

Docket number: 25-CCB-0150

May 7, 2025

LaKenya L Manahan	V	Tierra A Wright
CLAIMANT	v	RESPONDENT

ORDER TO AMEND NONCOMPLIANT CLAIM

The Copyright Claims Board (Board) finds that your claim does not comply with the requirements of the CASE Act and related regulations. The claim cannot move forward unless it is amended.

If you wish to proceed with this claim, you must file an amended claim by **June 6, 2025**. If you do not, the Board must dismiss your claim without prejudice, although you may file again in the future before the Board or in federal court. If you file an amended claim and it is found compliant, you will be notified and directed to proceed with service. There is no additional filing fee for an amended claim. 17 U.S.C. § 1506(f)(1)(B).

To make your amended claim compliant, you must resolve the issues identified below. 37 C.F.R. § 224.1(c)(2). You may also choose to correct or edit any errors or other information in your claim before you file it again. You do not need to provide a legal argument in your claim – just a statement of facts and circumstances. Being specific in your description gives the other party and the Board more information about your claim. There is no character limit, so please be as detailed as possible.

Copyright Ownership

Your claim provides conflicting information about claimant LaKenya L Manahan's (Manahan) status as a legal or beneficial owner of the allegedly infringed work.

To bring a copyright infringement claim before the Board, the claimant must be "the legal or beneficial owner of the exclusive right [in a copyrighted work] at the time of the infringement." 17 U.S.C. § 1504(c)(1). A legal owner is an author of the work who owns the exclusive rights at issue or a person or entity that has received a transfer of those rights, for example, by an assignment or an exclusive license. A beneficial owner is a legal owner who has transferred the rights at issue but retains some of the advantages of ownership, such as the right to receive royalties from the use of the work.

You allege infringement of a motion picture or audiovisual work titled "THAILAND VLOG | Epic Girls Trip + We Met in Phuket + Dubai Mall Haul & More," which you describe as a "Youtube Documentary Video Log." You list Peyton Maree Charles (Charles) as the author of the work, and 1-14910934051 as the service request number of that work. Copyright Office records show that the pending application to register the copyright lists Charles as the sole author and copyright claimant (owner) of the work. In this proceeding, however, Manahan is

listed as the claimant, and Charles is listed as Manahan's authorized representative. A claimant who is not an author or named copyright owner of the allegedly infringed work must provide some specific details or supplemental documents explaining how the claimant owns, or has an exclusive license to use, the exclusive rights at issue. The claim does not present facts that indicate that Manahan is a proper claimant.

To correct this issue, your amended claim must include specific allegations about how the claimant owns, or has an exclusive license to use, the work at issue. For example, if Charles exclusively licensed the work (or the exclusive rights at issue) to Manahan, then Manahan would be an appropriate claimant and the amended claim should state that the work was exclusively licensed to Manahan. Alternatively, if Charles is the copyright owner and has not given Manahan exclusive rights to the work or assigned the rights to Manahan, then the amended claim should change the name of the claimant to Peyton Maree Charles. Or, if Charles and Manahan are actually the same person and use one of the names as a pseudonym or alias, you should clarify that relationship by including one of the names in the "Alias" field of the Claimant section.

Substantial Similarity

Your infringement claim does not include enough facts that explain the similarities between your work and the respondent's allegedly infringing works. If it is not readily apparent from supplemental documents that are submitted with the claim, you must provide some specific allegations about how your work and the respondent's works are substantially similar.

In the "Describe the infringement" section of the claim, you state that "Respondent used several clips from my published content on Youtube without consent" and "Respondent has repeatedly used my content." However, your claim does not provide detailed information describing how any of respondent's videos are substantially similar to your work. For example, you do not identify which clips from your work were used, or how many, or for how long. In addition, you provided a copy of your work as a supplemental document, but you have not provided the respondent's work for comparison. As a result, the claim does not provide enough information for the Board to evaluate the similarity of the works.

When you submit an amended claim, it must include more factual allegations that support the element of substantial similarity. Please provide more details and background regarding this element in your amended claim, including a clear, detailed statement regarding how much of your work was taken by the respondent in the allegedly infringing videos, or documents that are sufficient to show the similarities. If you include copies of the works at issue as supplemental documents, they must be clearly labeled and identified so they can be properly compared to each other. More information about the elements required to assert a claim of copyright infringement is available in the <u>Starting an Infringement Claim</u> chapter of the CCB Handbook.

To submit an amended claim, log into your eCCB account and take the following steps:

1. From your dashboard, click the "Amend claim" button and select your docket number from the dropdown list.

- 2. Your claim will unlock for editing. The information you originally entered will appear in the same order as in your original claim.
- 3. Make the necessary edits. If you have filed supplemental documents, <u>you must re-upload any documents you wish to include in the amended claim</u> on the "**Documentation**" page. Please include only documents directly related to your claim, and label them clearly.
- 4. Once you have completed your edits, continue to click through the fillable claim form until you reach the "Review" page. The Review page includes all the information that you have provided in the claim up to this point. Carefully double-check the information on this page. If you have any corrections, you can select "Edit" to revise any entries necessary. Each section of information has an "Edit" button, which will take you back to that section so you can make changes. After you make changes, you can click "Save & review" to return to the Review page. Please review your claim carefully. Once you submit your amended claim, you will be unable to edit the claim while it is in compliance review.
- 5. Once you have completed your review and any revisions, you must confirm that the information in your claim is accurate and truthful to the best of your knowledge. To complete the declaration, type your full name into the "Digital signature" box near the bottom of the "Review filing" page and click "Agree & submit."

If you have questions, please contact <u>asktheboard@ccb.gov</u>. Include your docket number in the subject line. The Board is unable to provide legal advice. We can only provide legal information and assistance concerning Board procedures and requirements. If you would like to seek further guidance from a lawyer or a law student at reduced or no cost, please visit the <u>Pro Bono Assistance</u> page on ccb.gov. You may also refer to the <u>Compliance Review</u> chapter of the CCB Handbook for more assistance.

Copyright Claims Board