

## **CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE WINS LARGEST-EVER JUDGMENT IN CYBERSQUATTING CASE FOR VERIZON**

---

### **Northern California Company Must Pay More Than \$33 Million**

---

**NEWPORT BEACH & PASADENA, Calif. (January 6, 2009)** – Christie, Parker & Hale LLP, one of Southern California’s leading intellectual property law firms, announced that its team of attorneys won the largest ever cybersquatting judgment, \$33.15 million, on behalf of its client, Verizon.

A Federal court in the Northern District of California made the ruling in late December on a case in which OnlineNIC, a San Francisco-based Internet domain name registration company, tried to take advantage of Verizon and its customers by using at least 663 Internet domain names that were easily confused with legitimate Verizon domain names. The infringing Verizon domain addresses displayed ads that would generate revenue for OnlineNIC.

In its ruling, the court concluded that OnlineNIC’s bad-faith registrations of Verizon-related domain names were designed to attract Internet users seeking to access Verizon’s legitimate websites, and calculated an award based on \$50,000 per domain name.

“Our client, Verizon, is highly gratified by this ruling,” said Christie, Parker & Hale partner David Steele, who prosecuted the case. “Our aim with this case was to send a clear message and to deter cybersquatters who continue to run businesses for the primary purpose of misleading Verizon consumers, or consumers of other legitimate companies, as well.”

The Christie, Parker & Hale team on the case included attorneys Howard Kroll, Danielle Criona and Anne Bradley. Steele noted that the firm has extensive expertise in Internet law and has successfully represented many other major corporations in cybersquatting cases, including Avery Dennison, Dell, Dermalogica, Guess?, 1-800 Contacts, Neiman Marcus and Tacori.

#### **About Christie, Parker & Hale**

Christie, Parker & Hale is a leading intellectual property law firm operating at the crossroads of science, technology and the law. Engaged exclusively in all aspects of intellectual property law, most of the firm’s attorneys

hold degrees in engineering or the sciences, bringing added value and perspective to client service. Drawing on a 54-year heritage, the firm continues to propel innovation and stimulate business growth by protecting its clients' most valuable assets – intellectual property.

# # #