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## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MANWIN LICENSING, INTERNATIONAL S.A.R.L. and	Case No. CV 11-9514-PSG (JCGx)
DIGITAL PLAYGROUND, INC.	DECLARATION OF GREGORY DUMAS IN SUPPORT OF
Plaintiffs,	DEFENDANT ICM REGISTRY.
vs.	LLC'S MOTION TO STRIKE PLAINTIFFS' STATE LAW CAUSES
ICM REGISTRY, LLC, d/b/a .XXX; INTERNET CORPORATION FOR	OF ACTION PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE SECTION 425.16
ASSIGNED NAMES AND NUMBERS; and DOES 1-10  Defendants.	Date: April 2, 2012 Time: 1:30 p.m. Place: Courtroom 880
	Hon. Philip S. Gutierrez

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I, Gregory Dumas, hereby declare as follows:

- I am a consultant for defendant ICM Registry, LLC ("ICM"), and have served as the ICM Marketing Director since mid-2010. I submit this declaration in support of ICM's Motion to Strike Plaintiffs' State Law Causes of Action Pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedure Section 425.16. I have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein, unless otherwise stated, and, if called upon to testify as a witness, I could and would competently testify thereto under oath. All Exhibits to this Declaration are maintained in business records, in the ordinary course of my business.
- Prior to executing its contract with Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers ("ICANN"), ICM developed the "Founders Program." In December 2010, a few months after the decision to proceed with the .XXX sTLD was made by ICANN, the Founders Program was formally launched and was available to leading companies within the online adult entertainment industry. ICM's Founders Program was established to support expressive activities by members of the Sponsored Community, whereby early adopters of the .XXX sTLD could secure and develop domain names in anticipation of the official launch; the Founders Program closed on July 31, 2011. Under the terms of the agreement applicable to participation in the program, "Founders" were allocated specific valuable .XXX domains which must contain unique content and not merely direct users to alternate TLDs.
- 3. My responsibilities at ICM included helping businesses become "Founders" within the Founders Program.
- On or about April 13, 2011, Plaintiff Digital Playground, Inc. ("Digital 4 Playground") expressed interest in participating in the Founders Program. I spoke with Digital Playground's Chief Operating Officer, Farley Cahen, and explained to him the policies of the Founders Program. After explaining the policies, Mr. Cahen sent me a long list of .XXX domains that Digital Playground wanted to use in connection with the Founders Program. Despite communications between myself, on behalf of ICM, and Digital Playground, Digital Playground did not take actions

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necessary to participate in the Founders Program prior to passage of the deadline for participation in the program, which was July 31, 2011.

- At some point during the Venus Tradeshow in Berlin, Germany, which ran from October 21-24, 2010, I, along with my ICM colleague, Claudio Menegatti ("Menegatti"), met with Manwin representative Fabian Thylmann ("Thylmann"). The Manwin representative informed Menegatti and me that Manwin saw the introduction of the .XXX sTLD as a threat to Manwin's dominance over the adult Internet industry. At that time, Thylmann said that he would do whatever he could to stop .XXX. Specifically, Thylmann said that if ICANN approved the .XXX sTLD, Manwin would file a lawsuit against ICM to disrupt its ability to conduct business.
- 6. On December 20, 2010, I sent an email to Thylmann informing him of the launch of the Founders Program and suggesting that it might be a good opportunity for Manwin. Thylmann responded saying "...the .xxx domain is useless even if it comes to market, and I am not interested, just as I was not interested before." Attached as Exhibit 1 to this Declaration is a true and correct copy of this email correspondence.
- In September, 2011, Thylmann initiated a conversation with my ICM 7. colleague, Chief Business Development Officer, Jonathan Todd ("Todd") and me, during an industry event in London. Thylmann purported to be interested in reaching a mutually beneficial business deal between Manwin and ICM, and requested an inperson meeting with ICM's CEO, Stuart Lawley ("Lawley").
- 8. I understand that this requested meeting was held between Lawley and Thylmann on September 23, 2011. In fact, I understand that two meetings were held on that date. I understand that at these meetings Manwin laid out a list of demands it wanted ICM to meet in order for Manwin to conduct business with ICM.
- 9. On October 12, 2011, I attended what I understood to be a meeting with Manwin to follow up on the September 23 meetings. This follow-up meeting occurred at Manwin's offices in Montreal.

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- 10. During the meeting, Manwin's representatives refined the list of demands presented to my ICM colleagues in the September 23 meetings. Specifically, at this meeting, Manwin demanded that ICM: allocate a minimum of several thousand .XXX domain names to Manwin free of charge; commit to prevent IFFOR from making any policies that ban or restrict the operation of user-generated content "tube" sites on .XXX domains; grant across-the-board discounts on all .XXX domain registrations; and allow Manwin to operate certain 'premium' or high value domain names, such as "tube.xxx," through a revenue sharing arrangement between Manwin and ICM. Thylmann further stated that he needed the deal to include concessions by ICM that would put a positive "spin" on Manwin's involvement, so that it would appear that Manwin accomplished some positive impact for the industry when news of the deal was announced.
- 11. Manwin threatened ICM by saying that if its demands were not met, it intended to spend several million dollars per year for the next several years tying up ICM in litigation. ICM agreed to certain deal points, and submitted a counter proposal on others. During the negotiations, Thylmann affirmed his intention to start a new trade group like the RIAA or MPAA, since, according to Thylmann, the Free Speech Coalition (a trade group representing certain segments of the adult industry) was not in a position to provide any real value for its members.
- 12. Leaving the negotiations, I understood that further discussions would occur after the execution of appropriate confidentiality agreements.

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13. ICM received no further communication from Manwin until learning of the instant lawsuit.

I declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the United States, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on January \_\_\_\_\_, 2012 at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Gregory Dumas** 

13. ICM received no further communication from Manwin until learning of the instant lawsuit.

I declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the United States, that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on January 2, 2012 at Jan Seas

Gregory Dumas

## **EXHIBIT 1**

## Tuesday, July 12, 2011 9:58:02 AM ET

Subject: Re: .XXX Domains

Date: Monday, December 20, 2010 7:17:43 PM ET

From: Fabian

To: Greg Dumas

The mis-communication ICM loves to do and the blatant misrepresentations of facts is hilarious. Sorry... The ICANN conference gave you absolutely nothing. All that happened was that ICANN confirmed that already before they said in their opinion and from their standpoint the process is ok, but they have to talk to the GAC since the GAC strongly opposed it last time. The GAC still opposes it now, it is not going to pass the GAC.

There are no opportunities, the .XXX domain is useless even if it comes to market, and I am not interested, just as I was not interested before.

...

Fabian Thylmann Manwin International Managing Partner ICQ: 1889711 Skype: nathan\_pa

Cyprus Tel: +357.226.62320 Canadian Tel: +1.514.359.3555 Canadian Fax: +1.514.359.3556 Email: fabian@manwin.com



On Dec 20, 2010, at 7:23 PM, Greg Dumas wrote:

## Fabian

I am not sure where you're based at the moment but if it's either Canada or Europe I don't think you're experiencing such great weather. Either way, I hope you're staying warm and dry while getting ready for the big holidays this weekend.

After we met in Berlin I wasn't sure how to follow-up with you. But after the recent ICANN conference in Cartagena, I thought it was best to contact you about how you'd like to move forward based on how well it went there. I think there are some good opportunities for your company and hope we can determine some of these together.

We also released the Founders program which is something I think you'd want to think about as well: <a href="http://www.icmregistry.com/founder/">http://www.icmregistry.com/founder/</a>

Will you be going to Las Vegas next month? If so let me know as that might be a good place to meet. In the meantime, let me know how you think it's best to move forward.