Docket number: 25-CCB-0132

April 29, 2025

Keith F. Bell	V	Adelphi University
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. The claim cannot move forward unless it is amended.

If you wish to proceed with this claim, you must file an amended claim by <u>May 29, 2025</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

Your claim does not include enough information or clarity about the allegedly infringing acts committed specifically by the respondent, Adelphi University. In your claim, you appear to allege infringement of your work due to it being reposted on Twitter by the user "Coach Los." You also do not appear to allege that Adelphi University itself has infringed your copyright, or shown or explained how the allegedly infringing actions of "Coach Los" are connected to Adelphi University or how, even if "Coach Los" were employed by Adelphi University, how Adelphi University would be responsible for the reposting of a tweet if it was done on Coach Los's personal account.

Copyright law grants exclusive rights to copyright owners. These include the right to reproduce, distribute, and publicly perform 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.

In your claim, you state that "Claimant found Respondent's August 12, 2023, post. Claimant issued a C&D to

Respondent. The post was instantly sent out to at least 1598 Followers and made instantly available to billions who have access to the Internet." However, you have not included any information connecting the actions of "Coach Los" to Adelphi University or why this repost would be considered an action of Adelphi University. These bare allegation does not provide sufficient details for the Board or the respondent to understand what the allegedly infringing acts of the named respondent were. If you file an amended claim, include more specific allegations about how **the respondent** took actions to distribute or publicly display the work. You should not file an amended claim unless you can do this.

Impermissible Claim — Violation of Terms of Service

The Board is only authorized to resolve certain types of copyright disputes. 17 U.S.C. § 1504(c)(1)-(3). In your claim you allege that "[w]ith Respondent's actions Respondent has additionally violated Twitter (now "X") Terms of Service ("TOS") Version 18. Section 3." You further state that "Respondent has given "X" (Twitter) rights for a worldwide, non-exclusive, royalty-free license (with the right to sublicense) to use, copy, reproduce, process, adapt, modify, publish, transmit, display and distribute such Content in any and all media or distribution methods (now known or later developed)." These allegations do not appear to be about any kind of claim that the Board could hear. The Board is unable to consider any violation of an online service provider's terms of service. Please review the Introduction chapter in the CCB Handbook for more information about copyright and the kinds of disputes that the Board can hear. You should only file an amended claim if you can state facts to support a claim under copyright law that can be heard by the Board. If you make a claim for violation of Twitter's terms of service in an amended claim, it will be rejected as noncompliant.

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