between your works and the respondent's allegedly infringing works. If it is not readily apparent from supplemental documents that are submitted with the claim, you must provide some specific allegations about how each of your works and each of the allegedly infringing works are similar. Your claim states that your works are photographs of wine and champagne bottles and you allege that "Respondent used subject images in online advertising without licensing or otherwise obtaining permission from Claimant." However, you do not provide clear enough information describing or showing your works. No allegations in the "Describe the infringement" field of the claim describe your works or the allegedly infringing works, or state or show how they are identical or substantially similar. Several unlabeled .png files and screenshots may depict a copy of your works, or the allegedly infringing works, but it is hard to tell without clearer labeling or more details in the claim form. You do not provide any other information describing or depicting the works, or state or show how they are identical or substantially similar. As a result, the claim does not provide enough information to enable the respondent to understand the claim and respond to it. When you submit an amended claim, it must include additional allegations that support the element of substantial similarity for each alleged infringement. Please provide more details and background regarding this element in your amended claim, including a clear, detailed statement regarding which portions of your work were taken by the respondent in the allegedly infringing works, or documents that are sufficient to show the similarities. If you include copies of the works at issue as supplemental documents, they must be clearly labeled and identified so they can be properly compared to each other. More information about the elements required to assert a claim of copyright infringement is available in the **Starting an Infringement Claim** chapter of the CCB Handbook.

To submit an amended claim, log into your eCCB account and take the following steps:

- 1. From your dashboard, click the "Amend claim" button and select your docket number from the dropdown list.
- 2. Your claim will unlock for editing. The information you originally entered will appear in the same order as in your original claim.
- 3. Make the necessary edits. If you have filed supplemental documents, <u>you must re-upload any documents you wish to include in the amended claim</u> on the "**Documentation**" page. Please include only documents directly related to your claim, and label them clearly.
- 4. Once you have completed your edits, continue to click through the fillable claim form until you reach the "Review" page. The Review page includes all the information that you have provided in the claim up to this point. Carefully double-check the information on this page. If you have any corrections, you can select "Edit" to revise any entries necessary. Each section of information has an "Edit" button, which will take you back to that section so you can make changes. After you make changes, you can click "Save & review" to return to the Review page. Please review your claim carefully. Once you submit your amended claim, you will be unable to edit the claim while it is in compliance review.

5. Once you have completed your review and any revisions, you must confirm that the information in your claim is accurate and truthful to the best of your knowledge. To complete the declaration, type your full name into the "Digital signature" box near the bottom of the "Review filing" page and click "Agree & submit."

If you have questions, please contact <u>asktheboard@ccb.gov</u>. Include your docket number in the subject line. The Board is unable to provide legal advice. We can only provide legal information and assistance concerning Board procedures and requirements. If you would like to seek further guidance from a lawyer or a law student at reduced or no cost, please visit the <u>Pro Bono Assistance</u> page on ccb.gov. You may also refer to the <u>Compliance</u> <u>Review</u> chapter of the CCB Handbook for more assistance.

Copyright Claims Attorney