

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Seiko Epson Corporation v. Burkwitz Solutions Inc.

140 S. Ct. 2298 · No. 2:24-cv-10133-SVW-AS · Decided April 24, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Central District of California entered a final consent judgment resolving Seiko Epson Corporation and its affiliates' patent and trademark infringement claims against Burkwitz Solutions, Inc. The judgment permanently enjoins the defendant from selling specified infringing ink cartridges and using the Epson Marks or confusingly similar identifiers, while retaining jurisdiction to enforce the judgment.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Stephen V. Wilson
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Central District of California
DECIDED	April 24, 2025
DOCKET	2:24-cv-10133-SVW-AS
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The court entered a stipulated final consent judgment and permanent injunction resolving patent- and trademark-infringement claims against Burkwitz Solutions, Inc.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential

TOPICS

- patent infringement
- trademark infringement
- injunctions
- equitable relief
- commercial litigation

PRACTICE AREAS

- patent law
- trademark law
- civil procedure
- equitable relief
- commercial litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should enter the parties' stipulated final consent judgment resolving the patent- and trademark-infringement litigation.

2. What injunctive restrictions and enforcement provisions should govern Burkwitz Solutions, Inc. and persons acting in concert with it.
3. Whether the consent judgment should have claim-preclusion effect and resolve the parties' claims and counterclaims with prejudice.

HOLDINGS

1. The court entered the parties' stipulated final consent judgment and permanent injunction, concluding the litigation as to Burkwitz Solutions, Inc.
2. Burkwitz Solutions, Inc. and covered persons acting in concert with it are enjoined from making, using, selling, offering to sell, or importing the accused products or products no more than colorably different from them.
3. Burkwitz Solutions, Inc. and covered persons acting in concert with it are enjoined from using the Epson Marks or any confusingly similar mark, name, design, logo, slogan, domain name, or other identifier, and must remove such materials from physical and digital platforms within seven days.
4. The consent judgment finally concludes and disposes of the claims and counterclaims between the plaintiffs and Burkwitz Solutions, Inc. with prejudice and is entitled to issue- and claim-preclusion effect.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Defendant and its officers and directors, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and distributors, who are in active concert or participation with, through, or under it and who receive actual notice of this Consent Judgment by personal service or otherwise, shall not make, use, sell, offer to sell, or import into the United States the Accused Products or any products no more than colorably different therefrom.” (at 5)

“Defendant and its officers and directors, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and distributors, who are in active concert or participation with, through, or under it and who receive actual notice of this Consent Judgment by personal service or otherwise, shall not make any use of the Epson Marks or any mark, name, design, logo, slogan, domain name, or other identifier that is confusingly similar to the Epson Marks.” (at 5)

“This Consent Judgment shall finally conclude and dispose of all claims and counterclaims of Plaintiffs against Defendant and Defendant against Plaintiffs with prejudice.” (at 6)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Seiko Epson owned the asserted patents concerning ink cartridges and related printer components, while Epson America and Epson Portland held exclusive licenses for specified United States distribution and manufacturing rights. Epson also owned registered trademarks covering printer ink, ink bottles, and ink cartridges. The plaintiffs alleged that Burkwitz Solutions sold or offered for sale ink cartridges and ink bottles that infringed the patents and trademarks, including products bearing the asserted marks and sales through websites and online marketplaces.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Seiko Epson Corporation, Epson America, Inc., and Epson Portland Inc. brought patent- and trademark-infringement claims against Burkwitz Solutions, Inc. and individual defendants. The parties agreed to terminate the litigation through a consent judgment, stipulated that there was no just reason to delay entry of final judgment as to Burkwitz Solutions, Inc., waived appeal, and requested entry of final judgment. The court entered the consent judgment with prejudice as to the claims and counterclaims between the plaintiffs and Burkwitz Solutions, Inc.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- United States Patent & Trademark Office v. Booking.com B. V., 140 S. Ct. 2298, 2302 (2020)

OPINION

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT J S-6 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
WESTERN DIVISION SEIKO EPSON CORPORATION, a Japan Civil No. 2:24-cv-10133-SVW-AS corporation; EPSON AMERICA, INC., a California corporation; and EPSON PORTLAND INC., an Oregon corporation, FINAL CONSENT JUDGMENT AS Plaintiffs TO BURKWITZ SOLUTIONS, INC. V. BURKWITZ SOLUTIONS, INC., a California corporation; ARMEN SARGSYAN, an individual; and SIMON MIKAIL, an individual, Defendants.

CONSENT JUDGMENT The parties having considered the facts and applicable law and having agreed to the entry of this Stipulated Final Consent Judgment and Permanent Injunction (“Consent Judgment”), and the parties having stipulated that there is no just reason for delaying entry of final judgment in this action as to Burkwitz Solutions, Inc., (referred to herein as “Defendant”), it is hereby ordered, adjudged, and decreed as follows: FINDINGS OF FACT 1.

Plaintiff Seiko Epson Corporation (“Seiko Epson”) is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of Japan. Its principal place of business is located at 3-3-5 Owa Suwashi Nagano-Ken, 392-8502, Japan. Seiko Epson is in the business of manufacturing and selling a wide variety of consumer, commercial and industrial products, including ink cartridges for use with Epson printers.

Subject to the exclusive licenses described below, it owns all right, title, and interest in, including the right to sue thereon and the right to recover for infringement thereof, the Epson Patents defined below. 2. Plaintiff Epson America, Inc. (“Epson America”) is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of California. Its principal place of business is located at 3131 Katella Avenue, Los Alamitos, California 90720.

As the North American sales, marketing, and customer service affiliate of Seiko Epson, Epson America is the exclusive licensee of the Epson Patents for distributing in the United States

products that are covered by the Epson Patents. 3. Plaintiff Epson Portland Inc. (“Epson Portland”) is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Oregon.

Its principal place of business is located at 3950 NE Alcolek Drive, Hillsboro, Oregon 97124. Epson Portland maintains an exclusive license to manufacture products in the United States under the Epson Patents. Collectively, plaintiffs Seiko 2 Epson, Epson America, and Epson Portland are sometimes hereinafter referred to as “Epson” or “Plaintiffs.” 4. Defendant Bukwitz Solutions, Inc. is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of California.

It heretofore has been in the business, among others, of selling ink cartridges and inks in the United States, including in the Central District of California. 5. Epson owns all right, title, and interest in, including the right to sue thereon and the right to recover for infringement thereof, United States Patent No. 8,794,749 (“the ’749 patent”), which was duly and legally issued to Seiko Epson by the United States Patent and Trademark Office on August 5, 2014, and United States Patent No. 8,454,116 (“the ’116 Patent”), which was duly and legally issued to Seiko Epson by the United States Patent and Trademark Office on June 4, 2013.

The ’749 and ’116 patents (collectively, the “Epson Patents”) relate generally to ink cartridges for printers, circuit boards for use with ink cartridges and printing material containers for printers, ink-supply systems for printers, and components thereof. 6. Epson owns all right, title, and interest in United States Trademark Reg. No. 5,402,648 (the “Wave Mark”) for printer’s ink, filled ink bottles and filled ink cartridges, and ink bottles, Reg.

No. 7,055,411 (the “252 Mark”) and Reg. No. 7,048,971 (the “502 Mark”) for filled ink bottles for printers and photocopiers. The Wave Mark, the 252 Mark, and the 502 Mark are collectively referred to herein as the “Epson Marks.” 7. Epson brought this action against Defendant for infringement of the Epson Patents and of the Epson Marks. 8. Defendant has offered for sale and sold within the United States, including the State of California, certain ink cartridges for use with Epson printers and components thereof that Epson has alleged infringe at least claim 1 of the ’749 Patent and claims 9 and 18-24 of the ’116 Patent 3 (hereinafter, the “Accused Products”).

The Accused Products include without limitation infringing ink cartridges having the 252 Mark for use with Epson printers, and specifically, without limitation, the T252120, T252120XL, T252220, T252320, and T252420 ink cartridges. 9. Defendant has also offered for sale and/or sold in the United States certain products, including ink cartridges and ink bottles in packaging that Epson asserts infringes the Epson Marks, including infringing use of 252 Mark in connection with ink cartridges (without limitation, the T252120, T252120XL, T252220, T252320, and T252420 ink cartridges) and infringing use of the 502 Mark and Wave Mark in connection with ink bottles (without limitation, the T502120, T502220, T502320, and T502420 ink bottles).

Epson also asserts that Defendant has made infringing uses of the Epson Marks on their website at inkjetsclub.com and online storefronts on Amazon, eBay, and Walmart in connection with advertising, providing sales information, offering for sale, and selling ink cartridges and ink bottles. 10. Any finding of fact which is deemed to be a Conclusion of Law is hereby adopted as such.

Any Conclusion of Law which is deemed to be a finding of fact is hereby adopted as such. 11. The parties seek to terminate this litigation through this Consent Judgment. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW 12. This is an action for patent infringement arising under the patent laws of the United States, 35 U.S.C. § 271, and for trademark infringement arising under the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1051 et seq.

This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over the claims for patent infringement and trademark infringement pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1332, and 1338(a). 13. The parties agree that this Court has personal jurisdiction over the parties, and that venue may be had in this district. 4 14.

For purposes of enforcement of this Consent Judgment, Defendant will not challenge the validity and enforceability of the claims of the Epson Patents and/or the Epson Marks. 15. The 252 Mark, the 502 Mark, and the Wave Mark are each registered with the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

As a result, each of these marks is a valid and enforceable trademark. See 15 U.S.C. § 1057(b); United States Patent & Trademark Office v. Booking.com B. V., 140 S. Ct. 2298, 2302 (2020) (“The owner of a mark on the principal register enjoys valuable benefits, including a presumption that the mark is valid.”). 16.

The parties intend and this Court explicitly orders that this Consent Judgment bars Defendant from contending in this action or any other proceeding that the Accused Products and other products that are not colorably different therefrom do not infringe the Epson Patents. 17.

The parties also intend and this Court explicitly orders that this Consent Judgment bars Defendant from contending in this action or any other proceeding that Defendant’s uses of the Epson Marks on its website at inkjetsclub.com and online storefronts on Amazon, eBay, and Walmart in connection with advertising, providing sales information, offering for sale, and selling ink cartridges and ink bottles was or is non-infringing.

18. This Consent Judgment shall finally conclude and dispose of this litigation as to the parties to this Consent Judgment, and this Judgment shall be entitled to issue and claim preclusion effect. IT IS HEREBY FOUND, ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED THAT: A. Defendant and its officers and directors, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and distributors, who are in active concert or participation with, through, or under it and who receive actual notice of this Consent Judgment by personal service or otherwise, shall not make, 5 use, sell, offer to sell, or import into

the United States the Accused Products or any products no more than colorably different therefrom.

B. Defendant and its officers and directors, agents, servants, employees, attorneys, and distributors, who are in active concert or participation with, through, or under it and who receive actual notice of this Consent Judgment by personal service or otherwise, shall not make any use of the Epson Marks or any mark, name, design, logo, slogan, domain name, or other identifier that is confusingly similar to the Epson Marks.

Defendants shall remove any materials bearing the Epson Marks or any confusingly similar mark from all physical and digital platforms, including but not limited to websites, social media accounts, marketing materials, and product packaging, within seven (7) days of the date of this Consent Judgment. C. This Consent Judgment shall not apply with respect to any claim of an intellectual property right that has expired or been found or adjudicated invalid or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, provided that such finding or judgment has become final and non-reviewable.

D. Nothing in this Consent Judgment shall be construed as an admission of liability by the Defendant, and Defendant does not concede liability. E. This Court retains exclusive jurisdiction of this action, and the parties consent to venue in this Court, for the purpose of insuring compliance with this Consent Judgment and enforcement of the Confidential Settlement Agreement.

F. No appeal shall be taken by any party from this Consent Judgment, the right to appeal from this Consent Judgment being expressly waived by the parties. G. This Consent Judgment shall finally conclude and dispose of all claims and counterclaims of Plaintiffs against Defendant and Defendant against Plaintiffs with prejudice. 6 H. Each party shall bear its own costs and attorneys' fees.

L Final Judgment shall be entered hereto, forthwith, without further notice. The Clerk is directed to enter this Final Consent Judgment forthwith. IT IS SO ORDERED. fox LZ Dated: April 24, 2025 Pf Bp) "ME The Honorable Stephen V. Wilson United States District Judge