

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
ABINGDON DIVISION

CHARLES A. SMITH, SR.,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	CIVIL ACTION
v.)	NO. 1:08CV00046
)	
D.C. 1980, INC.; D.C. 1980, INC. f/k/a)	
CONNECTICUT VALLEY ARMS, INC.;)	
BLACKPOWDER PRODUCTS, INC.;)	
CONNECTICUT VALLEY ARMS, INC.;)	
and DIKAR S. COOP. LTDA.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

**ANSWER OF D.C. 1980, INC. F/K/A
CONNECTICUT VALLEY ARMS, INC.**

COMES NOW D.C. 1980, Inc. ("D.C. 1980"), individually, and to the extent named as D.C. 1980, Inc. f/ka Connecticut Valley Arms, Inc., by and through its undersigned counsel, and hereby answers Plaintiff's Complaint in the above matter as follows:

FIRST DEFENSE

Plaintiff's Complaint fails state a claim against this Defendant upon which relief may be granted.

SECOND DEFENSE

Responding to the specifically numbered allegations of Plaintiff's Complaint, Defendant shows the following:

COUNT I

The Parties

1. D.C. 1980 is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the matters asserted in paragraph one of Plaintiff's Complaint, and therefore can neither admit nor deny same.

2. Paragraph two of Plaintiff's Complaint is denied as pled.

3. Paragraph three of Plaintiff's Complaint is denied as pled. However, in further response, this Defendant does admit that it is a Georgia corporation and was at all times relevant hereto and admits that this Court has jurisdiction over it and that venue is proper in the Court as alleged. Defendant further states that it has acknowledged service and therefore service on its registered agent is not an issue.

4. In response to paragraph four of Plaintiff's Complaint, the first paragraph of paragraph four is admitted. The second paragraph of paragraph four of Plaintiff's Complaint is denied.

5. Paragraph five contains allegation against a non-U.S. Defendant and not this Defendant; therefore no answer of this Defendant is required in response to paragraph five.

COUNT II

Jurisdiction and Venue

1. This Defendant restates and realleges all affirmative defenses herein, as well as its responses to each and every allegation of Plaintiff's Complaint as set forth in response to Count I.

2. This Defendant is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the matters asserted in paragraph two of Plaintiff's Complaint and therefore can neither admit nor deny same.

3. Upon information and belief paragraph three of Plaintiff's Complaint is admitted.

4. Paragraph four of Plaintiff's Complaint does not require an answer from this Defendant as it does not allege a fact. To the extent a response is required, paragraph four is denied as it applies to this Defendant.

COUNT III

The Facts

1. This Defendant restates and realleges all affirmative defenses herein, as well as its responses to each and every allegation of Plaintiff's Complaint as set forth in response to Count I, and Count II.

2. This Defendant is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the matters asserted in paragraph two of Plaintiff's Complaint and therefore can neither admit nor deny same.

3. This Defendant is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the matters asserted in paragraph three of Plaintiff's Complaint and therefore can neither admit nor deny same.

4. This Defendant is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the matters asserted in paragraph four of Plaintiff's Complaint and therefore can neither admit nor deny same.

5. Paragraph five of Plaintiff's Complaint is denied.

COUNT IV

Strict Liability

1. This Defendant restates and realleges all affirmative defenses herein, as well as its responses to each and every allegation of Plaintiff's Complaint as set forth in response to Count I, Count II, and Count III.

2. This Defendant denies it designed or manufactured, in whole or in part, the product at issue. However, it does admit, based upon the serial number as alleged, that it distributed and sold a gun marked Connecticut Valley Arms, Inc., serial 61-13-017971-96.

3. Paragraph three of Plaintiff's Complaint is denied.
4. Paragraph four of Plaintiff's Complaint is denied as pled.
5. Paragraph five of Plaintiff's Complaint is denied.

COUNT V

Negligence

1. This Defendant restates and realleges all affirmative defenses herein, as well as its responses to each and every allegation of Plaintiff's Complaint as set forth in response to Count I, Count II, Count III, and Count IV.

2. Paragraph two of Count V of Plaintiff's Complaint is denied.
3. Paragraph three of Count V of Plaintiff's Complaint is denied.

COUNT VI

Failure to Warn

1. This Defendant restates and realleges all affirmative defenses herein, as well as its responses to each and every allegation of Plaintiff's Complaint as set forth in response to Count I, Count II, Count III, Count IV, and Count V.

2. Paragraph two of Count VI of Plaintiff's Complaint is denied.

3. Paragraph three of Count VI of Plaintiff's Complaint is denied.

COUNT VII

Breach of Warranties

1. This Defendant restates and realleges all affirmative defenses herein, as well as its responses to each and every allegation of Plaintiff's Complaint as set forth in response to Count I, Count II, Count III, Count IV, Count V, and Count VI.

2. In response to paragraph two of Count VII of Plaintiff's Complaint this Defendant states that at the time the gun was imported and sold by this Defendant in the United States, it did warrant that if the instructions were properly followed, and no abuse or misuse occurred, the gun could be used in a safe, marketable, and fit manner. This Defendant further states that beginning in 1997, this Defendant began a voluntary recall of that product, and advertised it extensively.

3. The allegations of paragraph three of Count VII of Plaintiff's Complaint are denied.

4. The allegations of paragraph four of Count VII of Plaintiff's Complaint are denied.

COUNT VIII

Injuries and Damages

1. This Defendant restates and realleges all affirmative defenses herein, as well as its responses to each and every allegation of Plaintiff's Complaint as set forth in response to Count I, Count II, Count III, Count IV, Count V, Count VI, and Count VII.

2. Denying liability as to this Defendant, this Defendant states that it is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the matters asserted with respect to Plaintiff's injuries and damages and therefore can neither admit nor deny same.

3. The allegations of paragraph three of Count VIII of Plaintiff's Complaint are denied.

THIRD DEFENSE

D.C. 1980 denies that it is liable to the plaintiff in the amount sued for, or any amount, for any reason whatsoever.

FOURTH DEFENSE

D.C. 1980 affirmatively alleges that the plaintiff's negligence was a or the proximate cause of the alleged incident.

FIFTH DEFENSE

The plaintiff voluntarily and knowingly assumed the risk of incurring the injuries or damages alleged.

SIXTH DEFENSE

The incident and injuries alleged are the result of the acts or omissions of others for whom this defendant is not responsible and/or a cause or causes over which this defendant had no control and for which it is not responsible to the plaintiff.

SEVENTH DEFENSE

D.C. 1980 denies that it was guilty of any negligence or the breach of any duty that it may have owed to the plaintiff.

EIGHTH DEFENSE

D.C. 1980 denies that it breached any warranty of any kind whatsoever with reference to the gun.

NINTH DEFENSE

D.C. 1980 affirmatively alleges that the injuries, damages and losses alleged to have been sustained by the plaintiff were the result of an abuse or misuse of the gun.

TENTH DEFENSE

D.C. 1980 avers that plaintiff did not rely upon any warranties or representations allegedly made or extended upon sale of the gun.

ELEVENTH DEFENSE

D.C. 1980 avers that the plaintiff failed to comply with the instructions, directions, and/or warnings accompanying the product manufactured and distributed and upon which the plaintiff bases his claim and plaintiff's failure to comply with these instructions was the sole and proximate cause of the damages.

TWELFTH DEFENSE

Any danger associated with the gun was open and obvious.

THIRTEENTH DEFENSE

Plaintiff's claims are barred because at all relevant times, plaintiff was a knowledgeable user who is aware of the alleged hazards and therefore plaintiff expressly or impliedly assumed the risk of any alleged damages.

FOURTEENTH DEFENSE

Plaintiff's causes of action are barred because a reasonable consumer would have been aware of the alleged risks imposed by the gun.

FIFTEENTH DEFENSE

Plaintiff's causes of action are barred because the alleged damages resulted from new and independent, unforeseeable, superceding and/or intervening causes unrelated to the conduct of, or the product alleged to have caused the damages, by D.C. 1980.

SIXTEENTH DEFENSE

Plaintiff's causes of action are barred because the alleged damages were not proximately caused by any act or omission of D.C. 1980.

SEVENTEENTH DEFENSE

Plaintiff's breach of warranty causes of action are barred by the Uniform Commercial Code as enacted in Virginia.

EIGHTEENTH DEFENSE

To the extent the plaintiff alleges a continuing duty to warn, such cause of action is barred under Virginia law.

NINETEENTH DEFENSE

D.C. 1980 hereby gives notice that it intends to rely upon such other defenses that become available to it during the course of discovery and other proceedings and thus reserves the right to amend this list to assert such other defenses to which it may be entitled.

WHEREFORE, defendant D.C. 1980, Inc. moves the Court to dismiss plaintiff's Complaint and to award its costs incurred in the defense of this action.

D.C. 1980, INC. F/K/A
CONNECTICUT VALLEY ARMS, INC.

By Counsel

s/ W. Bradford Stallard
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on May 15, 2009, the foregoing Answer of D.C. 1980, Inc. f/k/a Connecticut Valley Arms, Inc. was filed electronically. Notice of this filing will be sent by operation of the Court's electronic filing system to all parties indicated on the electronic filing receipt. All other parties, if any, will be served by regular U.S. Mail. Parties may access this filing through the Court's electronic filing system.

s/ W. Bradford Stallard