**Title:** Actor Chris Pine Facing Entertainment Lawsuit By Former Agents

**Subtitle:** Entertainment lawsuits over commissions often arise when actors switch agents, particularly when millions of dollars in movie deals are at stake. Rising star Chris Pine was recently sued by his former agency, SDB Partners Inc.

**Meta Description:** Entertainment lawsuits over commissions often arise when actors switch agents, particularly when millions of dollars in movie deals are at stake.

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**Author:** Donald Scarinci

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Entertainment lawsuits over commissions often arise when actors switch agents, particularly when millions of dollars in movie deals are at stake. Rising star Chris Pine was recently sued by his former agency, SDB Partners Inc.

Pine’s former agency claims it played an integral role in helping Pine become an "internationally renowned actor who could command a seven figure payday." The complaint specifically notes his recent role as Captain James T. Kirk in the new Star Trek franchise.

"Whether Pine is being misguided by his handlers or has simply been blinded by his success and fame, Pine apparently needs a refresher course on his obligation to compensate SDB for what SDB has done for him. Through this lawsuit, SDB seeks to not only recover its commissions on millions of dollars that Pine has already earned, but also the millions of dollars that Pine will continue to earn as a result of SDB's prior hard work and dedication to Pine's career," the complaint states.

According to the lawsuit, Pine terminated his relationship with the SDB via email on November 11, 2011 and is now refusing to pay outstanding commissions. SDB Partners Inc. seeks an accounting and damages for breach of implied contract.

Courthouse News reports that the agency specifically claims that Pine must pay it a 10 percent commission on several projects, including the Jack Ryan movie franchise, This Means War, Welcome To People, and more than 20 other "commissionable projects," including an untitled Steve McQueen biopic.

The two sides may have one less movie to fight over, at least for now. It is being reported that his upcoming project as Tom Clancy's CIA agent Jack Ryan is on hold due to budgetary restraints.

As this lawsuit highlights, talent agencies and their clients often have a lot at stake. Therefore, it is advisable to consult with an experienced entertainment attorney before entering or terminating an agency agreement.

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