

ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION CENTER

# ADMINISTRATIVE PANEL DECISION

LEGO Holding A/S v. Al Cherie Case No. D2025-4407

#### 1. The Parties

The Complainant is LEGO Holding A/S, Denmark, represented by CSC Digital Brand Services Group AB, Sweden.

The Respondent is Al Cherie, United States of America.

## 2. The Domain Name and Registrar

The disputed domain name <rawlego.shop> is registered with Spaceship, Inc. (the "Registrar").

### 3. Procedural History

The Complaint was filed with the WIPO Arbitration and Mediation Center (the "Center") on October 27, 2025. On October 27, 2025, the Center transmitted by email to the Registrar a request for registrar verification in connection with the disputed domain name. On October 28, 2025, the Registrar transmitted by email to the Center its verification response disclosing registrant and contact information for the disputed domain name which differed from the named Respondent (Redacted for Privacy Purposes, Privacy service provided by Withheld for Privacy ehf) and contact information in the Complaint. The Center sent an email communication to the Complainant on October 28, 2025, providing the registrant and contact information disclosed by the Registrar, and inviting the Complainant to submit an amendment to the Complaint. The Complainant filed an amended Complaint on October 29, 2025.

The Center verified that the Complaint together with the amended Complaint satisfied the formal requirements of the Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Policy" or "UDRP"), the Rules for Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Rules"), and the WIPO Supplemental Rules for Uniform Domain Name Dispute Resolution Policy (the "Supplemental Rules").

In accordance with the Rules, paragraphs 2 and 4, the Center formally notified the Respondent of the Complaint, and the proceedings commenced on November 3, 2025. In accordance with the Rules, paragraph 5, the due date for Response was November 23, 2025. The Respondent did not submit any response. Accordingly, the Center notified the Respondent's default on December 2, 2025.

The Center appointed Levan Nanobashvili as the sole panelist in this matter on December 3, 2025. The Panel finds that it was properly constituted. The Panel has submitted the Statement of Acceptance and Declaration of Impartiality and Independence, as required by the Center to ensure compliance with the Rules, paragraph 7.

#### 4. Factual Background

The Complainant is LEGO Holding A/S (formerly known as LEGO Juris S/A), founded in Denmark in 1932. The Complainant produces and distributes construction toys and other products. The Complainant has subsidiaries and branches all over the world and employes more than 28500 individuals. The Complainant's products are sold in more than 130 countries, including the United States of America.

The first application for LEGO trademark was filed in Denmark in 1953. Currently, the Complainant owns numerous trademarks worldwide for LEGO, including the following:

- 1) Denmark, registration No. VR 1954 00604, registered on May 1, 1954, duly renewed, International Class 28;
- 2) United States of America, registration No. 1018875, registered on August 26, 1975, duly renewed, International Class 28; and
- 3) European Union trademark, registration No. 000039800, registered on October 5, 1998, duly renewed, International Classes 3, 9, 14, 16, 20, 24, 25, 28, 38, 41, and 42.

The Complainant holds more than 6,000 domain names containing LEGO trademarks, including <lego.com> and <legoland.com>.

The disputed domain name was registered on May 9, 2025. The evidence on file demonstrates that, following registration, the disputed domain name resolved to an active website offering for sale LEGO branded products. At the time of the Decision, the disputed domain name does not resolve to an active page.

The Complainant sent a cease-and-desist letter to the Respondent through the Registrar on June 19, 2025. The Respondent did not reply.

# 5. Parties' Contentions

### A. Complainant

The Complainant contends that it has satisfied each of the elements required under the Policy for a transfer of the disputed domain name.

Notably, the Complainant contends that:

- (i) LEGO is a well-known trademark. LEGO is consistently included in the indexes of the most reputable trademarks in the world. Moreover, the LEGO trademark is well-known in the USA, where the Respondent presumably resides;
- (ii) the well-known status of the LEGO trademark has been confirmed in numerous UDRP decisions;
- (iii) the disputed domain name is confusingly similar to the Complainant's LEGO trademark. The generic Top-Level Domain ("gTLD") ".shop" does not have any impact on the overall impression of the disputed domain name, and, therefore, is irrelevant in determining the confusing similarity;
- (iv) anyone could incorrectly assume that the disputed domain name is related to the Complainant or that there is some relationship with the Complainant;

- (v) by using the trademark as a dominant part of the disputed domain name, the Respondent exploits the goodwill of the Complainant's trademark, which may result in the dilution and other damage to the Complainant's trademark;
- (vi) the Respondent has no rights or legitimate interests in respect of the disputed domain name;
- (vii) the Respondent used the disputed domain name to host a website offering for sale LEGO branded products. This suggests that the Respondent intended the disputed domain name to be confusingly similar to the Complainant's trademark. Moreover, the Respondent used the disputed domain name to intentionally attempt to attract Internet users to a website for commercial gain, by creating a likelihood of confusion with the Complainant's mark as to the source, sponsorship, affiliation, or endorsement of the website;
- (viii) the Respondent's website displayed no disclaimers indicating that the site was neither endorsed by nor affiliated with the Complainant;
- (ix) the Complainant was unable to find any registered trademarks of the Respondent corresponding to the disputed domain name. Moreover, the Complainant has never given any authorization to the Respondent to use the LEGO mark. The Respondent has never maintained any commercial or contractual relationship with the Complainant, nor is it an authorized dealer;
- (x) the disputed domain name was registered decades after the registration of the LEGO trademark. The Respondent cannot claim to have been using the LEGO trademark without being unaware of the Complainant's rights; and
- (xi) prior to filing the Complaint, the Complainant sent a cease-and-desist letter to the Respondent, requesting a voluntary transfer of the disputed domain name and offering compensation for the expenses of registration and transfer. The Respondent did not reply.

### B. Respondent

The Respondent did not reply to the Complainant's contentions.

### 6. Discussion and Findings

### A. Identical or Confusingly Similar

It is well accepted that the first element functions primarily as a standing requirement. The standing (or threshold) test for confusing similarity involves a reasoned but relatively straightforward comparison between the Complainant's trademark and the disputed domain name. WIPO Overview of WIPO Panel Views on Selected UDRP Questions, Third Edition ("WIPO Overview 3.0"), section 1.7.

The Complainant has shown rights in respect of a trademark or service mark for the purposes of the Policy. WIPO Overview 3.0, section 1.2.1.

The entirety of the mark is reproduced within the disputed domain name. Accordingly, the disputed domain name is confusingly similar to the mark for the purposes of the Policy. WIPO Overview 3.0, section 1.7.

Although the addition of other terms, such as a word "raw", may bear on assessment of the second and third elements, the Panel finds the addition of such a term does not prevent a finding of confusing similarity between the disputed domain name and the mark for the purposes of the Policy. WIPO Overview 3.0, section 1.8.

The Panel finds that the inclusion of the word "raw" in the disputed domain name does not prevent a finding of confusing similarity under the first element. "Raw" is a common and recognizable English word. The inclusion of this word in the disputed domain name is insufficient to distinguish it from the trademark.

(*PET360, Inc. v. Pet Dynamix, LLC*, WIPO Case No. <u>D2013-0964</u>, finding that adding the term "raw" does not avoid confusion with the trademark).

The addition of the gTLD ".shop" is a standard registration requirement and, as such, is disregarded under the first element confusing similarity test. <u>WIPO Overview 3.0</u>, section 1.11.1.

The Panel finds the first element of the Policy has been established.

## **B. Rights or Legitimate Interests**

Paragraph 4(c) of the Policy provides a list of circumstances in which the Respondent may demonstrate rights or legitimate interests in a disputed domain name.

Although the overall burden of proof in UDRP proceedings is on the complainant, panels have recognized that proving a respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests in a domain name may result in the difficult task of "proving a negative", requiring information that is often primarily within the knowledge or control of the respondent. As such, where a complainant makes out a prima facie case that the respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests, the burden of production on this element shifts to the respondent to come forward with relevant evidence demonstrating rights or legitimate interests in the domain name (although the burden of proof always remains on the complainant). If the respondent fails to come forward with such relevant evidence, the complainant is deemed to have satisfied the second element. WIPO Overview 3.0, section 2.1.

Having reviewed the available record, the Panel finds the Complainant has established a prima facie case that the Respondent lacks rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name. The Respondent has not rebutted the Complainant's prima facie showing and has not come forward with any relevant evidence demonstrating rights or legitimate interests in the disputed domain name such as those enumerated in the Policy or otherwise.

The Respondent has not rebutted the Complainant's contention that it has not authorized the Respondent to use the LEGO mark, or that there is no relationship between them that would justify the Respondent's registration and use of the Complainant's trademark in the disputed domain name.

At the time of the Decision, the disputed domain name does not resolve to an active page. However, the evidence on file demonstrates that, following registration, the disputed domain name resolved to an active website offering the Complainant's products.

According to a consensus view among UDRP panels, resellers using a domain name containing a complainant's trademark to undertake sales related to the complainant's goods may be making a bona fide offering of goods and thus have a legitimate interest in such a domain name. WIPO Overview 3.0, section 2.8.1. Outlined in *Oki Data Americas, Inc. v. ASD, Inc.*, WIPO Case No. D2001-0903 (the "Oki Data Test"), the following cumulative requirements will be applied in the specific conditions of a UDRP case:

- (i) the respondent must actually be offering the goods at issue;
- (ii) the respondent must use the site to sell only the trademarked goods;
- (iii) the site must accurately and prominently disclose the registrant's relationship with trademark holder; and
- (iv) the respondent must not try to "corner the market" in domain names reflecting trademark.

The Panel finds that the Respondent fails to satisfy at least the third requirement of the Oki Data Test. The evidence on file does not show any disclaimer on the Respondent's website. Absence of the disclaimer on the website offering the Complainant's products may confuse consumers into believing the site was the official outlet or an authorized partner. The Panel finds accordingly that in the present case the requirements of the Oki Data Test are not satisfied.

The Panel finds that the use of the disputed domain name by the Respondent which may create confusion with the Complainant does not confer rights or legitimate interests.

The Panel finds the second element of the Policy has been established.

#### C. Registered and Used in Bad Faith

The Panel notes that, for the purposes of paragraph 4(a)(iii) of the Policy, paragraph 4(b) of the Policy establishes circumstances, in particular, but without limitation, that, if found by the Panel to be present, shall be evidence of the registration and use of a domain name in bad faith.

In the present case, the Panel notes that the Respondent intentionally attempted to attract, for commercial gain, Internet users by creating a likelihood of confusion with the Complainant's mark, for the purposes of paragraph 4(b)(iv) of the Policy. As demonstrated by the evidence on file, following registration, the disputed domain name resolved to an active website offering the Complainant's products.

Paragraph 4(b) of the Policy sets out a list of non-exhaustive circumstances that may indicate that a domain name was registered and used in bad faith, but other circumstances may be relevant in assessing whether a respondent's registration and use of a domain name is in bad faith. WIPO Overview 3.0, section 3.2.1.

The Respondent failed to rebut the Complainant's assertion that it had not licensed or otherwise authorized the Respondent to use the LEGO mark.

Panels have consistently found that the mere registration of a domain name that is confusingly similar (particularly domain names incorporating the mark plus a descriptive term) to a famous or widely-known trademark by an unaffiliated entity can by itself create a presumption of bad faith. <u>WIPO Overview 3.0</u>, section 3.1.4.

A significant number of panels have consistently found that the Complainant's LEGO trademark is well known worldwide (*LEGO Juris A/S v. chen bing*, WIPO Case No. <u>D2023-2692</u>; *LEGO Juris A/S v. Contact Privacy Inc. Customer 0163125175 / Daniel Perez, Lego and Jewelry Queen*, WIPO Case No. <u>D2022-3025</u>; *LEGO Juris A/S v. Nabiev Ravshan*, WIPO Case No. <u>D2021-2061</u>; *LEGO Juris A/S v. lucy huston and jacy fone*, WIPO Case No. <u>D2021-1667</u>; and *LEGO Juris A/S v. Level 5 Corp*, WIPO Case No. <u>D2008-1692</u>).

The Panel finds that the Complainant's trademark registrations significantly predate the registration date of the disputed domain name. The evidence before the Panel demonstrates that the Complainant registered the LEGO trademark in 1954, and the Respondent registered the disputed domain name in 2025. A significant gap, in the present case more than seventy years, between registration of the Complainant's trademark and the Respondent's registration of the disputed domain name containing the trademark at issue can indicate the bad faith registration (*Hi-TEC Sports International Holdings B.V. v. Thomas Birch, Finlay Nolan, Anna Akhtar, Tyler Reynolds, Keira Donnelly*, WIPO Case No. <u>D2024-1891</u>).

The Respondent failed to reply to the cease-and-desist letter and did not explain or justify the use of the Complainant's trademark in the disputed domain name. UDRP panels have consistently held that the failure to respond to a cease-and-desist letter may be a factor in finding bad faith registration and use of a domain name. (Carrefour v. Jan Everno, The Management Group II, WIPO Case No. D2017-0586; Remy Cointreau Luxembourg S.A. v. Deividas Samulionis, UAB "Sentosa", WIPO Case No. D2016-2232; and Encyclopaedia Britannica, Inc. v. John Zuccarini and The Cupcake Patrol a/ka Country Walk a/k/a Cupcake Party, WIPO Case No. D2000-0330).

At the time of the Decision, the disputed domain name does not resolve to an active page. However, panels have found that the non-use of a domain name would not prevent a finding of bad faith under the doctrine of passive holding. WIPO Overview 3.0, section 3.3. Having reviewed the available record, the Panel notes the distinctiveness or reputation of the Complainant's trademark, the composition and prior use of the disputed domain name and finds that in the circumstances of this case the current passive holding of the disputed domain name does not prevent a finding of bad faith under the Policy.

The Panel finds that the Complainant has established the third element of the Policy.

### 7. Decision

For the foregoing reasons, in accordance with paragraphs 4(i) of the Policy and 15 of the Rules, the Panel orders that the disputed domain name <rawlego.shop> be transferred to the Complainant.

/Levan Nanobashvili/ Levan Nanobashvili Sole Panelist

Date: December 15, 2025