Recent Developments in U.S. Trademark Law

美国商标法近来发展

February 11, 2012 Michael Atkins









Outline 大纲

- Proposed legislation to address online sale of counterfeit goods on foreign websites 针对国外网站在线出售仿冒商品的立法建议
- Trademark bullying 商标欺凌

Outline 大纲

- Online auctions 在线竞拍
 - Tiffany v. eBay Tiffany 公司诉eBay公司案
- Keyword advertising 关键词广告
 - Rosetta Stone v. Google Rosetta Stone公司诉Google案
- Questions 提问
 - But please ask questions any time
 如有疑问,可随时提问

- Issue: Sale of counterfeit goods by parties outside reach of U.S. courts
 - 问题:美国法院管辖范围之外的卖家销售 仿冒产品
- Brand owners' goal is to stop playing "Whac-A-Mole"

商标所有人的目标是停止

"打地鼠"游戏

 Preventing Real Online Threats to Economic Creativity and Theft of Intellectual Property Act (PROTECT-IP or PIPA) – Senate

防止现实的对经济创造力的在线威胁和窃取知识产权法案(简称 PROTECT-IP or PIPA) —参议院

- Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) House
 停止在线盗版法案(简称SOPA) -- 众议院
- Online Protection and Enforcement of Digital Trade Act (OPEN) - House and Senate

在线保护和执行数码贸易法案(简称OPEN)

-- 众议院和参议院

- U.S. trademark owners are believed to lose billions of dollars to counterfeiters 据称美国商标所有人因仿冒损失了数十亿 美元
- Counterfeiting is believed to cost U.S. economy thousands of jobs
 仿冒行为使美国丧失了数以万计的工作机会

Current protections are ineffective –
particularly when counterfeit goods are
sold on foreign websites, outside the reach
of U.S. courts

当前的保护不够有效 -特别是仿冒商品在外国网站销售时,不在美国法院的管辖范围

 SOPA and PIPA would give the U.S. Justice Department authority to require U.S.-based search engines and internet service providers to block websites that contain infringing content, and to stop advertisers and payment processors from doing business with such sites

SOPA和PIPA法案将授权美国司法部可要求服务器设在美国的搜索引擎和互联网服务提供商拦截包含侵权内容的网站,并停止为这些网站提供广告和支付处理服务

- Blocked websites would not appear in search results, arguably rendering them invisible
 被拦截的网站将不会出现在搜索结果中,可以说是使这些网站不可见
- Opponents argue this would amount to censorship, risk blocking legitimate websites, and would turn search engines into "online police" for fear of liability 反对者称这将意味着网络审查而导致拦截合法网站的危险,并且导致搜索引擎因害怕承担责任而变成"在线警察"。

• Clash of titans 产业巨头间的冲突:





- On January 18, online providers pushed back ahead of a January 20 vote on PIPA
- 在1月20日就PIPA法案的投票前,在线供应商于1月18日反击
 - Believed to be the most widespread online lobbying campaign by Internet companies ever 这被认为是迄今为止最广泛的一次互联网公司在 线立法游说行动



Wikipedia "goes dark" for a day Wikipedia 全天是黑色的



Wired magazine's January 18 home page Wired 杂志1月18日的主页



Tell Congress: Please don't censor the web!

Google's January 18 home page Google 1月18日的主页

- On January 18, House and Senate introduced OPEN bill to address criticism of SOPA and PIPA
 - 1月18日,参众两院提出了OPEN法案,以应对针对SOPA和PIPA法案的批评
 - Vests enforcement authority with the International Trade Commission (ITC)
 - 授予国际贸易委员会(ITC)执行权

- If ITC found foreign website is "primarily" and "willfully" infringing on rights of U.S. IP holder, ITC could issue cease-and-desist order to payment processors and advertisers doing business with the site 如果ITC发现网站"主要"或"故章"用于侵犯美国知识产
 - 如果ITC发现网站"主要"或"故意"用于侵犯美国知识产权持有人的权利,ITC可以向与该网站有业务往来的支付处理器和广告客户发出"停止令"。
- Website owner would have opportunity to be heard
 网站所有者可以有机会参加听证
- Excepts websites that follow a notice-and-takedown policy for removing infringing material
 依照"通知后拿下"政策移除侵权内容的网站除外

- Google, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter support OPEN
 - Google, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter支持OPEN
- Motion Picture Association of America argues OPEN is too soft on counterfeiters, and too cumbersome to be effective

美国电影协会认为OPEN对仿冒行为约束力度不够,过于 繁琐而难以有效执行

- Formerly broad support for SOPA/PIPA softens
 SOPA/PIPA之前的支持者态度普遍软化
 - White House announces it opposes SOPA and PIPA 白宫宣布其反对SOPA和PIPA
 - Two co-sponsors withdraw support
 两大共同发起者撤回支持
 - January 20 vote on PIPA cancelled
 原定1月20日针对PIPA的投票取消
 - However, bills are not dead
 但是,这两个法案没有死亡
- Mainstream public now aware of the issues 大众现在已经意识到了这些问题







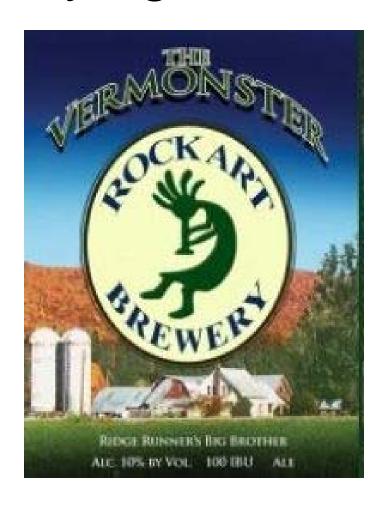








VS.



MONSTER for energy drinks vs. VERMONSTER for beer 22

 Over-reaching enforcement of trademark rights by large, well-funded brand owners

大的有实力的品牌所有人过度实施商标权

 Threat of suit; also carrying out the threat

诉讼威胁; 并且提起诉讼

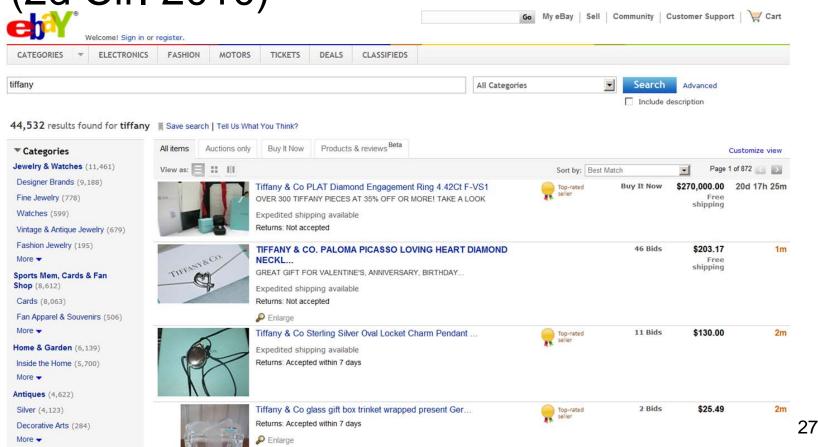
- Bad for small brand owners
 - 对小品牌所有人的危害
 - Pressure to abruptly abandon trademark is expensive, disruptive
 - 突然放弃商标的压力是昂贵且具破坏性的
 - Defending rights is unrealistic捍卫权利是不现实的

- Bad for large brand owners 对大品牌所有人的 危害
 - ChillingEffects.org (这是由电子前沿基金会和哈佛大学,斯坦福大学,乔治华盛顿大学法学院等多家法学院联合进行的一个项目) (寒蝉效应)
 - Internet campaigns, boycotts 互联网运动,抵制
 - Empty threats waste money and risk eroding legitimate trademark rights

空口威胁浪费资金,且带来削弱合法商标权利的风险

- Source of problem may be uninformed lawyers 问题的来源可能是对情况不了解的律师
- 2010 revision of trademark statute required study
 - 需要研究2010年修订的商标法
 - PTO's conclusion: "It is unclear" whether problem exists; suggests lawyer education 美国专利和商标局的结论: "还不清楚"问题是否存在; 建议律师学习
- Attorney's fees provision part of solution? 律师费条款可能一定程度解决问题?

 Tiffany (NJ) Inc. v. eBay Inc., 600 F.3d 93 (2d Cir. 2010)



- In 2004 and 2005, Tiffany found 73.1% and 75.5%, respectively, of its branded merchandise sold on eBay was counterfeit
 - 在2004和2005两年间,Tiffany公司发现eBay销售该品牌商品的仿冒率分别为73.1%和75.5%
- Between 2000 and 2004, eBay earned \$4.1M from the sale of TIFFANY-branded goods
 - 2000年至2004年期间,eBay销售带TIFFANY标识的商品获利4.1百万美元。

- Tiffany sued eBay for direct and contributory trademark infringement for enabling the sale of counterfeit TIFFANY-branded goods
 - Tiffany公司以帮助销售仿冒TIFFANY的物品为由,起诉 eBay直接和帮助商标侵权
 - eBay argued it never comes into possession of the goods, so it can't determine if they are counterfeit
 eBay应诉称,其从来没有实际占有这些商品,因此其不能判断是否仿冒
 - eBay also argued it suspends auctions if the trademark owner establishes that they involve counterfeit goods, or if the sellers have a history of selling counterfeit goods eBay还称,如果商标所有人证明拍卖涉及仿冒商品,或 者出售者有销售仿冒商品历史,eBay 会暂停竞拍

- No direct infringement 没有直接侵权
 - Elements: Defendant's use of trademark causes likelihood of confusion with senior user's trademark

要件:被告人使用商标导致与在先用户的商标发生混淆的可能

- No direct infringement 没有直接侵权
 - eBay did not itself sell any goods bearing
 TIFFANY mark
 - eBay 自己没有销售任何带有TIFFANY标识的商品
 - Held: eBay's use of mark was fair use because it simply identified what the seller purported to sell

判决: eBay是合理使用标识,因为其仅仅显示 卖家声称要销售的商品

- No contributory infringement 没有帮助侵权
 - Elements: Liability exists if defendant induces party to infringe or continues to supply service to party after it has reason to know the party is engaging in infringement

要件:如果被告诱导他人侵权,或者应知该人有侵权行为仍持续向该人提供服务时,则被告对侵权有责任。

- No contributory infringement 没有帮助侵权
 - Held: eBay had neither 判决: eBay不符合两要件
 - It did not exercise control over infringing conduct or have more than "general knowledge" that its service was being used to sell counterfeit goods eBay没有控制侵权行为,或仅仅"大致知道"有人用其服务销售仿冒商品
 - Nor was eBay "willfully blind" that infringement was occurring; its suspension policy was reasonable eBay也没有"故意忽视"侵权行为的发生;它的暂停竞拍政策是合理的

Keyword Advertising 关键词广告

- Rosetta Stone v. Google
 730 F.Supp.2d 531 (E.D. Va. 2010)
- On appeal to Fourth Circuit
 已经上诉至第四巡回法院
 - Oral argument heard on September 22, 2011 2011年9月22日口头辩论
 - Decision expected in 2012 判决将于2012年作出

Keyword Advertising 关键词广告

Rosetta Stone makes language learning software

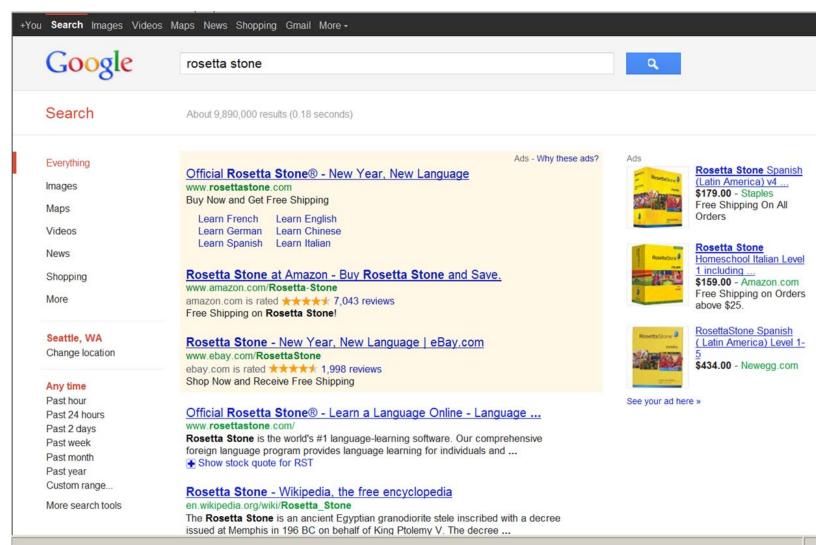
Rosetta Stone公司制作语言学习软件

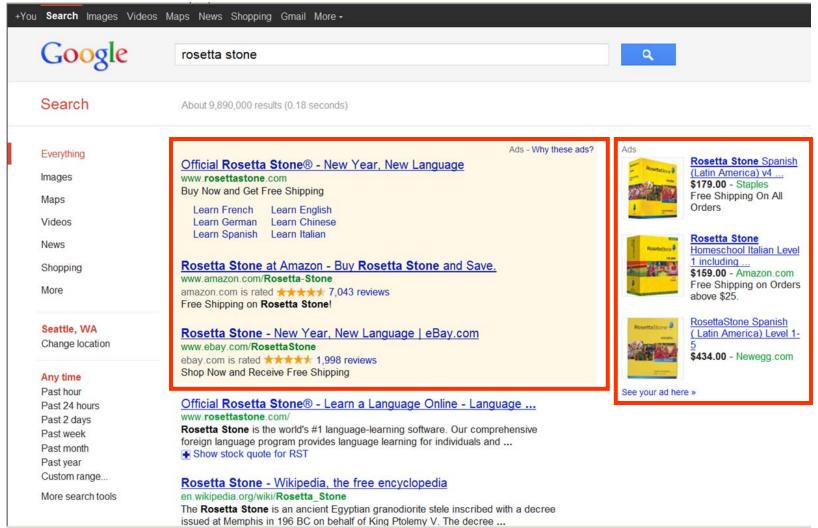
Spent \$100M on advertising花费1亿美元广告费

Keyword Advertising 关键词广告

- Google is search engine provider
 Google是搜索引擎提供商
 - Over 70% of U.S. searches use Google 超过70%的美国网上搜索使用Google的服务
 - In 2004 began to sell trademarks as keywords
 2004年开始以关键词的形式销售商标
 - Google even suggests trademarks to sell Google甚至为建议出售什么商标

 Counterfeiters purchased Rosetta Stone's ROSETTA STONE trademark as keyword 仿冒者购买了 Rosetta Stone公司的 "ROSETTA STONE"商标作为关键词





- Google addresses trademark abuse with notice-and-takedown policy
 - Google以"通知后拿下"政策解决商标滥用
- Rosetta Stone notified Google of 123 instances of counterfeiting in 8-month period
 - Rosetta Stone在8个月内向Google报告了123个仿冒案例

- Google responded to complaints, but counterfeiting continued
 Google回应了投诉,但仿冒仍然继续
- Rosetta Stone sued for direct, contributory, and vicarious trademark infringement
 Rosetta Stone以直接、帮助以及替代商标 侵权起诉Google

Trademark "use" in commerce 商标的商业"使用"

- "Use" of trademark in commerce required to implicate trademark statutes
 商标的商业"使用"是援用商标法的前提
- Held: Sale of trademarks constituted "use"
 判决: 商标销售构成"使用"

Trademark "use" in commerce商标的商业"使用"

Issue not disputed; appears settled under U.S. law

题未经辩论;似乎根据美国法律达成和解

- Network Automation v. Advanced Systems (9th Cir. 2011)
- Rescuecom v. Google (2nd Cir. 2009)
- GEICO v. Google (E.D. Va. 2004)

Direct trademark infringement 直接商标侵权

 Elements: Defendant's use of trademark causes likelihood of confusion with senior user's trademark

要件:被告人使用商标导致与在先商标发生混淆的可能

Direct trademark infringement 直接商标侵权

 Held: No direct trademark infringement because Google's use of trademarks was functional

判决:无直接商标侵权,因为Google的商标使用是功能性的。

- Strange application of functionality doctrine 功能论的非常规运用

Contributory Infringement 帮助侵权

 Elements: Defendant intentionally induces another to infringe or continues to supply product to another who knows or has reason to know is engaging in trademark infringement

要件:被告故意诱导他人侵权,或者应知该人有侵权行为仍持续向该人提供服务

Contributory Infringement 帮助侵权

Held: No contributory infringement

判决:没有帮助侵权

- Under Tiffany v. eBay, need more than generalized knowledge of counterfeiting
 - 根据Tiffany 诉 eBay案确立的原则,不仅需要"大概知道"存在侵权
- Court "unpersuaded" by Rosetta Stone's proof that Google had such knowledge

Rosetta Stone的证据不足以说服法院认定Google知情更多

Vicarious Infringement替代性侵权责任

 Elements: Absent an agency relationship, vicarious liability can only be imposed if the defendant and infringer "exercise joint ownership or control over the infringing product"

要件:除代理关系外,仅当被告和侵权人对侵权产品共同所有或者共同控制时,替代责任才成立

Vicarious Infringement替代性侵权责任

Held: No vicarious infringement

判决:没有替代性侵权

 Google does not sell goods; it only sells space on a search results page. "This is no different than building owners in New York's Times Square who sell space for billboards." Since Google exercises no control over the content of the ads, it was not vicariously liable.

Google没有销售货物;它仅是销售一个搜索结果页面的空间。"这与纽约时代广场的建筑物所有人销售广告牌无异。"由于Google对广告的内容没有控制,它不承担替代责任。

Support Rosetta Stone

- International Trademark Association (INTA)
- Association for Competitive Technology

支持 Rosetta Stone

- 国际商标协会(INTA)
- 竞争技术协会

Support Google

- eBay and Yahoo!
- Electronic Frontier
 Foundation

支持 Google

- eBay 和 Yahoo!
- Electronic Frontier 基 金会

<u>Predicted outcome</u>: Trial court got the right result for the wrong reasons. Fourth Circuit will remand with instructions to correct flawed analysis, but the outcome will be the same

<u>预计结果</u>:一审法院理由错误但结果正确。第四巡回法院将把案件发回,要法院改正分析瑕疵,但判决结果还会是一样的

- Trend is competitor vs. competitor lawsuits 趋势是竞争者起诉竞争者的诉讼
 - Avoids involving search engine providers
 避免起诉搜索引擎供应商
 - But not effective in cases involving counterfeiting
 但在涉及仿冒的案件中效果不好

- Binder v. Disability Law Group, 772 F.Supp. 1172 (C.D. Calif. 2011)
 - Held: Law firm's purchase of competing firm's trademark constituted intentional trademark infringement

判决: 律师事务所购买有竞争关系律所的商标构成故意商标侵权

- Court awarded \$292k in damages, plus attorney's fees as "exceptional" case
 法院判决29.2万美元的损害赔偿,并作为"例外"情况判决被告支付律师费
- However, liability for purchasing competitor's trademark as keyword still not settled

但是,购买竞争者的商标作为关键词的责任问题仍没有解决

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Questions? 提问?

Michael Atkins mike@atkinsip.com atkinsip.com





Thank you! 谢谢!