

UK-Based Graffiti Artists Dismiss Their US Lawsuit Against Vivienne Westwood

Published by *Kattison Avenue* | Issue 16

Spring 2026

By Aseña Baran, Alexander Kim and David Halberstadter

We have [previously reported](#) on the lawsuit that UK-based graffiti artists Cole Smith, Reece Deardon and Harry Matthews filed against Vivienne Westwood and retailers of the brand for the British fashion house's allegedly unauthorized use of their tags "to lend credibility and an air of urban cool" to its apparel. *Smith v. Vivienne Westwood, Inc.*, Case No. 2:25-cv-01221 (C.D. Cal. Filed 02/12/25)

The plaintiffs, known professionally as DISA, SNOK and RENNEE, respectively, claimed that Vivienne Westwood used images of their graffiti to adorn items of clothing without permission. In our [previous reporting](#), we raised a number of key questions about the viability of the plaintiffs' claims, including whether the artwork, which likely was not commissioned by the owners of the buildings on which it appeared, would be considered illegal and therefore not protectible under US law.

On April 30, the plaintiffs and Vivienne Westwood jointly filed a stipulation to dismiss the entire action with prejudice, with each of the parties bearing its own attorneys' fees and costs. The court filing is silent as to whether the dismissal was part of a more comprehensive settlement agreement, whether any money changed hands or whether the fashion house agreed to discontinue its sales of the offending apparel. In any event, so ends the [most recent dispute](#) between so-called "street artists" and retailers that lies at the intersection of graffiti, fashion and advertising.

CONTACTS

For more information, contact your Katten attorney or any of the following attorneys.



Asena Baran

+1.310.788.4418

asena.baran@katten.com



Alexander C. Kim

+1.212.940.6535

alexander.kim@katten.com



David Halberstadter

+1.310.788.4408

david.halberstadter@katten.com

Attorney advertising. Published as a source of information only. The material contained herein is not to be construed as legal advice or opinion.

©2026 Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP.

All rights reserved. Katten refers to Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP and the affiliated partnership as explained at katten.com/disclaimer.