

U.S. District Judge Allows Green Project, Inc., To Continue Corporate Spying Claims against Seiko Epson

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Jan. 11, 2010 -- Judge Anna J. Brown of the U.S. District Court, District of Oregon, has upheld Green Project Inc.'s (www.greenprojectinc.com) counter-suit against Seiko Epson which is based on Green Project's claims of misappropriation of trade secrets, trespass and unfair competition. The court case stems from an alleged corporate espionage incident between the two companies.

The original lawsuit, brought by Seiko Epson, one of the world's largest inkjet manufacturer's, and Green Project's counter-suit, both are now continuing in the discovery phase.

Judge Brown's order, delivered Jan. 5, 2010, affirms the merit of the counter-suit filed by Green Project against Seiko Epson on July 27, 2009. The ruling was enthusiastically received as an indicator of the eventual vindication of Green Project, according to Thomas Chan, managing partner of Chan Law Group and counsel to Green Project.

"The fact that Judge Brown declined Seiko Epson's motion to dismiss Green Project's counter-suit strongly indicates the validity of our claims against Seiko Epson, a Japanese corporate giant that chose to profit from the U.S. but also chose to be disdainful of protecting the environment from which it profits," Chan said.

Joseph Wu, president of Green Project, a Los-Angeles based environmentally dedicated entrepreneurial company, added, "I am gratified that Judge Brown recognized that our claims are strong enough to go forward with our case against Seiko Epson."

The two-year-old company provides consumers with an environmentally sound alternative through the recycling of inkjet cartridges. Studies indicate that approximately 350 million cartridges wind up in landfills throughout North America each year, illuminating the need to find ways of keeping the plastic and unused ink out of the ground.

The original lawsuit by Seiko Epson against Green Project claimed patent infringement. Green Project strongly disputes that claim and has counter-sued seeking damages against Seiko Epson and one of its employees, Herbert W. Seitz, who is accused of surreptitiously gaining access to Green Project's premises and to its competitive business information by pretending to be a potential customer.

In ruling on Seiko Epson's motion for dismissal, Judge Brown stated, "The court concludes Green Project's allegations as to the measures it took to protect its purported trade secrets are sufficient to state a counterclaim for misappropriation of trade secrets."

She also ruled: "The Court finds Green Project's allegations that (Herbert W.) Seitz entered Green Project's warehouse without permission through an entrance located on

private property that is not open to the public are sufficient to state a counterclaim for trespass.”

###

Green Project, Inc.

Based in Hacienda Heights, Calif., Green Project Inc. is a fast-growing start-up that specializes in recycling ink and toner cartridges. The company provides products for all of the major manufacturers of inkjet printers, including inkjet cartridges and laser toners. The company has a strong environmental orientation and has chosen to focus on providing recycled products, thus saving the earth from further environmental harm caused by discarded inkjet cartridges and used ink. More information is available at www.greenprojectinc.com.

Chan Law Group LLP

Chaired by Thomas T. Chan, Chan Law Group (www.chanlaw.com) is a Los Angeles-based, boutique intellectual property law and business law firm. Chan previously served as trade advisor to the U.S. Trade Representative and to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. He was instrumental in the formation of the Business Software Alliance based in Washington D.C. and was responsible for filing the first antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft in 1993.