Appendix XII-B1



CIVIL CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT (CIS)

FOR USE BY CLERK'S OFFICE ONLY				
PAYMENT TYPE:	□ck □cg □ca			
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Effective 10/01/2016, CN 10517



CIVIL CASE INFORMATION STATEMENT

(CIS)
Use for initial pleadings (not motions) under Rule 4:5-1

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E TYPE	S (Choose one and enter number of case ty	pe ir	n appropriate space on the reverse side.)
151 175 302 399 502 505 506 510 511 512 801 802	I - 150 days' discovery NAME CHANGE FORFEITURE TENANCY REAL PROPERTY (other than Tenancy, Contract, Co BOOK ACCOUNT (debt collection matters only) OTHER INSURANCE CLAIM (including declaratory ju PIP COVERAGE UM or UIM CLAIM (coverage issues only) ACTION ON NEGOTIABLE INSTRUMENT LEMON LAW SUMMARY ACTION OPEN PUBLIC RECORDS ACT (summary action) OTHER (briefly describe nature of action)		
305 509 599 603N 603N 605 610 621	II - 300 days' discovery CONSTRUCTION EMPLOYMENT (other than CEPA or LAD) CONTRACT/COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION AUTO NEGLIGENCE – PERSONAL INJURY (non-ver) AUTO NEGLIGENCE – PERSONAL INJURY (verbal PERSONAL INJURY) AUTO NEGLIGENCE – PROPERTY DAMAGE UM or UIM CLAIM (includes bodily injury) TORT – OTHER		
005 301 602 604 606 607 608 609 616	III - 450 days' discovery CIVIL RIGHTS CONDEMNATION ASSAULT AND BATTERY MEDICAL MALPRACTICE PRODUCT LIABILITY PROFESSIONAL MALPRACTICE TOXIC TORT DEFAMATION WHISTLEBLOWER / CONSCIENTIOUS EMPLOYEE INVERSE CONDEMNATION LAW AGAINST DISCRIMINATION (LAD) CASES	E PRO	DTECTION ACT (CEPA) CASES
156 303 508 513 514 620	IV - Active Case Management by Individual ENVIRONMENTAL/ENVIRONMENTAL COVERAGE MT. LAUREL COMPLEX COMMERCIAL COMPLEX CONSTRUCTION INSURANCE FRAUD FALSE CLAIMS ACT ACTIONS IN LIEU OF PREROGATIVE WRITS		
271 274 281 282 285 286 287 289	OUNTY Litigation (Track IV) ACCUTANE/ISOTRETINOIN RISPERDAL/SEROQUEL/ZYPREXA BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB ENVIRONMENTAL FOSAMAX STRYKER TRIDENT HIP IMPLANTS LEVAQUIN YAZ/YASMIN/OCELLA REGLAN POMPTON LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION PELVIC MESH/GYNECARE	293 295 296 297 299 300 601	PELVIC MESH/BARD DEPUY ASR HIP IMPLANT LITIGATION ALLODERM REGENERATIVE TISSUE MATRIX STRYKER REJUVENATE/ABG II MODULAR HIP STEM COMPONENTS MIRENA CONTRACEPTIVE DEVICE OLMESARTAN MEDOXOMIL MEDICATIONS/BENICAR TALC-BASED BODY POWDERS ASBESTOS PROPECIA

Please check off each applicable category

Putative Class Action

Title 59

STARK & STARK A Professional Corporation P.O. Box 5315 Princeton, New Jersey 08543-5315 (609) 896-9060 Attorneys for Plaintiff

DW VINEYARDS LLC,

Plaintiff.

VS.

NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE AUTHORITY,

Defendant.

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY HUNTERDON COUNTY LAW DIVISION

DOCKET	$NO \cdot$	
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COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT OF NON-INFRINGEMENT

Plaintiff, DW Vineyards LLC d/b/a Old York Cellars, by and through its attorneys, by way of Complaint against defendant, New Jersey Turnpike Authority, hereby states as follows:

PARTIES

- Plaintiff, DW Vineyards LLC d/b/a Old York Cellars ("OYC"), is a New Jersey limited liability company with a principal place of business at 80 Old York Road, Ringoes, NJ 08551.
- Defendant, New Jersey Turnpike Authority ("NJTA"), is an authority formed under the laws of the State of New Jersey with a principal place of business at 581
 Main Street, Woodbridge, NJ 07095.

FACTS

- OYC is an award-winning winery located in the Sourland Mountains in Hunterdon County, New Jersey.
- 4. OYC produces fine wines from one of the oldest vineyards in New Jersey.
- 5. OYC is much more than just a business selling wine to the public. It is actively engaged in supporting the New Jersey community by hosting events and sponsoring programs for worthy causes. Among its many civic contributions to the surrounding community, OYC originated a "Charity Alliance" program through which it makes a donation for every bottle of "What Exit Wines" purchased, to various charities and non-profit organizations in New Jersey, including: 1) the Hurricane Sandy New Jersey Relief Fund, co-chaired by New Jersey's First Lady Mary Pat Christie; 2) the Congenital Heart Defect Coalition; 3) the South Camden Theatre Company, which is a major participant in the rebirth of South Camden; and 4) Michael's Miracles, which raises awareness about juvenile diabetes and supports efforts to improve the quality of life for afflicted children.
- 6. OYC sells a line of fine wines under the logo "What Exit Wines" (the "OYC Mark"). The OYC Mark is depicted below:



- 7. In or around July 2015, OYC received a letter from NJTA asserting that OYC infringed on the trademark "Garden State Parkway" (the "GSP Mark") in its marketing and sale of "What Exit Wines".
- 8. NJTA claims to be the owner of the GSP Mark, and further claims to have been using it in connection with highway management and maintenance services, as well as travel information services, since as early as 1956.
- 9. The GSP Mark is depicted below:



- 10. NJTA claims to be the owner of a registration, issued by the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office ("USPTO"), U.S. Registration No. 2,452,349, for the GSP Mark in International Class 37 for highway management and maintenance services, and in International Class 39 for travel information services (the "GSP Registration").
- 11. Despite receiving a federal registration on the GSP Mark, the GSP Mark cannot be protected under state or federal law, and accordingly the GSP Mark is susceptible to cancellation by the USPTO, and should be cancelled.
- 12. The New Jersey Turnpike Act (the "Act"), which defines and limits the authority of the NJTA, proscribes any agency activity which is not "directly or indirectly related to the use of a transportation project". N.J.S.A. 27:23-5.9. The Act, therefore, does not permit the NJTA to engage in a commercial business

- involving the use and licensing of intellectual property. Had the USPTO been aware of this statutory limitation, NJTA's registration should have been and would have been refused.
- 13. Federal law also expressly precludes the protection of "traffic control devices" under patent, trademark or copyright law. The federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (the "Manual"), which is explicitly incorporated into the New Jersey Administrative Code, *see* N.J.A.C. 16:27-2.1, prohibits such intellectual property protection over traffic control devices such as the GSP Mark.
- 14. More specifically, in the Manual a "traffic control device" is expressly defined as "a sign, signal, marking, or other device used to regulate, warn, or guide traffic, placed on, over, or adjacent to a street, highway, private road open to public travel, pedestrian facility, or shared-use path by authority of a public agency or official having jurisdiction...." See § 1A.13 (Definition #238)(emphasis added).
- 15. The GSP Mark is a sign used to regulate, warn, or guide traffic, placed on, over, or adjacent to a highway.
- 16. NJTA has admitted that the GSP Mark is a road sign, a traffic control device whose primary purpose is to direct motorists to the Garden State Parkway.
- 17. Had the USPTO been aware of this limitation under federal law, NJTA's registration should have been, and would have been refused.
- 18. Even if NJTA owns a valid trademark registration, there is no likelihood of confusion caused by the use of the OYC Mark.

- NJTA is not in the business of selling wines or alcoholic beverages, and based on NJTA's own public statements, NJTA has no plan to ever enter that business.
- 20. OYC is not in the business of collecting tolls and maintaining a network of highways, nor does it have any plan to ever enter into such a business.
- 21. Accordingly, the complete dissimilarity between NJTA's business and OYC's business demonstrates that NJTA could not prove any likelihood of confusion even if it owns a valid trademark.
- 22. NJTA has also asserted that OYC's Mark and its entire branding and marketing scheme is "designed to invoke the Garden State Parkway." This is incorrect. OYC is invoking "Jersey Pride", and part of the proud culture of the State is the identity residents feel with certain exits on New Jersey's roads. OYC makes no mention of the Garden State Parkway in its logo, or in any of its marketing. The "What Exit Wines" brand utilizes a wine label which playfully resembles typical "traffic control devices" used throughout New Jersey. However, the label is as easily associated with the New Jersey Turnpike, Route 1 or Route 80 -- highways every bit as well known to Jersey natives as the Parkway -- as it is with the Garden State Parkway. Accordingly, the OYC Mark is not designed to trade on any goodwill (to the extent it even exists) associated with the GSP Mark.
- OYC Mark is infringing. However, virtually every set of roads and highways around the country use green and yellow precisely because they are the widely recognized colors for traffic control devices.

24. Despite threatening a lawsuit well over a year ago, NJTA has not pursued any action in any court making any claim for infringement. Instead, NJTA simply continues to assert that its trademark has been infringed in letters and e-mails to OYC.

COUNT ONE

(Declaratory Judgment of Non-Infringement)

- 25. Plaintiff repeats and realleges all of the foregoing allegations as if repeated verbatim herein.
- 26. NJTA has claimed that OYC's logo infringes on its rights to the GSP Mark and has threatened litigation against OYC for its use of the OYC Mark.
- 27. An actual, present and justiciable controversy has arisen between NJTA and OYC concerning OYC's right to use the OYC Mark.
- 28. Plaintiff seeks a judgment from this Court declaring and adjudging that its use of the OYC Mark does not constitute infringement of the rights, if any, held by NJTA.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court:

1. Enter Judgment in its favor and against defendant declaring and adjudging that its use of the OYC Mark, and any prior versions or iterations of the OYC Mark, does not constitute infringement of the rights, if any, held by NJTA in the GSP Mark, whether those rights allegedly arise under federal or state law, statutory or common law.

2. Enter Judgment in its favor permanently enjoining NJTA from asserting claims or

filing actions against Plaintiff arising out of Plaintiff's use of the OYC Mark and

any prior versions or iterations of the OYC Mark, or interfering in any way with

OYC's use of the OYC Mark.

3. Awarding Plaintiff any and all damages sustained by it as a result of NJTA's

threats of legal action and any other interferences by NJTA with Plaintiff's

business activities.

Award Plaintiff its costs in this action. 4.

5. Enter such further relief to which Plaintiff may be entitled as a matter of law or

equity, or which the Court determines to be just and proper.

DESIGNATION OF TRIAL COUNSEL

Pursuant to the provisions of R. 4:25-4, the Court is advised that CRAIG S. HILLIARD,

ESQUIRE, is hereby designated as trial counsel.

STARK & STARK

A Professional Corporation

Attorneys for Plaintiff

By:

CRAIG S. HILLIARD

Dated: September 30, 2016

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DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiffs demand a trial by jury as to all issues in accordance with the Rules of the Court.

STARK & STARK A Professional Corporation Attorneys for Plaintiff

By: CRAIG S. HILLIARD

Dated: September 30, 2016

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the matter in controversy is not the subject of any other action or arbitration proceeding, and that no other action or proceeding is presently contemplated. I further certify that I am unaware of any other parties who should presently be joined in this action. I hereby certify that the foregoing statements made by me are true. I am aware that if any such statements are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Dated: September 30, 2016

CRAIG S. HILLIARD