

Marketa Trimble

# Fashion and U.S. IP Law

University of Milan March 12, 2013















IT'S ABOUT: INSPIRATION CREATIVITY TALENT **IDEAS** INNOVATION PASSION CONFIDENCE BUSINESS ORIGINALITY INTEGRITY **EXPERIENCE** RESPECT REPUTATION

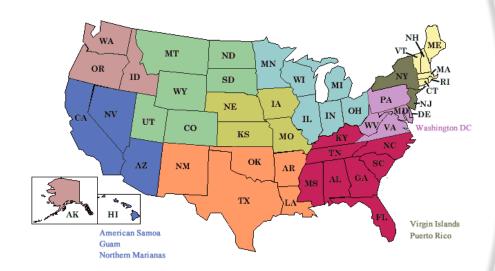
Developed and distributed by the Council of Festion Devigners of America to promote design and to discourage copying, www.cfda.com

## **Basics of U.S. IP Law**



#### U.S. IP Law

- Patents, designs, copyright, trademarks, trade secrets
- Federal vs. state law
- Preemption
- International treaties



No protection for fashion per se





U.S. Constitution
Article 1 - The Legislative
Branch
Section 8 - Powers of
Congress

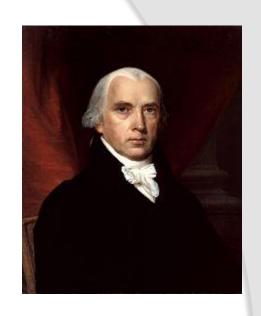
The Congress shall have Power ...

... [t]o promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts,
by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors
the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries ...



#### James Madison, The Federalist No. 43

"The utility of this power will be scarcely questioned. The copyright of authors has been solemnly adjudged, in Great Britain, to be a right of common law. The right to



useful inventions seems with equal reason to belong to inventors. The public good fully coincides in both cases with the claims of individuals. The States cannot separately make effectual provision in either of the cases, and most of them have anticipated the decision on this point by laws passed at the instance of Congress."



#### Pennock v. Dialogue, 27 U.S. (2 Pet.) 1, 19 (1829)

#### J. Story:



"While one great object was, by holding out a reasonable reward to inventors, and giving them an exclusive right to their inventions for a limited period, to stimulate the efforts of genius; the main object was 'to promote the progress of science and useful arts;' and this could be done best by giving the public at large a right to make, construct, use, and vend the thing invented, at as early a period as possible having a due regard to the rights of the inventor."

## Patents and copyright versus trademarks

- Origin in common-law passing off
- Indication of origin of goods and services





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# Copyright



### Copyright

- Original work of authorship fixed in a tangible medium of expression
- Life of the author plus 70 years
- No registration needed for protection (the Berne Convention) but a good idea to register with the U.S. Copyright Office
- No protection for utilitarian objects



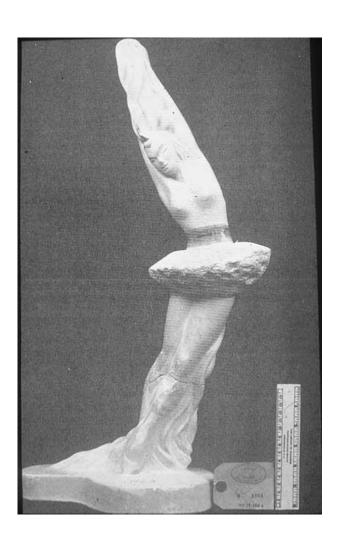
## Copyright

U.S. Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. §101

"Pictorial, graphic, and sculptural works" include two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of fine, graphic, and applied art, photographs, prints and art reproductions, maps, globes, charts, diagrams, models, and technical drawings, including architectural plans. Such works shall include works of artistic craftsmanship insofar as their form but not their mechanical or utilitarian aspects are concerned; the design of a useful article, as defined in this section, shall be considered a pictorial, graphic, or sculptural work only if, and only to the extent that, such design incorporates pictorial, graphic, or sculptural features that can be identified separately from, and are capable of existing independently of, the utilitarian aspects of the article.



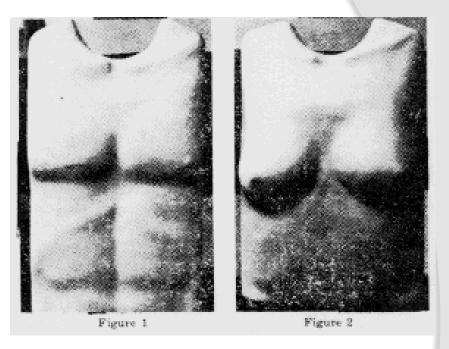




Mazer v. Stein (S.Ct. 1953)







Kieselstein-Cord v. Accessories by Pearl, Inc. (2d Cir. 1980)

Carol Bernhart Inc. v. Economy Cover Corp. (2d Cir. 1985)







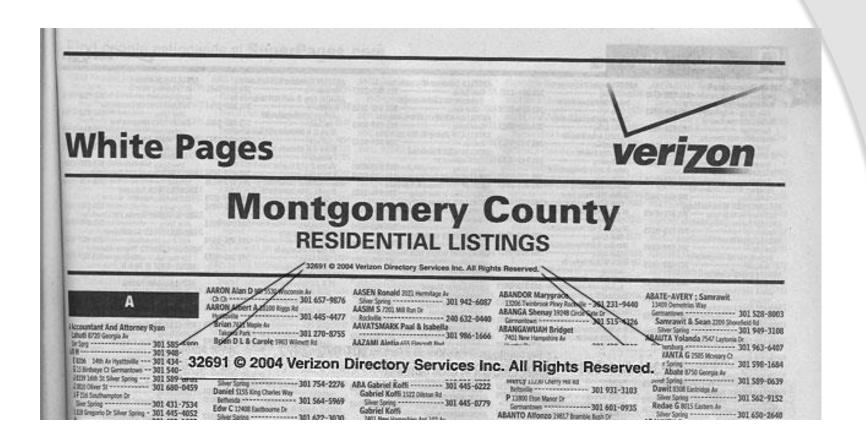




Mystique's By The Sea

Trump's Pia

Trump's Pandra



Feist Publications v. Rural Telephone Service (S.Ct. 1991)



#### Visual Comparison of Fiesta Fashions Style with Jovani Style



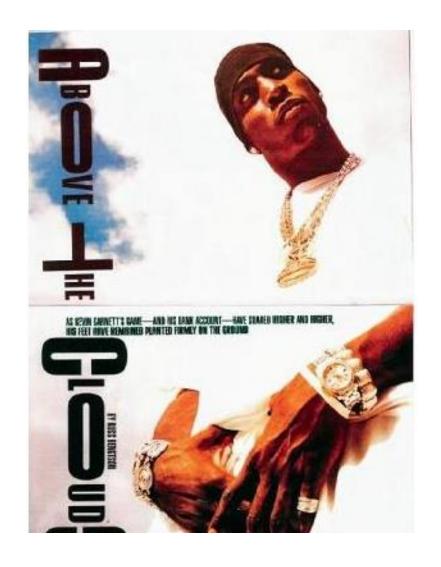
Jovani Fashion v. Cindarella Divine (SDNY 2011)





On Davis v. The Gap (2d Cir. 2001)





Mannion v. Coors (SDNY 2005)





# **Utility Patent**

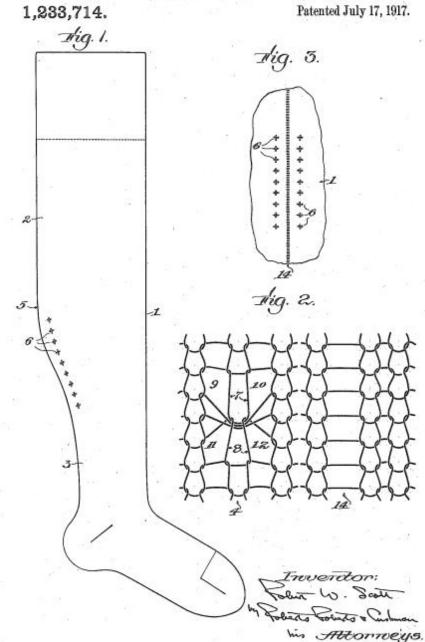






R. W. SCOTT. SEAMLESS STOCKING. APPLICATION FILED NOV. 2, 1915.

Scott & Williams v. Aristo Hosiery Co. (2d Cir. 1925)



#### **Utility Patent**

- Process, machine, article of manufacture, or composition of matter, or any improvement thereof
- Novel, non-obvious, useful
- Must apply for patent with the USPTO
- 20 years from the date of application



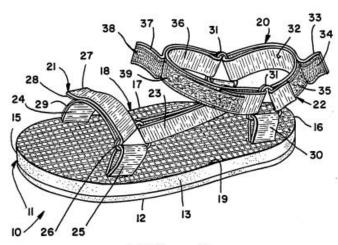
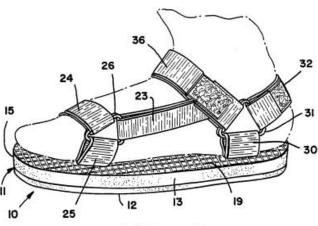


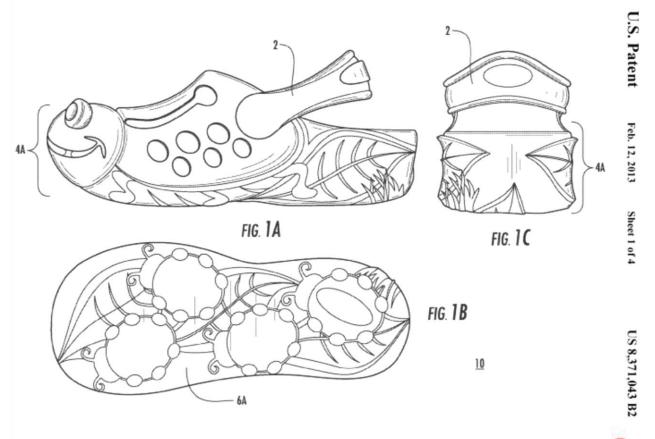
FIG \_ 1







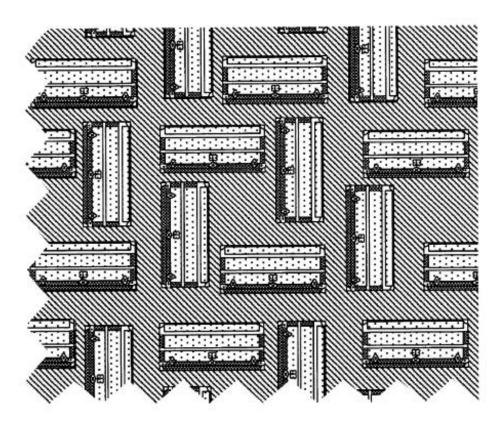






## **Design Patent**







#### **Design Patent**

- "Visual ornamental characteristics embodied in, or applied to, an article of manufacture"
- New and original
- Must register with the USPTO
- 14 years of protection







COMBINATION EVENING AND STREET DRESS

Filed Nov. 30, 1939

2 Sheets-Sheet 1

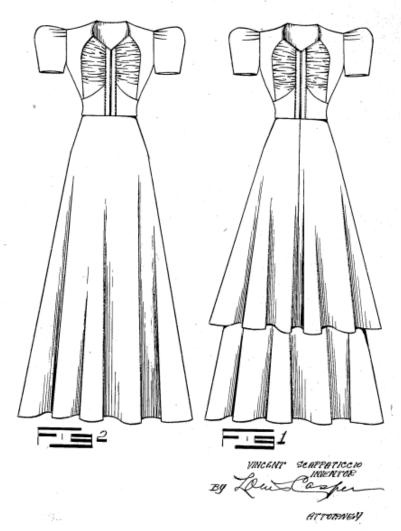
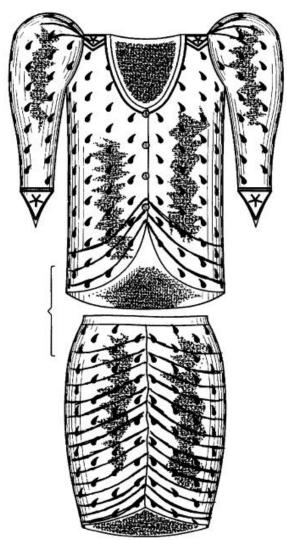
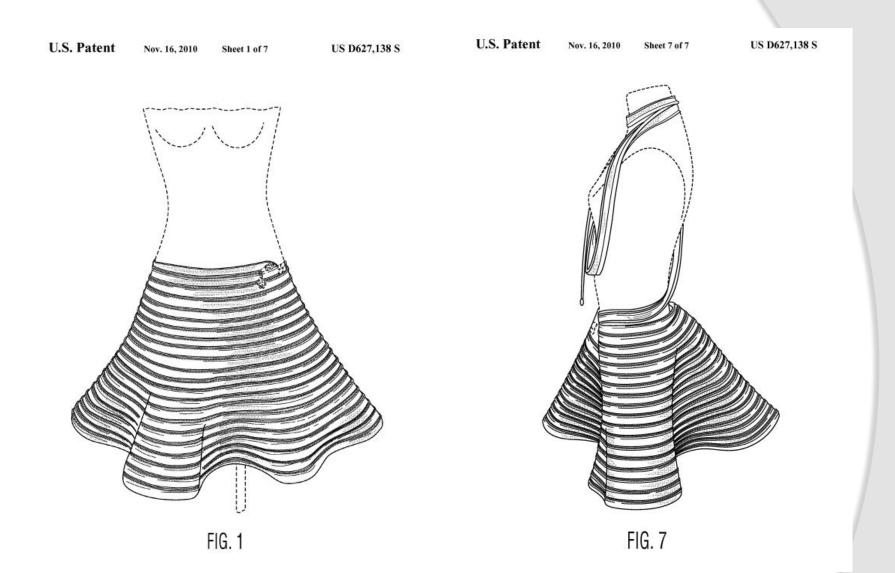


FIG. 1









## **Trademark and Trade Dress**



#### **Trademark and Trade Dress**

- Protection for brand names, logos, symbols, designs
- Design, packaging or appearance
- Federal vs. state
- Registration for certain goods and services
- Renewable term
- Distinctive or acquired distinctiveness through use
- Must use in commerce
- Must protect against becoming generic



#### **Examples of classes of TM goods and services**

- Wearable garments and clothing, namely shirts
- Belt buckles [for clothing]
- Bridesmaid dresses
- Fashion handbags
- Eye glasses
- Dress design services
- Dressmaking
- Needlework and dressmaking services
- Tailoring or dressmaking
- Entertainment in the nature of fashion shows
- Fashion design consulting services



## A NOTE OF INFORMATION AND ENTREATY TO FASHION EDITORS, ADVERTISERS, COPYWRITERS AND OTHER WELL-INTENTIONED MIS-USERS OF OUR CHANEL NAME.

CHANEL was a designer, an extraordinary woman who made a timeless contribution to fashion.

CHANEL is a perfume.

CHANEL is modern elegance in couture, ready-to-wear, accessories, watches and fine jewelry.

CHANEL is our registered trademark for fragrance, cosmetics, clothing, accessories and other lovely things.

Although our style is justly famous, a jacket is not 'a CHANEL jacket' unless it is ours, and somebody else's cardigans are not 'CHANEL for now.'

And even if we are flattered by such tributes to our fame as 'Chanel-issime, Chanel-ed, Chanels and Chanel-ized', PLEASE DON'T. Our lawyers positively detest them.

We take our trademark seriously.

Merci.

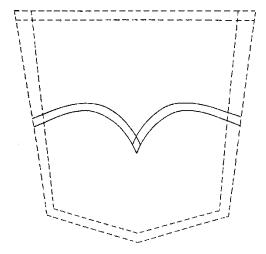
CHANEL Inc.



Wal-Mart v. Samara Brothers (S.Ct. 2000)







U.S. ® 1,139,254



Levi's "Arcuate"



Abercrombie's "Ruehl"



Five of the companies Levi Strauss has sued in the last decade.



Sources: Thomson West; court documents





Malletier v. Dooney & Bourke (S.D.N.Y. 2004)











Louboutin v. Yves Saint Laurent (2d Cir. 2012)

Louboutin v. Société Zara France (Cour de cassation 2012)





Omega v. Costco (9th Cir. 2008, S.Ct. 2010)











#### Other U.S. Laws Protecting Fashion



Testimony of Jeffrey Banks, fashion designer, on behalf of the Council of Fashion Designers of America (U.S. House of Representatives, 2006)

- The adverse impact of piracy on American designers
- Piracy fueled by technology
- The impact of fashion piracy on consumers



### Testimony of David Wolfe, creative director, Doneger Creative Services (U.S. House of Representatives, 2006)

- The lack of originality in fashion makes copyright protection a poor fit
- The fashion industry has thrived and continues to thrive in the absence of copyright
- [The new law] would be detrimental to the fashion industry, retailers and consumers
  - Delays from litigation, injunctions and licensing would stunt the fashion industry
  - A fashion copyright would be virtually impossible to enforce fairly because of the lack of originality in fashion
  - A fashion copyright would increase costs for designers and retailers and would decrease choices for consumers



#### **Innovative Design Protection Act of 2012**

#### A "fashion design"

- (A) is the appearance as a whole of an article of apparel, including its ornamentation; and
- (B) includes original elements of the article of apparel of the original arrangement or placement of original or non-original elements as incorporated in the overall appearance of the article of apparel that
  - (i) are the result of a designer's own creative endeavor; and
  - (ii) provide a unique, distinguishable, non-trivial and non-utilitarian variation over prior designs for similar types of articles.



#### **Innovative Design Protection Act of 2012**

- Term of protection: 3 years
- An infringing article = "any article the design of which has been copied from a design protected under this chapter, or from an image thereof, without the consent of the owner of the protected design"
- An infringing article is NOT "an illustration or picture of a protected design in an advertisement, book, periodical, newspaper, photograph, broadcast, motion picture, or similar medium"







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