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13  
14 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
15 SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

16 BANK JULIUS BAER & CO. LTD, A Swiss) No. CV08-0824 JSW  
entity; and JULIUS BEAR BANK AND TRUST)

17 CO, a Cayman Islands entity,

18 Plaintiffs,

19 v.

20 WIKILEAKS, an entity of unknown form,  
WIKILEAKS.ORG, an entity of unknown form,  
21 DYNADOT, LLC a California limited liability  
company, and DOES 1 through 10 inclusive,

22 Defendants.  
23

) **BRIEF OF INTERVENORS / AMICI**  
) **CURIAE PUBLIC CITIZEN AND**  
) **CALIFORNIA FIRST AMENDMENT**  
) **COALITION IN OPPOSITION TO**  
) **INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND IN SUPPORT**  
) **OF DISMISSAL FOR LACK OF SUBJECT**  
) **MATTER JURISDICTION**

DATE: February 29, 2008

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

24 PLACE: Courtroom 2  
25  
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27  
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**I. INTRODUCTION AND STATEMENT OF ISSUES**

The California First Amendment Coalition and Public Citizen, as intervenors and/or amici curiae, urge this Court to dismiss this matter for lack of subject matter jurisdiction for the reasons stated below. If the case is not dismissed, the permanent injunction should be dissolved, and the temporary restraining order should be allowed to expire. Plaintiffs have demonstrated neither that this court has subject matter jurisdiction, nor that their claims justify injunctive relief or the issuance of a prior restraint.

**II. FACTS AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

**A. Facts**

Defendant Wikileaks is a loose association of “transparency activists,” having been “founded by Chinese dissidents, journalists, mathematicians and startup company technologists, from the US, Taiwan, Europe, Australia and South Africa.” <http://88.80.13.160/wiki/Wikileaks:About>, attached Lincoln Decl., Exhibit A, at 14. It makes available the facilities for government and corporate whistleblowers to “leak” documents that show wrongdoing and the need for reform. Its mission is based on the proposition that “transparency in government activities leads to reduced corruption, better government and stronger democracies,” *id.* at 2, although it also seeks to uncover corporate fraud to “civilize corporations by exposing uncivil plans and behavior.” *Id.* at 7-8. Wikileaks operates by enabling anyone who possesses documents that the person believes merits public attention to post them, and then enabling members of the Wikileaks community to evaluate and comment on the authenticity and significance of the documents, as well as commenting on the comments. *Id.*

The plaintiffs in this case are a pair of banking companies – according to the complaint, the parent, Bank Julius Baer (“BJB”), is a Swiss “entity,” while Julius Baer Bank and Trust (“JBBT”), one of BJB’s subsidiaries, is a Cayman Islands “entity.” Complaint ¶¶ 5, 6. Plaintiffs have filed this case alleging that a former BJB employee, Rudolph Elmer, who is apparently a Swiss citizen who worked in Cayman Islands for the Banks, has used Wikileaks to publish a variety of documents, many of them authentic copies of documents belonging to plaintiffs but, allegedly, improperly removed by Elmer at the end of his employment, that are embarrassing to the plaintiffs and harmful to the privacy

1 interests of plaintiffs' customers. *Id.* ¶¶ 13-27. Statements published on defendant Wikileaks' web  
 2 sites assert that the documents "purportedly show[] offshore tax evasion and money laundering by  
 3 extremely wealthy and in some cases, politically sensitive, clients from the US, Europe, China and  
 4 Peru." [http://88.80.13.160/wiki/Bank\\_Julius\\_Baer\\_vs.\\_Wikileaks](http://88.80.13.160/wiki/Bank_Julius_Baer_vs._Wikileaks). *See also* [http://88.80.13.160/wiki/Bank\\_Julius\\_Baer](http://88.80.13.160/wiki/Bank_Julius_Baer) (citing probe by German tax authorities into "possible tax evasion" by individual  
 5 clients of plaintiffs). Perhaps for this reason, although plaintiffs have identified the set of documents  
 6 published on Wikileaks as "the JB Property" throughout their complaint and their moving papers,  
 7 plaintiffs have been careful to assert that not every item in this collection of documents is a genuine  
 8 copy of an authentic document taken from them. To the contrary, plaintiffs consistently assert that  
 9 some unspecified fraction of the published documents are "semi-altered, semi-fraudulent, or forged."  
 10 Complaint ¶ 27.

#### 12 **B. Proceedings to Date**

13 On February 6, 2008, plaintiffs sued Wikileaks for allowing the documents to be published,  
 14 alleging that jurisdiction is proper in this Court because Wikileaks is a "fictitious business name, alias  
 15 or entity of unknown type and origin, with its principal place of business in the State of California."  
 16 *Id.* ¶¶ 7, 8. No claims are asserted under federal law; hence, subject matter jurisdiction is predicated  
 17 on diversity of citizenship. The complaint alleges that the publication of the documents is an "unfair  
 18 and unlawful business practice" under California Business and Professions Code § 17200, as well as  
 19 being tortious interference with plaintiffs' contract with Elmer, interference with prospective business  
 20 advantage (because it will harm their banking activities), and conversion of their business property.

21 In addition to suing Wikileaks, defendants have named as defendants ten John Does who  
 22 participated in the allegedly wrongful posting of the documents, as well as Dynadot, a California  
 23 corporation that is the domain name registrar through which Wikileaks registered one of its several  
 24 domain names, wikileaks.org. The complaint never explains, however, why plaintiffs have a cause  
 25 of action against Dynadot specifically; it simply alleges claims against defendants generally.  
 26 Moreover, although Elmer (whose citizenship is never alleged) is known to have been involved with  
 27 the documents, and may well be responsible for the postings, no claims are alleged against Elmer.

1 Plaintiffs moved for a temporary restraining order (“TRO”) and preliminary injunction against  
 2 the posting of the so-called “JB Property.” Plaintiffs did not, however, submit for the Court’s  
 3 inspection the entire set of documents whose posting they sought to enjoin. Instead, they submitted  
 4 a **list** of all the folders in which the documents were contained, as well as presenting (eventually under  
 5 seal) a “sample” of the documents at issue that plaintiffs’ counsel claimed were “representative” of  
 6 the entire set. Counsel did not explain what sampling method they had employed to assure such  
 7 representative status. Plaintiffs also submitted a proposed TRO, which the Court entered without  
 8 alteration (except for crossing out the word “proposed” in the caption). The TRO recited in passing  
 9 that the Court “found that good cause exists therefor” and that plaintiffs “hav[e] shown that immediate  
 10 harm will result to Plaintiffs in the absence of immediate relief.”

11 Plaintiffs also obtained the agreement of defendant Dynadot that it could be dismissed from  
 12 the action upon the Court’s adoption of a “permanent injunction” compelling Dynadot both to freeze  
 13 the domain name “wikileaks.org” (so that Wikileaks could not move it to some other registrar), and  
 14 to disable the domain name and “prevent the domain name from resolving to the wikileaks.org  
 15 website of any other website or server other than a blank park page.” Like the TRO, this injunction  
 16 was signed in the form submitted by plaintiffs, with only the word “proposed” stricken; this injunction  
 17 did not recite that good cause existed to enter it, and provided no other justification for the order other  
 18 than “finding that immediate harm will result to Plaintiffs in the absence of injunctive relief.” There  
 19 were no findings to establish jurisdiction, no finding of likelihood of success on the merits, and no  
 20 evident consideration of whether the wrong was co-extensive with the remedy or whether any  
 21 narrower relief could serve plaintiffs’ interests.

## 22 ARGUMENT

### 23 **III. THE PERMANENT INJUNCTION SHOULD BE LIFTED, THE PRELIMINARY** 24 **INJUNCTION SHOULD BE DENIED, AND THE ACTION SHOULD BE DISMISSED,** **BECAUSE THE COURT LACKS SUBJECT MATTER JURISDICTION.**

25 The first reason why the Court should not have granted any injunctive relief in this case, and  
 26 why no further relief should be granted (either by extending the TRO or converting it into a  
 27 preliminary injunction) is that the Court lacks jurisdiction of the subject matter. At bottom, this is a  
 28



1 dispute between a Swiss bank and a Swiss citizen who is using an entity with foreign citizenship,  
 2 Wikileaks, to post documents online. Federal courts are not available for the litigation of such cases.

3 Because no federal claims are pleaded, subject matter jurisdiction rests on a plea of diversity  
 4 jurisdiction. Once a challenge has been raised, plaintiff has the burden of showing the existence of  
 5 subject matter jurisdiction. *Thomson v. Gaskill*, 315 U.S. 442, 446 (1942); *Gibbs v. Buck*, 307 U.S.  
 6 66, 72 (1939). 28 USC § 1332 provides as follows:

7 (a) The district courts shall have original jurisdiction of all civil actions where the  
 8 matter in controversy exceeds the sum or value of \$75,000, exclusive of interest and  
 costs, and is between—

- 9 (1) citizens of different States;
- 10 (2) citizens of a State and citizens or subjects of a foreign state;
- 11 (3) citizens of different States and in which citizens or subjects of a  
 foreign state are additional parties; and
- (4) a foreign state, defined in section 1603 (a) of this title, as plaintiff  
 and citizens of a State or of different States.

12 A significant corollary principle, which does not appear in the text of the statute but has been the law  
 13 for more than two centuries, is that diversity must be complete – there cannot be **any** persons of like  
 14 citizenship on both sides of the case, *Strawbridge v. Curtiss*, 3 Cranch (7 U.S.) 267 (1806). “[W]here  
 15 more than one plaintiff sues more than one defendant and the jurisdiction rests on diversity of  
 16 citizenship, each plaintiff must be capable of suing each defendant.” 13B Wright, Miller & Cooper,  
 17 *Federal Prac. & Proc.* § 3605, at 399-400 (2d ed 1984). Plaintiff cannot possibly satisfy the  
 18 requirements of diversity jurisdiction in this case.

19 In this case, the complaint concedes that both of the plaintiffs are foreign citizens – BJB is  
 20 alleged to be a Swiss “entity”, and JBBT is alleged to be a Cayman Islands “entity.”<sup>1/</sup> Defendants  
 21 Wikileaks and Wikileaks.org are each alleged in the complaint to be a “fictitious business name, alias  
 22 or entity of unknown type and origin, with its principal place of business in the State of California.”  
 23 *Id.* ¶¶ 7, 8. Although plaintiffs may have assumed that this allegation was sufficient to support  
 24 diversity jurisdiction, that assumption was incorrect, because a corporation is the **only** form of

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25 <sup>1/</sup> The complaint does not specify that plaintiffs are corporations, which would mean that they  
 26 are only citizens of Switzerland and Cayman Islands. If these entities take some other form,  
 27 they could well be citizens of other foreign states as well, and perhaps even citizens of one or  
 28 more States. Given the other flaws in diversity jurisdiction, the Court need not consider  
 whether they have some other form.

1 fictional entity whose citizenship can be determined without “look[ing] to the character of the  
2 individuals who compose [it].” *Carden v. Arkoma Associates*, 494 U.S. 185, 188 (1990), citing *Bank*  
3 *of United States v. Deveaux*, 5 Cranch 61, 86, 91-92, 3 L.Ed. 38 (1809), and *Louisville, C. & C.R. Co.*  
4 *v. Letson*, 2 How. 497, 558, 11 L.Ed. 353 (1844). In *Carden*, the Supreme Court went on to  
5 emphasize, “While the rule regarding the treatment of corporations as ‘citizens’ has become firmly  
6 established, we have (with [one] exception) just as firmly resisted extending that treatment to other  
7 entities.” 494 U.S. at 189. Accord, *Grupo Dataflux v. Atlas Global Group*, 541 U.S. 567 (2004)  
8 (limited partnership takes the foreign citizenship of any foreign partners). For example, in  
9 *Steelworkers v. R.H. Bouligny*, 382 U.S. 145 (1965), the Supreme Court confirmed that an  
10 unincorporated association’s citizenship is that of each of its members. As recently as 2006, the Ninth  
11 Circuit upheld the same approach for limited liability companies. *Johnson v. Columbia Properties*  
12 *Anchorage*, 437 F.3d 894 (9th Cir. 2006). Thus, only if plaintiffs can show that Wikileaks is a  
13 corporation, and then only if it can show that Wikileaks’ citizenship is not foreign, can it preserve  
14 subject matter jurisdiction in this case.

15 Although the complaint’s failure to specify the form of Wikileaks’ organization should be  
16 sufficient to warrant dismissal for lack of jurisdiction, because of the rule that “the essential elements  
17 of diversity jurisdiction must be alleged in the pleadings,” 13B Wright, Miller & Cooper, *Federal*  
18 *Prac. & Proc.* § 3602, at 372 (2d ed 1984), the evidence of record affirmatively shows that Wikileaks  
19 is **not** diverse from the plaintiffs. The “about” page on the Wikileaks web site, which is accessible  
20 online at <http://88.80.13.160/wiki/Wikileaks:About>, and also is attached as Exhibit A, shows that  
21 “Wikileaks was founded by Chinese dissidents, journalists, mathematicians and startup company  
22 technologists, from the US, Taiwan, Europe, Australia and South Africa.” It is apparent from this web  
23 site that to the extent that Wikileaks has any entity existence at all, it is an unincorporated association  
24 composed largely of citizens of foreign states. And yet the law is clear that diversity jurisdiction

1 “does not encompass foreign plaintiffs suing foreign defendants.” *Cheng v. Boeing Co.*, 708 F.2d  
 2 1406, 1412 (9th Cir. 1983). *See also Jackson v. Twentyman*, 2 Peters (27 U.S.) 136 (1829).<sup>2/</sup>

3 Diversity would be lacking even if this proved to be a case of citizens of one foreign state  
 4 suing citizens of a **different** foreign state. Citizens of different domestic **States** may sue under section  
 5 1332(a)(1), but this clause does not authorize suits by citizens of different foreign states; such suits  
 6 may only be brought (under section 1332(a)(2)) between citizens of a (domestic) State and citizens  
 7 of a foreign state. In the *Boeing* case, for example, there were actually two cases at issue – the *Cheng*  
 8 case, brought by citizens of several countries against an American company and a Taiwan company,  
 9 and the *Harada* case, brought exclusively by Japanese citizens against the same group of defendants.  
 10 The lack of complete diversity was sufficient to preclude suit in federal court in the United States for  
 11 either set of plaintiffs.<sup>3/</sup>

12 There is a provision of the diversity statute, section 1332(a)(3), that authorizes suits between  
 13 citizens of different states if citizens of foreign states are “additional parties,” but, for two reasons,  
 14 that provision does not apply here even though plaintiffs also sued Dynadot, a corporation whose  
 15 California citizenship we assume for current purposes. First, as noted above, diversity must be  
 16 **complete**, and the presence of a single diverse party, especially a party whose involvement in the case  
 17 is at best tangential, does not serve to cure the lack of complete diversity. But equally or more  
 18 important is the fact that the joinder of Dynadot is fraudulent in every sense of the word, and the  
 19 citizenship of parties fraudulently joined is disregarded for diversity purposes. *Gardner v. UICI*, 508

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21 <sup>2/</sup> Although plaintiffs may object that they should not be required to accept the veracity of this  
 22 web page, it is the best available evidence of the character and nature of Wikileaks, and  
 23 plaintiffs themselves have cited pages from the Wikileaks web site that plaintiffs have deemed  
 24 advantageous to their cause. And, in any event, it is **plaintiffs** who bear the burden of  
 establishing the Court’s subject matter jurisdiction, and, until they do so, the Court should not  
 exercise its injunctive power on their behalf.

25 <sup>3/</sup> Indeed, given the compelling argument advanced by the media amici that Wikileaks, like  
 26 Dynadot, is an interactive computer service provider and hence immune from suit under  
 27 section 230, at bottom this suit should properly be viewed as a dispute between a Swiss and  
 28 Cayman bank against a Swiss citizen, Elmer, who worked in Cayman for many years, and who  
 is using Wikileaks to post documents in violation of his employment agreement. On this  
 analysis, there is not even diversity of foreign citizenship, although as argued in the text, such  
 diversity would not be sufficient to provide diversity jurisdiction..

1 F.3d 559, 561 (9th Cir. 2007). The complaint does not plead any cause of action specifically against  
 2 Dynadot, apart from the assumption that it was somehow a party to Wikileaks' wrongdoing; at best,  
 3 Dynadot was joined only for the purpose of securing complete relief against Wikileaks, and in any  
 4 event Ninth Circuit law establishes that a domain name registrar cannot be sued over allegedly  
 5 wrongful uses of domain names. *Lockheed Martin Corp. v. Network Solutions*, 194 F.3d 980 (9th Cir.  
 6 1999); *accord Bird v. Parsons*, 289 F.3d 865 (6th Cir. 2002). Moreover, as more fully argued by the  
 7 media amici, Dynadot's domain name registration services make it an "interactive computer service,"  
 8 which the Communications Decency Act, 47 U.S.C. § 230, immunizes from liability for wrongs  
 9 allegedly committed by its users. *Carafano v. Metrosplash.com*, 339 F.3d 1119, 1122 (9th Cir. 2003);  
 10 *Batzel v. Smith*, 333 F.3d 1018, 1026-27 (9th Cir. 2003).<sup>4/</sup> Moreover, lack of subject matter  
 11 jurisdiction cannot be "cured" by the consent of the parties, *People's Bank v. Calhoun*, 12 Otto (102  
 12 U.S.) 256, 260-261 (1880), and this Court has a duty to determine on its own motion whether diversity  
 13 jurisdiction exists, notwithstanding the Dynadot's failure to raise the issue itself. *Sessions v. Chrysler*  
 14 *Corp.*, 517 F.2d 759, 761 (9th Cir. 1975). Accordingly, the "permanent injunction" against Dynadot  
 15 should be dissolved for lack of subject matter jurisdiction, and the entire case should be dismissed for  
 16 the same reason.

17 **IV. THE PERMANENT INJUNCTION SHOULD BE LIFTED, AND THE PRELIMINARY**  
 18 **INJUNCTION SHOULD BE DENIED, BECAUSE PLAINTIFFS HAVE NOT SHOWN**  
 19 **ANY LIKELIHOOD OF SUCCESS ON THE MERITS, AND CERTAINLY NOT A**  
 20 **SUFFICIENT LIKELIHOOD TO JUSTIFY A PRIOR RESTRAINT.**

21 The second reason why plaintiffs were not entitled to the permanent injunction, and why the  
 22 TRO should be neither extended nor converted into a preliminary injunction, is that plaintiffs have  
 23 failed to demonstrate any likelihood of success on the merits. The media amici have shown that the  
 24 various "miscellaneous" causes of action pleaded in the Complaint cannot succeed on their own  
 25 merits, and why plaintiffs have not overcome the First Amendment free speech rights of Wikileaks

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26 <sup>4/</sup> Although the Ninth Circuit recently granted en banc review to decide whether a limitation  
 27 imposed on Section 230 immunity was valid, *Fair Housing Council of San Fernando Valley*  
 28 *v. Roommates.com*, 506 F.3d 716 (9th Cir. 2007), granting review of 489 F.3d 921, neither the  
 limitation at issue in *Roommates*, nor the questions on which en banc review was granted,  
 weaken the precedential force of *Carafano* or *Batzel* for the purposes of this case.

1 and its members, not to speak of the First Amendment rights of Public Citizen, the California First  
 2 Amendment Coalition, and their members, to read the Wikileaks web site.<sup>5/</sup> Similarly, we agree with  
 3 the media amici that both Dynadot and Wikileaks are section 230 “interactive computer services” that  
 4 cannot be held liable for alleged wrongs committed by persons who post leaked documents on the  
 5 Wikileaks web site, and are immune from suit over such postings. We embrace and endorse all of  
 6 those arguments, and do not repeat them here.

7 There is an additional reason why plaintiffs’ claim under section 17200 of the California  
 8 Business and Professions Code cannot succeed. As the court said in *Rezec v. Sony Pictures*  
 9 *Entertainment*, 116 Cal.App.4th 135, 10 Cal.Rptr.3d 333, (Cal.App. 2 Dist. 2004):

10 California’s consumer protection laws, like the unfair competition law, **govern only**  
 11 **commercial speech**. (See *Kasky v. Nike, Inc.*, supra, 27 Cal.4th at pp. 953-956, 962,  
 12 969-970, 119 Cal. Rptr.2d 296, 45 P.3d 243; *Keimer v. Buena Vista Books, Inc.*  
 13 (1999) 75 Cal. App.4th 1220, 1230-1231, 89 Cal. Rptr.2d 781; *O’Connor v. Superior*  
 14 *Court* (1986) 177 Cal.App.3d 1013, 1018-1020, 223 Cal. Rptr. 357.) **Noncommercial**  
 15 **speech is beyond their reach.** ( *Ibid.*)

16 116 Cal.App.4th at 140, 10 Cal.Rptr.3d at 337 (emphasis added).

17 Indeed, in the *O’Connor* case, the court said that section 17200 is constitutional **only** because it is  
 18 subject to such limits. 177 Cal. App.3d at 1019, 223 Cal. Rptr. at 360. Similarly, the district court in  
 19 *Isuzu Motors Ltd. v. Consumers Union of U.S.*, 12 F. Supp.2d 1035 (C.D. Cal. 1998) – one of the  
 20 cases cited by **plaintiffs** – ruled that section 17200 “**only** applies to activities that ‘can properly be  
 21 called a business practice.’ *Id.* at 1048 (quoting *Hewlett v. Squaw Valley Ski Corp.*, 54 Cal. App.4th  
 22 499, 519, 63 Cal. Rptr.2d 118 (3d Dist.1997).

23 Plaintiffs’ brief in support of its motion for a TRO or preliminary injunction states in passing  
 24 that “there is no requirement that the activity or conduct sought to be enjoined is commercial,” Mem.  
 25 at 12, but not a single one of the five cases in plaintiffs’ string citation makes any such statement.  
 26 Three of the five cases involve claims against standard commercial enterprises – a collection agency  
 27 (Merchants Collection Association), a seed company (Stover Seed Co.), and a commercial distributor  
 28 of pornography (EWAP, Inc.). A fourth case was brought against the publisher of a “Christian

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27 <sup>5/</sup> Because we are intervening, and not simply filing as amici, we reserve the right to raise those  
 28 arguments on appeal if need be.

1 Yellow Pages,” which **sold** advertisements for the purpose of promoting Christian businesses. In  
2 holding that section 17200 applied, the court rested squarely on the commercial aspects of the  
3 enterprise. Accordingly, the defendants’ non-profit status was not enough to allow them to escape  
4 the rubric of a “business establishment” under the Unruh Civil Rights Act or a “business practice”  
5 under section 17200. *Pines v. Tomson*, 160 Cal. App.3d 370, 386 and n.10, 206 Cal. Rptr. 866, 875-  
6 876 (2 Dist. 1984). Finally, plaintiffs rely on *Isuzu Motors, supra*, but their parenthetical description  
7 of that case – that defamatory statements by Consumers Union “are covered even though it is  
8 completely non-commercial”, Mem. at 12 – is a misstatement. In fact, the opinion on which plaintiffs  
9 rely addressed only a motion to dismiss under Rule 12(b)(6), and the motion was denied **only** because  
10 the allegations were facially sufficient under the forgiving standard of that Rule. The Court noted that  
11 the plaintiffs would have to show that defendant had engaged in a business practice and “expressed  
12 doubt that the allegedly fraudulent publications underlying plaintiff’s § 17200 claim constitute  
13 ‘business acts or practices.’” 12 F. Supp.2d at 1048. However, emphasizing that the case was only  
14 “at the pleading stage,” the court denied the motion to dismiss because the complaint in that case  
15 “sufficiently allege[d]” a business practice. *Id.*

16 Here, however, to obtain injunctive relief, plaintiffs cannot rest on the permissive standard for  
17 pleading; they must **prove** that the defendant was engaged in a business practice; they must do so in  
18 the face of California appellate precedent holding that noncommercial speech is beyond the purview  
19 of section 17200; and they must show the existence of an actionable business practice with sufficient  
20 certainty to overcome the heavy burden of justifying a prior restraint. Moreover, there is not only no  
21 **proof** that Wikileaks has any commercial character, but a review of the Wikileaks web site, including  
22 not only the pages attached to this brief as Exhibit A but also the various pages attached to plaintiffs’  
23 moving papers, show that Wikileaks is a strictly noncommercial site that exists to allow criticism of  
24 governments and corporations. And the Ninth Circuit has squarely held that even though criticism  
25 of corporations may harm their business, that impact does not make the speech commercial. *Nissan*  
26 *Motor Co. v. Nissan Computer Corp.*, 378 F.3d 1002, 1017-1018 (9th Cir. 2004). Finally, not only  
27 have plaintiffs presented no proof that Wikileaks is a commercial web site or engages in commercial  
28



1 speech, but the Court made no findings to that effect, which alone vitiates both the permanent  
 2 injunction and the TRO that were based on plaintiffs' claims of wrongdoing. Accordingly, the Court  
 3 should dissolve the permanent injunction, and should allow the TRO to expire without either  
 4 extending it or converting it into a preliminary injunction.

5 **V. THE PERMANENT INJUNCTION, PROPOSED TRO, AND PRELIMINARY**  
 6 **INJUNCTION ARE UNCONSTITUTIONAL PRIOR RESTRAINTS THAT ARE**  
 7 **JUSTIFIED NEITHER BY THE LAW NOR BY THE EVIDENCE, ARE**  
**OVERBROAD, AND ARE NOT SUPPORTED BY ADEQUATE FINDINGS AND**  
**CONSIDERATION OF NARROWER ALTERNATIVES.**

8 When an injunction is entered based on a finding of likelihood of success in establishing  
 9 illegal speech, instead of a final adjudication, it is a prior restraint subject to strict First Amendment  
 10 scrutiny. *Auburn Police Union v. Carpenter*, 8 F3d 886, 903 (1st Cir. 1993). *See also Carroll v.*  
 11 *Commissioners of Princess Anne*, 393 U.S. 175 (1968). The TRO is thus unquestionably a prior  
 12 restraint. Although the Supreme Court has not yet decided whether a permanent injunction forbidding  
 13 speech that has already been determined to have been unlawful is a prior restraint, for two reasons,  
 14 that rationale would not be a sufficient basis to excuse the permanent injunction in this case from  
 15 being treated as a prior restraint. First, the permanent injunction prevents speech (the posting of  
 16 documents unrelated to plaintiffs) about which plaintiffs do not even claim any impropriety; second,  
 17 even with respect to the so-called "JB Property," there has been no finding after trial that such posting  
 18 is improper or unlawful. And, with respect to the TRO that plaintiffs now ask the Court to convert  
 19 into a preliminary injunction, there has been no final determination that anything posted on the  
 20 Wikileaks web site is, in fact, improper.

21 We agree with the media amici and with the Electronic Frontier Foundation and the American  
 22 Civil Liberties Union ("EFF/ACLU") that the barrier against prior restraints is extremely high, and  
 23 indeed that the Supreme Court has never upheld a classic prior restraint – a court order enjoining  
 24 speech. There is an additional point: The Supreme Court has squarely refused to accept injury to  
 25 business interests as a sufficient basis for a prior restraint. For example, that was the acknowledged  
 26 **objective** of leaflets disseminated about a realtor in *Organization for a Better Austin v. Keefe*, 402  
 27 U.S. 415 (1971), but the Supreme Court nevertheless held that the injunction was an impermissible  
 28

1 prior restraint: “No prior decisions support the claim that the interest of an individual in being free  
 2 from public criticism of his business practices in pamphlets or leaflets warrants the use of the  
 3 injunctive power of a court.” *Id.* at 419. Similarly, in *Procter & Gamble Co. v. Bankers Trust Co.*, 78  
 4 F.3d 219 (6th Cir. 1996), the Sixth Circuit invalidated as an abuse of discretion a preliminary  
 5 injunction against the publication of Business Week magazine, and squarely rejected “private  
 6 litigants’ . . . commercial self-interest” as a basis for a prior restraint, thus overturning a preliminary  
 7 injunction that had been issued in favor of a company whose private documents had been discussed  
 8 in a news publication. *Id.* at 225. *Cf. NAACP v. Claiborne Hardware Co.*, 458 U.S. 886 (1982)  
 9 (advocacy of economic boycott of local merchants fully protected by First Amendment).

10 We agree as well with the media amici insofar as they argue that the Court’s orders do not  
 11 contain **any** findings of wrongdoing, or reflect any express consideration of whether alternative means  
 12 or a narrower injunction might adequately protect the plaintiffs’ legitimate interests while trenching  
 13 on less protected speech.<sup>6/</sup> Without repeating their citations, we do wish to call the Court’s attention  
 14 to some specific examples of that failing – the vastly overbroad definition of the term “JB Property.”  
 15 As defined by the plaintiffs, the category of documents whose posting plaintiffs asked the Court to  
 16 enjoin, and which the Court did enjoin by its verbatim adoption of plaintiffs’ proposed orders,  
 17 includes many documents that are not actual copies of documents taken by Elmer from plaintiffs’  
 18 files. According to plaintiffs, some unknown fraction of the total of 694 documents and folders  
 19 displayed on Wikileaks are “semi-altered, semi-fraudulent, or forged.” *E.g.*, Mem. Supporting TRO  
 20 at 8-9, citing Hiestand Decl. ¶¶24-25 and Spiegel Decl. ¶9. Nothing in plaintiffs’ briefs explains why  
 21 plaintiffs believe that they have a valid cause of action to prevent the posting of such documents, and  
 22 the Court’s findings do not explain such a ruling. Nor have plaintiffs provided the Court with any  
 23 evidence showing which documents fall into those three categories, and which are actually authentic  
 24 copies of plaintiffs’ own documents.

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25 <sup>6/</sup> Public Citizen and CFAC file separately for two reasons – (1) to bring the lack of subject  
 26 matter jurisdiction to the Court’s attention, and (2) to ensure that there is some party with  
 27 standing to appeal the preliminary injunction if necessary. Although we understand that the  
 28 ACLU and EFF will also seek to intervene, they take no position on the TRO, but address only  
 the permanent injunction.



Moreover, plaintiffs have not furnished the Court with a complete set of the documents at issue, but have only given the Court a list of the documents, along with what plaintiffs grandly describe as a “representative sample” of the documents whose posting the Court has enjoined. Although the sampling of a very large number of documents can be a legitimate way for a court to conduct *in camera* review to determine, for example, what documents qualify for attorney-client privilege in a discovery dispute, or what documents at issue in a Freedom of Information Act case pose a genuine threat to national security, we question whether any sampling can allow a court to pass judgment on whether to issue a prior restraint against the posting of specific documents that the Court has not evaluated. And even if a sampling approach is to be permitted, there is no reason to put the fox in charge of the henhouse by allowing plaintiffs’ counsel, however sincere and well-intentioned, to determine the method of sampling – indeed, in this case there is not only no description of the sampling method, there is not any assurance that there **was** any sampling method. Consequently, the Court is in no position to make findings that the posting of all of “JB Property” would violate plaintiffs’ rights, not to speak of weighing, for each document, the “subtle and controversial distinctions” and making for each document the “delicate assessment,” *Carroll v. President and Commissioners of Princess Anne*, 393 U.S. 175, 183 (1968), that is required before finding that **all** of the documents pose such a severe risk of immediate and serious harm as to warrant the issuance of a prior restraint. Indeed, the Court lacks a foundation for making any such findings because only a small sample of the documents has been provided to it, and plaintiffs have not indicated which if any of the documents are authentic copies of its own property, and which purported causes of action justify restraint against which documents.

For these reasons, as well as those ably argued by the media amici and the ACLU/EFF intervenors, the TRO should be allowed to expire, and the permanent injunction should be dissolved.

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**CONCLUSION**

The case should be dismissed for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. The permanent injunction should be dissolved, and the temporary restraining order should be allowed to expire. No preliminary injunction should be issued.

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Respectfully submitted,

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