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FILED
MAY 10 2012
RICHARD W. WIEKING
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MEJ

CV 12 2393

AF HOLDINGS LLC,
Plaintiff,
v.
JOHN DOE
Defendant.

Judge:

COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

Plaintiff AF Holdings LLC ("Plaintiff"), through its undersigned counsel, hereby files this Complaint requesting damages and injunctive relief, and alleges as follows:

NATURE OF THE CASE

1. Plaintiff files this action for copyright infringement under the United States Copyright Act and related contributory infringement and negligence claims under the common law to combat the willful and intentional infringement of its creative works. Unidentified Defendant John Doe ("Defendant"), whose name Plaintiff expects to ascertain during discovery, knowingly and illegally reproduced and distributed Plaintiff's copyrighted Video by acting in concert with others via the BitTorrent file sharing protocol and, upon information and belief, continues to do the same. In using BitTorrent, Defendant's infringement actions furthered the efforts of numerous others in infringing on Plaintiff's copyrighted works. The result: exponential viral infringement. Plaintiff seeks a permanent

1 injunction, statutory or actual damages, award of costs and attorney's fees, and other relief to curb
2 this behavior.

3 THE PARTIES

4 2. Plaintiff AF Holdings LLC is a limited liability company organized and existing
5 under the laws of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis. Plaintiff is a holder of rights to various
6 copyrighted works, and is the exclusive holder of the relevant rights with respect to the copyrighted
7 creative work at issue in this Complaint.
8

9 3. The copyrighted work at issue in this complaint is one of Plaintiff's adult
10 entertainment videos, "Popular Demand" (the "Video").

11 4. Defendant's actual name is unknown to Plaintiff. Instead, Defendant is known to
12 Plaintiff only by an Internet Protocol address ("IP address"), which is a number assigned to devices,
13 such as computers, that are connected to the Internet. In the course of monitoring Internet-based
14 infringement of its copyrighted content, Plaintiff's agents observed unlawful reproduction and
15 distribution occurring over IP address 69.181.62.141 via the BitTorrent file transfer protocol.
16 Plaintiff cannot ascertain Defendant's actual identity without limited expedited discovery.
17

18 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

19 5. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiff's copyright infringement
20 claim under 17 U.S.C. §§ 101, *et seq.*, (the Copyright Act), 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (actions arising under
21 the laws of the United States), and 28 U.S.C. § 1338(a) (actions arising under an Act of Congress
22 relating to copyrights). This Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiff's contributory
23 infringement and negligence claims under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a) because they are so related to
24 Plaintiff's copyright infringement claim, which is within this Court's original jurisdiction, that the
25 claims form part of the same case and controversy under Article III of the United States
26 Constitution.
27
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1 then performs similar transfers. The one-to-one whole file transfer method can significantly delay
2 the spread of a file across the world because the initial spread is so limited.

3 11. In contrast, the BitTorrent protocol is a decentralized method of distributing data.
4 Instead of relying on a central server to distribute data directly to individual users, the BitTorrent
5 protocol allows individual users to distribute data among themselves. Further, the BitTorrent
6 protocol involves breaking a single large file into many small pieces, which can be transferred much
7 more quickly than a single large file and, in turn, redistributed much more quickly than a single large
8 file. Moreover, each peer can download missing pieces of the file from multiple sources—often
9 simultaneously—which causes transfers to be fast and reliable. After downloading a piece, a peer
10 automatically becomes a source for the piece. This distribution method contrasts sharply with a one-
11 to-one whole file transfer method.
12

13 12. In BitTorrent vernacular, individual downloaders/distributors of a particular file are
14 called peers. The group of peers involved in downloading/distributing a particular file is called a
15 swarm. A server which stores a list of peers in a swarm is called a tracker. A computer program that
16 implements the BitTorrent protocol is called a BitTorrent client. Each swarm is unique to a particular
17 file.
18

19 13. The BitTorrent protocol operates as follows. First, a user locates a small “torrent” file.
20 This file contains information about the files to be shared and about the tracker, the computer that
21 coordinates the file distribution. Second, the user loads the torrent file into a BitTorrent client, which
22 automatically attempts to connect to the tracker listed in the torrent file. Third, the tracker responds
23 with a list of peers and the BitTorrent client connects to those peers to begin downloading data from
24 and distributing data to the other peers in the swarm. When the download is complete, the BitTorrent
25 client continues distributing data to other peers in the swarm until the user manually disconnects
26 from the swarm or the BitTorrent client otherwise does the same.
27
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1 19. The Video is currently registered in the United States Copyright Office (Copyright
2 No. PA0001754383). (*See* Exhibit A to Complaint.) On December 20, 2011, Plaintiff received the
3 rights to this Video pursuant to an assignment agreement, a true and correct copy of that agreement
4 is attached hereto as Exhibit B. (*See* Exhibit B to Complaint.)
5

6 20. The torrent file used to access the copyrighted material was named in a manner that
7 would have provided an ordinary individual with notice that the Video was protected by the
8 copyright laws of the United States.

9 21. Plaintiff employs proprietary peer-to-peer network forensic software to perform
10 exhaustive real time monitoring of the BitTorrent-based swarm involved in distributing the Video.
11 This software is effective in capturing data about the activity of peers in a swarm and their infringing
12 conduct.
13

14 22. Defendant, using IP address 69.181.62.141, without Plaintiff's authorization or
15 license, intentionally downloaded a torrent file particular to Plaintiff's Video, purposefully loaded
16 that torrent file into his BitTorrent client—in this case, Azureus 4.7.0.2—entered a BitTorrent swarm
17 particular to Plaintiff's Video, and reproduced and distributed the Video to numerous third parties.

18 23. Plaintiff's investigators detected Defendant's illegal download on
19 December 26, 2011, at 6:31:51 p.m. However, this is a simply a snapshot observation of when the
20 IP address was *observed* in the BitTorrent swarm; the conduct took itself place before and after this
21 date and time.
22

23 24. Defendant was part of a group of BitTorrent users or peers in a single swarm—a
24 process generally described above—whose computers were collectively interconnected for the
25 sharing of a particular unique file. The particular file a BitTorrent swarm is associated with has a
26 unique file "hash"—i.e. a unique file identifier generated by an algorithm. The unique hash value in
27
28

1 this case is identified as 6C10F2DCFF52961B876AA592183103BAC958E989 (hereinafter “Hash
2 Tag.”), and common to all of the participants in the swarm.

3 **COUNT I – COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT**

4 25. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the
5 preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth fully herein.

6 26. Defendant’s conduct infringes upon Plaintiff’s exclusive rights of reproduction and
7 distribution that are protected under the Copyright Act.

8 27. Defendant knew or had constructive knowledge that his acts constituted copyright
9 infringement of Plaintiff’s Video.

10 28. Defendant’s conduct was willful within the meaning of the Copyright Act:
11 intentional, and with indifference to the Plaintiff’s rights.

12 29. Plaintiff has been damaged by Defendant’s conduct, including but not limited to
13 economic and reputation losses. Plaintiff continues to be damaged by such conduct, and has no
14 adequate remedy at law to compensate the Plaintiff for all of the possible damages stemming from
15 the Defendant’s conduct.

16 30. Plaintiff hereby reserves the right, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(c), to elect to recover
17 statutory damages for each infringement, in lieu of seeking recovery of actual damages.

18 31. As Defendant’s infringement was intentional and willful, Plaintiff is entitled to an
19 award of statutory damages, exemplary damages, attorneys’ fees, and the costs of the suit.

20 **COUNT II – CONTRIBUTORY INFRINGEMENT**

21 32. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the
22 preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth fully herein.

23 33. When users in this unique swarm all possess the same infringing work with the same
24 exact hash value, it is because each infringer possesses an exact digital copy, containing the exact
25

1 bits and pieces unique to that specific file of Plaintiff's original copyrighted work. They only way
2 this happens in a BitTorrent swarm is through the sharing of these bits and pieces of each same
3 unique file, with the same unique hash value, between the users in the swarm. In essence, although
4 hundreds of users may be uploading the copyrighted work, a single user will receive only the exact
5 parts of a singular upload through that exact swarm, not a compilation of available pieces from
6 various uploads.
7

8 34. Defendant published the Hash Tag to the BitTorrent network.

9 35. Defendant downloaded, uploaded and distributed the Video to other BitTorrent users
10 through use of the hash-specified protocol in the unique swarm.

11 36. As each of the thousands of people who illegally downloaded the movie accessed this
12 illegal publication, they derived portions of their illegal replication of the file from multiple persons,
13 including, but not limited to, Defendant.
14

15 37. Defendant knew of the infringement, was conscious of his own infringement, and
16 Defendant was fully conscious that his actions resulted in multiple other persons derivatively
17 downloaded the file containing Plaintiff's Video.

18 38. The infringement by the other BitTorrent users could not have occurred without
19 Defendant's participation in uploading Plaintiff's copyrighted works. As such, Defendant's
20 participation in the infringing activities of others is substantial and contributed, for profit, to the
21 infringing activity of thousands of other peers over the Internet across the world.
22

23 39. Defendant profited from this contributory infringement by way of being granted
24 access to a greater library of other infringing works, some of which belonged to Plaintiff and some
25 of which belonged to other copyright owners.
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COUNT III – NEGLIGENCE

1
2 40. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by reference each and every allegation contained in the
3 preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth fully herein.

4 41. Defendant accessed, or controlled access to, the Internet connection used in
5 performing the unauthorized copying and sharing of Plaintiff's Video, proximately causing financial
6 harm to Plaintiff.

7
8 42. Defendant had a duty to secure his Internet connection. Defendant breached that duty
9 by failing to secure his Internet connection.

10 43. Reasonable Internet users take steps to secure their Internet access accounts
11 preventing the use of such accounts for an illegal purpose. Defendant's failure to secure his Internet
12 access account, thereby allowing for its illegal use, constitutes a breach of the ordinary care that a
13 reasonable Internet account holder would do under like circumstances.

14
15 44. In the alternative, Defendant secured his connection, but permitted an unknown third
16 party to use his Internet connection to infringe on Plaintiff's Video. Defendant knew, or should have
17 known, that this unidentified individual used Defendant's Internet connection for the aforementioned
18 illegal activities. Defendant declined to monitor the unidentified third-party infringer's use of his
19 computer Internet connection, demonstrating further negligence.

20
21 45. In the alternative, Defendant knew of, and allowed for, the unidentified third party
22 infringer's use of his Internet connection for illegal purposes and thus was complicit in the
23 unidentified third party's actions.

24 46. Upon information and belief, Defendant's failure to secure his Internet access account
25 directly allowed for the copying and sharing of Plaintiff's Video over the BitTorrent protocol
26 through Defendant's Internet connection, and interfered with Plaintiff's exclusive rights in the
27 copyrighted work.

28

1 2) Judgment in favor of the Plaintiff against Defendant for actual damages or statutory
2 damages pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504, at the election of Plaintiff, in an amount to be ascertained at
3 trial;

4 3) Order of impoundment under 17 U.S.C. §§ 503 & 509(a) impounding all infringing
5 copies of Plaintiff's audiovisual works, photographs or other materials, which are in Defendant's
6 possession or under his control;

7 4) On Count II, an order that Defendant is jointly and severally liable to the Plaintiff in
8 the full amount of Judgment on the basis of a common law claim for contributory infringement of
9 copyright; for an award of compensatory damages in favor of the Plaintiff and against Defendant,
10 jointly and severally, in an amount to be determined at trial;

11 5) On Count III, an order that Defendant is jointly and severally liable to the Plaintiff in
12 the full amount of Judgment on the basis of Defendant's negligence in allowing an unidentified third
13 party access his Internet account and, through it, violate Plaintiff's copyrighted works; for an award
14 of compensatory damages in favor of the Plaintiff and against Defendant, jointly and severally, in an
15 amount to be determined at trial;

16 6) Judgment in favor of Plaintiff against the Defendant awarding the Plaintiff attorneys'
17 fees, litigation expenses (including fees and costs of expert witnesses), and other costs of this action;
18 and
19

20 7) Judgment in favor of the Plaintiff against Defendant, awarding Plaintiff declaratory
21 and injunctive or other equitable relief as may be just and warranted under the circumstances.
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EXHIBIT A

Copyright

United States Copyright Office

[Help](#)[Search](#)[History](#)[Titles](#)[Start Over](#)

Public Catalog

Copyright Catalog (1978 to present)

Search Request: Left Anchored Name = heartbreaker digital

Search Results: Displaying 1 of 1 entries



Labeled View

Popular Demand.

Type of Work: Motion Picture**Registration Number / Date:** PA0001754383 / 2011-08-09**Application Title:** Popular Demand.**Title:** Popular Demand.**Description:** Videodisc (DVD)**Copyright Claimant:** Heartbreaker Digital LLC. Address: 512 Windmill Lane #311, Las Vegas, NV, 89123.**Date of Creation:** 2011**Date of Publication:** 2011-07-27**Nation of First Publication:** United States**Authorship on Application:** Heartbreaker Digital LLC, employer for hire; Domicile: United States; Citizenship: United States. Authorship: entire motion picture.**Names:** [Heartbreaker Digital LLC](#)

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EXHIBIT B

COPYRIGHT ASSIGNMENT AGREEMENT

This Copyright Assignment Agreement is dated effective as of December 20, 2011, by and among Heartbreaker Digital LLC ("Assignor") and AF Holdings, LLC, a Nevis limited liability company ("Assignee").

For good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

1. Assignment. Assignor hereby irrevocably assigns, conveys and otherwise transfers to Assignee, and its respective successors, licensees, and assigns, all rights, title and interest worldwide in and to that certain work titled "Popular Demand" and associated with copyright registration number PA0001754383 (collectively the "Work") and all proprietary rights therein, including, without limitation, all copyrights, trademarks, design patents, trade secret rights, moral rights, and all contract and licensing rights, and all claims and causes of action of respect to any of the foregoing, whether now known or hereafter to become known. In the event Assignor has any right in the Work which cannot be assigned, Assignor agrees to waive enforcement worldwide of such right against Assignee, its distributors, and customers or, if necessary, exclusively license such right worldwide to Assignee. These rights may be assigned by Assignee.

2. Representations and Warranties. Assignor represents and warrants that: (a) the Work was created solely by Assignor, Assignor's full-time employees during the course of their employment, or independent contractors who assigned all right, title and interest in their work to Assignor; (b) Assignor is the owner of all rights, title and interest in the tangible forms of the Work and all intellectual property rights protecting them; (c) the Work and the intellectual property rights protecting them are free and clear of all encumbrances, including, without limitation, security interests, licenses, liens, charges or other restrictions; (d) the use, reproduction, distribution, or modification of the Work does not and will not violate the rights of any third parties in the Work including, but not limited to, trade secrets, publicity, privacy, copyrights, and patents; (e) the Work is not in the public domain; and (f) Assignor has full power and authority to make and enter into this Agreement. Assignor agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Assignee, its officers, directors and employees for any claims, suits or proceedings alleging breach of these warranties.

3. Entire Agreement. This Agreement constitutes the entire agreement between Assignor and Assignee with respect to the subject matter herein and supersedes any prior or contemporaneous agreements, written or oral.

4. Modifications. This Agreement may be modified only by a written agreement signed by both Assignor and Assignee.

5. Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by and enforced in accordance with the State of California and the Ninth Circuit, without giving effect to any conflicts of laws principles.

6. Severability. If one or more provisions of this Agreement are held to be illegal or unenforceable under applicable law, such illegal or unenforceable portion(s) shall be limited or excluded from this Agreement to the minimum extent required so that this Agreement shall otherwise remain in full force and effect and enforceable in accordance with its terms.

7. Assignment. Assignee may assign or otherwise transfer this Agreement without consent or notice.

8. Perfection. Assignors agree at the request and expense of Assignee to execute any documents or perform any actions which Assignee may request to perfect this assignment or otherwise implement this Agreement. Assignor agrees that this assignment may be submitted by Assignee to the United States Copyright Office to reflect the assignment.

9. Confidentiality. Neither party shall reveal the terms of this Agreement to any third party unless ordered to do so by a court of competent jurisdiction.

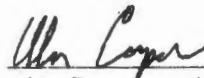
10. Jurisdiction. Each party agrees to submit to the exclusive personal jurisdiction and venue of the courts of the Island of Nevis with respect to any disputes arising hereunder.

Agreed and Accepted as of the first date written above.



Raymond Rogers, on behalf of.

Assignor
Heartbreaker Digital LLC



Alan Cooper, on behalf of:

Assignee
AF Holdings, LLC