



COPYRIGHT CLAIMS BOARD

Docket number: 25-CCB-0100
May 8, 2025

Deonsai Jones

CLAIMANT

v.

Darryl Granberry, Epic Records,
Sony Corporation of America

RESPONDENTS

ORDER DISMISSING CLAIM WITHOUT PREJUDICE

The Copyright Claims Board (Board) issued orders that notified the claimant on April 4, 2025, and May 2, 2025, that the claim and amended claim, respectively, did not comply with the applicable statutory and regulatory requirements for filings before the Board. On May 2, 2025, the claimant filed a second amended claim, which was the final opportunity to file a compliant claim. 17 U.S.C. § 1506(f)(1)(B); 37 C.F.R. § 224.1(d).

A Copyright Claims Attorney reviewed the second amended claim and the attachment and determined that the infringement claim is still noncompliant because it does not clarify the respondents' infringing activities, detail how the respondents had access to the work, or identify similarities in the protectable expression between the claimant's work and the respondents' allegedly infringing work. As noted in the Board's May 2nd Order to Amend Noncompliant Claim, the copyrightable expression described in the supplemental documents is too general for copyright protection and the "lyrics and vocal stanzas" are not substantially similar in expression. Copyright does not protect ideas although it may protect the way ideas are expressed. Additionally, copyright law does not protect names, titles, short phrases or slogans. 37 C.F.R. 202.1. None of the similarities that you identify in the claim appear to relate to similarities in copyrightable expression.

The Copyright Claims Attorney referred the claim to a Copyright Claims Officer to confirm that it does not comply with the applicable requirements and that this proceeding should, therefore, be dismissed without prejudice. 17 U.S.C. § 1506(f)(1)(B). The Copyright Claims Officer reviewed the second amended claim and concurs with the finding of noncompliance. For the reasons set forth, the second amended claim does not present facts sufficient to show a plausible claim of copyright infringement. Accordingly, the Board dismisses the claim without prejudice and closes this case. Dismissal without prejudice means that the allegations may be raised again by filing a new claim if there is no agreement with the respondents to the contrary.

Copyright Claims Board