

THE CONNECTICUT LAW TRIBUNE

FEDERAL COURT REPORTS

In a case involving what the court characterized as an “apparently routine trademark infringement case” the plaintiffs, including Cartier International B.V., filed a motion for contempt. In deciding the motion, the court stated it would impose the costs of bringing and hearing the motion for contempt on the defendants, including Thomas Gorski. Cartier International argued it was entitled to attorneys’ fees and costs of \$111,548.76 in connection with the motion for contempt. The court stated that in evaluating the requested fees, it would use the lodestar method, which multiplies the number of hours reasonably expended by market rates. Cartier’s attorneys billed hourly rates between \$255 and \$500 per hour. The paralegals billed between \$130 and \$160 per hour. Cartier provided no substantiation for the rates billed. The District Court, relying upon its knowledge of rates charged in the district, reduced the hourly rates for attorneys to between \$150 to \$225 per hour, and for paralegals to between \$50 to \$60 per hour. The District Court found that many of the hours billed were “excessive, not shown to be necessary, and redundant.” Multiplying the rates by the hours, the court awarded attorneys’ fees of \$10,668. Turning to the costs billed, Cartier again failed to provide substantiation or explanation of the costs and \$7,532.50 was awarded. The court awarded \$18,200.50 out of the \$111,548.76 sought. Defended by Attorney Kolb.

Cartier International B.V. v. Gorski
U.S. District Court (Doc. No. 3:01CV01948)
Dorsey, J. – April 29, 2003 – 11 pages.