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****PRESS RELEASE****

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**CITY ATTORNEY SECURES \$3.9 MILLION JUDGMENT
AGAINST MERCHANT OF COUNTERFEIT GOODS**

LOS ANGELES – City Attorney Mike Feuer today announced that his office has secured a \$3.9 million judgment and permanent injunction against a downtown merchant for the sale and possession of counterfeit goods. The judgment is the largest amount ever secured by the City Attorney’s Office in a counterfeiting case, and the second multi-million dollar judgment against a counterfeiter in the last six months.

“This judgment is testament to how seriously our Office and the Courts view counterfeiting,” said City Attorney Feuer. “Counterfeit goods hurt legitimate businesses and deprive the public of needed tax revenues to fund vital city services.”

Maria Luisa Sanchez was found to have committed 1,586 trademark violations since at least 2009 while selling counterfeit jewelry, apparel, handbags and related items at various downtown storefronts. Most recently, Sanchez sold counterfeit goods from a downtown business “Blue Boo” located at 1034 Maple Avenue. At the time, Sanchez was on probation from a 2012 conviction for the sale and possession of counterfeit goods.

As a result of the City Attorney’s lawsuit, Superior Court Judge Michael Johnson issued a permanent injunction ordering Sanchez to cease all business operations at her store on Maple Avenue and not be present at any location where counterfeit goods are sold, stored, manufactured or transported. Sanchez must now notify the City Attorney’s Office in writing if she owns, operates or works in a Los Angeles business related to commonly counterfeited items.

Sanchez was assessed the maximum penalty of \$2,500 for each of the 1,586 counterfeit items she sold and/or possessed for sale.

Deputy City Attorney Kevin Gilligan of the City Attorney’s Counterfeit Abatement Prosecution Program, funded by a grant from the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, secured the judgment and injunction on behalf of the City.