Docket number: 24-CCB-0243

September 27, 2024

Sean S. Remer	V	Cabintek, LLC
CLAIMANT		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. Your claim cannot move forward unless it is amended.

If you wish to proceed with this claim, you must file an amended claim by <u>October 28, 2024</u>. 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.

Proper Respondent

You are raising a claim of copyright infringement. You name Cabintek, LLC (Cabintek) as the respondent. You have not presented enough facts to indicate why Cabintek may be liable for the alleged infringement. To support an infringement claim, you must present more facts in an amended claim that indicate why Cabintek, or a different respondent, could be held liable for the infringement.

Copyright law grants exclusive rights to copyright owners. These include the right to reproduce, distribute, and publicly display the work, and to make a "derivative work," which is a work based on the original work. Someone who does one of those activities without the copyright owner's permission may be infringing the copyright, unless they have a legitimate defense. More information about exclusive rights is available on page 3 of the <u>Starting an Infringement Claim</u> chapter of the CCB Handbook.

You allege that two photographs of your mother's house appear on the website tinylogcabin.com. Your claim does not present enough facts to clearly state how Cabintek used your exclusive rights in the allegedly infringed works without permission. For example, you do not allege that Cabintek owns or operates that website, or that it provided the photographs to the website owner or operator. Your claim does not state or show that Cabintek

copied, distributed, or displayed your photographs, or prepared derivative work based on your photographs, which would be required to support a claim of direct infringement against Cabintek.

A copyright infringement claim may also be raised against a "secondary infringer" who does not engage in any infringing acts directly, but profits from or facilitates acts of direct infringement by others. To support a claim of secondary infringement against Cabintek, or another respondent, your amended claim must include additional facts about how the respondent acted in relation to directly infringing activities by another party. In particular, a secondary infringement claim must be based on either "vicarious liability" or "contributory liability." Your claim does not include enough facts to support either of these grounds for secondary infringement:

- A vicarious liability claim must state facts that indicate that the respondent had the right and the ability
 to supervise or control a third party's infringing activity and received a direct financial benefit from the
 infringement.
- A **contributory liability** claim must state facts that indicate that the respondent knows about a third party's infringing activity and induces, causes, or substantially contributes to that infringing conduct.

If you intend to assert a claim of secondary infringement against Cabintek, or another respondent, then your amended claim must include more facts that support either vicarious or contributory liability. If you want the Board to find the respondent *vicariously liable* for a third party's use of your photographs, your amended claim must include allegations of facts showing that it was able to control or supervise that use, and that it profited directly from that use. Alternatively, if you want the Board to find the respondent *contributorily liable* for a third party's use of your photographs, your amended claim must include allegations of fact showing that the respondent knew, or had reason to know, that uses of the photographs would be infringing, and that it facilitated that infringing conduct by inducing, causing, or materially contributing to that use.

More information about vicarious and contributory liability is available at page 21 of 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. <u>Once you submit your amended claim, you will be unable to edit the claim while it is in compliance review</u>.
- 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</u> <u>Review</u> chapter of the CCB Handbook for more assistance.

Copyright Claims Attorney