U.S. DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS

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CASE NO.

DISTRICT COURT

CHRISTOPHER ZAMMITO
and ZAMMITO AUTOMOTIVE GROUP, INC.,
Plaintiffs

08 CA 11936 NG

RICHARD HAVRDA, Defendant

v.

MAGISTRATE JUDGE De M

COMPLAINT

- 1. Plaintiff Christopher Zammito is the owner of Zammito Automotive Group, Inc. and a resident of Dartmouth, Massachusetts.
- 2. Plaintiff Zammito Automotive Group, Inc. is a Massachusetts corporation with its principal place of business in Dartmouth, Massachusetts.
- 3. Plaintiff has conducted automobile sales under the trademark "Zammito Auto Group" in Rhode Island for five years and Massachusetts for nine years.
- 4. Defendant Richard Havrda is a resident of Dartmouth, Massachusetts and a former employee of Plaintiff.
- 5. In September 2005, Plaintiffs terminated Defendant's employment due to Defendant's poor performance and his conduct as a salesperson.
- 6. After his termination, Defendant registered the domain name, zammitoautogroup.com. through the website "Register.com."
- 7. Defendant thereafter used the domain name to place derogatory and defamatory statements about Plaintiffs.
- 8. The website created by Defendant used the "Zammito Auto Group" trademark sideby-side with private photographs of Plaintiff Christopher Zammito, sexually explicit and highly inappropriate comments about Plaintiff Zammito Automotive Group, Inc.'s principals and their families and defamatory false slogans.
- 9. Defendant has used zammitoautogroup.com with the clear intent to divert those interested in Plaintiffs' products and services to a site which disparages said products and services.

LAW OFFICES OF BEAUREGARD, BURKE & FRANCO 32 WILLIAM STREET NEW BEDFORD, MA 02740 10. On October 16, 2008, Defendant offered, in writing, to sell the domain name to Plaintiffs for \$1,200 and a \$100 restaurant gift certificate.

COUNT I - VIOLATION OF 15 U.S.C. § 1125(d) THE ANTICYBERSQUATING ACT Plaintiffs v.

- 11. Plaintiffs repeat and incorporate by reference paragraphs 1-10 above as if fully stated herein.
- 12. Plaintiffs have a valid trademark in "Zammito Auto Group."
- 13. Defendant has no legitimate interest in the domain name "zammitoautogroup.com."
- 14. Defendant acquired this domain name and has used the Zammito Auto Group trademark in bad faith and with the intent to defame Plaintiffs and to profit from its re-sale to Plaintiffs.
- 15. As a result, Plaintiffs continue to sustain damages.

COUNT II - VIOLATION OF 15 U.S.C. § 1125(a) Plaintiffs v.

- 16. Plaintiffs repeat and incorporate by reference paragraphs 1-15 above as if fully stated herein.
- 17. Defendant has used and continues to use Plaintiffs' "Zammito Auto Group" trademark in a manner likely to confuse consumers seeking out Plaintiffs' products and services.
- 18. In fact, Defendant is intentionally using Plaintiffs' trademark to confuse consumers and to divert them to his defamatory website.
- 19. As a result, Plaintiffs continue to sustain damages.

COUNT III - DEFAMATION Plaintiff Christopher Zammito v.

- 20. Plaintiffs repeat and incorporate by reference paragraphs 1-19 above as if fully stated herein.
- 21. Defendant's published statements on its website constitute an intentionally malicious defamation of Plaintiff Christopher Zammito and were intended to impair Plaintiff's standing in the community and business opportunities.
- 22. Defendant's statements are of and concerning Plaintiff Christopher Zammito.

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- 23. Defendant's statements were made public via his website.
- 24. The defamatory statements are false and posted with actual malice.
- 25. As a result, Plaintiff continues to sustain damages.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff requests the following relief:

- 1. Judgment against Defendants;
- 2. Compensatory damages;
- 3. Interest, costs and reasonable attorney's fees; and
- 4. Other such relief as this Court deems just and appropriate.

PLAINTIFF DEMANDS TRIAL BY JURY

Plaintiff
By his attorneys,

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Dated: November 18, 2008

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