

APPAREL AND ACCESSORIES

Ivanka Trump denies claims of Aquazzura suit

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Aquazzura's Wild Thing sandal

By STAFF REPORTS

Ivanka Trump is looking to have a lawsuit brought against her company by luxury shoemaker Aquazzura dismissed.

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Filing a document with a district court in New York on Aug. 19, the designer denied any wrongdoing in the form of "trade dress infringement, unfair competition and deceptive trade practices." According to the [Huffington Post](#), Ms. Trump's parent company and licensor Marc Fisher, a co-defendant in the case, is also moving in a separate filing to have the case thrown out.

Fighting back

Aquazzura filed a suit with the federal court in New York in June, centering its case on a sandal from the Ivanka Trump line that it says is nearly identical to its own Wild Thing style. According to a statement about its legal action, Aquazzura says it has eyed perceived copycat designs from Ivanka Trump consistently over the past two years ([see story](#)).

In a statement given to [Vanity Fair](#) at the time, the chief financial officer of Marc Fisher said that the suit was baseless, since the design reflects a greater trend, rather than something that could be considered intellectual property. The executive attributed the suit to a desire for publicity.

In her document filed, which contains 69 bullet points, Ms. Trump says numerous times that she does not have "knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief" about certain allegations, causing her to deny culpability.



Ivanka Trump's Hettie sandal, the basis of the suit

Ms. Trump is not the only brand Aquazzura is battling against in court over perceived similar designs.

The brand also filing a suit in the federal court in New York against Steve Madden, focusing on three styles the Sharlit, the Lecrew and the Sassey which Aquazzura says too closely resemble its Sexy Thing, Christy and Wild Thing. Much like the recent suit brought against Ms. Trump, Aquazzura says its legal action against Steve Madden has been brewing for years, as it has watched and complained about perceived repeated copycatting ([see story](#)).

"This is not the first time Aquazzura files suit against a brand that uses its design," said Jean-Michel Vigneau, CEO of Aquazzura, in a statement given at the time of the Steve Madden suit. "We will continue to fight and try to stop these actions.

"Authenticity and originality are at the core of our brand, and we will defend them at all costs. We truly trust the law over the protection of these values."

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