

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF  
CALIFORNIA

Star Fabrics, Inc. v. HNLTPF, Inc., et al.

Star Fabrics · No. 2:25-cv-06033-MAA · Decided January 7, 2026

SUMMARY

This document is a stipulated protective order entered in Star Fabrics, Inc. v. HNLTPF, Inc., a federal civil action in the Central District of California. It governs the designation, use, disclosure, challenge, filing, and disposition of confidential discovery materials, including procedures for inadvertent production and unauthorized disclosure. The order was stipulated to by counsel on January 6, 2026, and entered by Magistrate Judge Maria A. Audero on January 7, 2026.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | United States District Court for the Central District of California                                                                                    |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Maria A. Audero                                                                                                                                        |
| DECIDED               | January 7, 2026                                                                                                                                        |
| DOCKET                | 2:25-cv-06033-MAA                                                                                                                                      |
| DISPOSITION           | other                                                                                                                                                  |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | The parties stipulated to entry of a protective order governing confidential discovery material, and the court entered the order for good cause shown. |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | nonprecedential                                                                                                                                        |

TOPICS

discovery dispute civil procedure commercial litigation commercial sanctions

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure commercial litigation copyright litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether good cause existed to enter the parties' stipulated protective order governing confidential discovery material.
- What procedures and restrictions should govern the designation, use, disclosure, challenge, filing, and final disposition of protected discovery material.

## HOLDINGS

1. For good cause shown, the court entered the parties' stipulated protective order governing confidential discovery material in the action.
2. Protected material may be used only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle the action and may be disclosed only to the persons and under the conditions specified in the protective order.
3. A party or nonparty may challenge a confidentiality designation subject to the scheduling order and applicable meet-and-confer procedures, and the designating party bears the burden of persuasion unless the designation is withdrawn or waived.
4. The protective order does not itself authorize filing confidential material under seal; a party must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5 and obtain a court order authorizing sealing of the specific material.
5. After final disposition, upon written request, receiving parties must return or destroy protected material within sixty days and provide written certification, subject to the order's archival-copy exception for counsel.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*“The parties acknowledge that this Stipulated Protective Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles.” (1)*

*“Once a case proceeds to trial, all of the court-filed information to be introduced that was previously designated as confidential or maintained pursuant to this protective order becomes public and will be presumptively available to all members of the public, including the press, unless compelling reasons supported by specific factual findings to proceed otherwise are made to the trial judge in advance of the trial.” (5)*

*“FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS SO ORDERED.” (14)*

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The action is expected to involve customer lists, pricing lists, confidential business practices, financial information, proprietary information, and information implicating third-party privacy rights. The parties represented that special protection was warranted to facilitate discovery and protect information maintained as confidential while allowing reasonable use in preparing and litigating the case. The order also addresses confidential material produced by nonparties and material inadvertently produced as privileged or otherwise protected.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Star Fabrics filed this federal copyright action against HNLTPF, Inc. and other defendants. The parties submitted a stipulated protective order addressing the designation, disclosure, use, challenge, filing, and disposition of confidential discovery materials. The court approved and entered the stipulated order on January 7, 2026.

## DISPOSITION

other

## CASES CITED

- Kamakana v. City & County of Honolulu, 447 F.3d 1172, 1180-81 (9th Cir. 2006)

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