

What rights are you asserting?

I am Michael C. R. Reiners, co-founder of The Restorationist. The publication was launched publicly on 4 July 2025 after partner discussions that began in early May 2025. From launch until the split, the publication traded to the public as "The Restorationist". I consistently presented as co-founder. [REDACTED] presented as co-editor responsible for technical operation.

Unregistered rights and goodwill: through continuous public use of the name "The Restorationist", the publication built audience recognition and trust. The site carried a distinctive masthead and logo, created by me, and an About section identifying both founders. The audience and reputation were grown primarily through the official X/Twitter account @TheRestorationist, which I control. Those channels drove the majority of traffic and established public association between the sign "The Restorationist" and my role as co-founder and editorial lead. That sustained use and public recognition give rise to unregistered rights and goodwill in the sign.

Company name rights: I own The Restorationist Ltd in the United Kingdom and Restorationist LLC in Delaware. These entities reflect and reinforce the trading identity "The Restorationist" and my control of the brand presence.

Copyright: I authored the logo and masthead artwork used on the site and in related materials. There is no assignment to [REDACTED] or to any vehicle he controls. Any implied licence that existed during the joint venture has been withdrawn for future use after the split.

Continuity of contributors: the majority of op-ed authors and support staff have chosen to continue with me on a successor site. That decision by those most closely associated with the publication confirms that the public association and goodwill in "The Restorationist" attach to my side of the split.

On these facts, I assert rights in the sign "The Restorationist" based on unregistered goodwill, supported by company names and by copyright in the logo and masthead, together with continuing public association through the official social media presence that I operate.

Why is the domain name an Abusive Registration?

The disputed domain therestorationist.org.uk was seized and is now used in a way that takes unfair advantage of, and is unfairly detrimental to, my rights.

Confusing use and misrepresentation: on 22 October 2025 [REDACTED] took unilateral control of therestorationist.org.uk, removed my attribution, and repurposed the joint publication as his personal blog. Visitors arriving from my @TheRestorationist social channels and from searches for "The Restorationist" are diverted to a site that now implies sole succession through [REDACTED], despite my role as co-founder and the team's decision to continue with me. That creates a likelihood of confusion as to origin, authorisation, or connection, and trades on goodwill I helped build.

Prior relationship and deliberate exclusion: we were co-founders operating without a final signed founders' agreement. In September 2025 I circulated a short governance and partnership agreement designed to prevent unilateral control of the domain and website. [REDACTED] then asserted in writing that he owns the domain and would operate it without my consent. The subsequent hijack on 22 October 2025 shows knowledge of my rights and a deliberate strategy to exclude me from the goodwill and traffic associated with "The Restorationist".

Unfair detriment through harassment and mailing list misuse: using a mailing list of about 200 contacts compiled for the joint venture, [REDACTED] circulated emails accusing me of being a criminal. Police attended and, after hearing the situation, took no action. Those emails, sent from or linked to the disputed site, form part of a course of harassment and malicious communications. They leverage the authority of therestorationist.org.uk to damage my reputation

and to divert audience confidence, causing unfair detriment to my rights.

Pattern of abusive conduct: in his own blog [REDACTED] has described similar conduct, including hijacking third-party sites and directing readers to damaging private information. That history is probative of abusive intent and supports the conclusion that both the registration and use here are abusive.

Appropriation of my artwork: after the split the site used my logo and masthead without permission, compounding confusion by suggesting my authorisation or continuity. Even if altered later, the prior use shows confusing and unfair use of assets I own.

Overall, the domain is being used to mislead the public about control and continuity of "The Restorationist", to exploit the goodwill attached to my role and company identity, and to damage that goodwill through a campaign of disparagement. The proportionate remedy is transfer of therestorationist.org.uk to The Restorationist Ltd so that the domain can be operated in a way that avoids public confusion and reflects the true rights and identity of the publication.

How would you like this complaint to be resolved?

Transfer

Additional Complainants:

[no additional complainants]

As far as you are aware have any legal proceedings been issued or terminated in connection with the domain name?

[answered no]

Are there any web pages that support this dispute?

- <https://find-and-update.company-information.service.gov.uk/company/16808929>
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20250917041823/https://restorationist.org.uk/>
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20250705113421/https://restorationist.org.uk/>
- [https://x.com/Restorationist\\_](https://x.com/Restorationist_)

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