



COPYRIGHT CLAIMS BOARD

Docket number: 24-CCB-0025

February 23, 2024

Jessica N Hussain

CLAIMANT

v.

Apple Company

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 **March 25, 2024**. 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.

Impermissible Claim — Patent Infringement

The Board is only authorized to resolve certain types of copyright disputes. Three particular kinds of claims are permitted:

1. claims of copyright infringement;
2. claims seeking a declaration that activity is not infringement; and
3. claims about misrepresentations in connection with a takedown notice or counter-notice under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA).

17 U.S.C. § 1504(c)(1)-(3). In your claim, you included general allegations about the alleged infringement of your “trade secrets and intellectual properties” and you have attached a supplementary document that includes an application for a provisional patent. These allegations do not appear to be about any kind of claim that the Board could hear. The Board can only hear claims related to the alleged copyright infringement of the “Encrypted Computer Program” registered as “TXu2-178-363.”

Please review [Circular 1: Copyright Basics](#) and the [Introduction](#) chapter in the CCB Handbook for more information about copyright and the kinds of disputes that the Board can hear. In your amended claim, you should

only include facts to support a claim under copyright law that can be heard by the Board. For more information about what is required to support a claim of infringement, please refer to the [Starting an Infringement Claim](#) of the CCB Handbook.

Copyright Infringement — Elements

You have brought a copyright infringement claim before the Board. Your claim must make enough factual allegations to support each “element” of the claim. Information about the elements required to assert a claim of copyright infringement is available in the [Starting an Infringement Claim](#) chapter of the CCB Handbook. The elements of a copyright infringement claim are:

1. You own a valid copyright in the work, or have been given an exclusive license to the copyright rights at issue in the work,
2. The respondent used one of your exclusive rights in the work without permission,
3. The respondent had access to your work, meaning a reasonable opportunity to view or hear your work, and
4. The respondent’s work is substantially similar to the original elements of expression in your work.

Your claim does not provide enough facts about these four elements you will need to provide more details and background regarding these elements in your amended claim.

Legal and Beneficial Ownership

Your claim provides conflicting facts about the claimant's 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.

A claimant asserting an infringement claim who is not an author or named copyright owner in the registration of the allegedly infringed work must support the claimant’s appropriate ownership of the copyright. In your claim, Jesseca N Hussain is not listed as the author or copyright owner of “TXu2-178-363.” To correct this issue, if Jesseca N. Hussain and Jesseca Goodman (the person identified in the claim as the author and in the registration certificate as the author and copyright claimant) are the same individual, your amended claim must include specific language confirming that they are the same individual. If they are different individuals, you must include additional information about how the claimant owns, or has an exclusive license to use, the exclusive rights at issue. You can do this either by adding facts to the “Describe the infringement” section explaining how the claimant was the owner of exclusive rights in the work at the time of the infringement or by submitting supplemental documents. More information about legal and beneficial ownership is available at page 4 of the [Starting an Infringement Claim](#) chapter of the CCB Handbook.

Infringing Activity — Clarity

Your claim does not present enough facts to clearly state how the respondent used any exclusive rights you have in the allegedly infringed work without permission. 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 [Starting an Infringement Claim](#) chapter of the CCB Handbook.

However, your claim contains no allegations that describe actions taken by the respondent that relate to public display, reproduction, or distribution of your work. In your claim, you generally assert that you did not authorize the respondent to “to make use of these copyrighted materials.” Without further explanation, those statements do not allege sufficient facts to understand how the respondent may have infringed your rights. To address this issue, your amended claim must include facts in the “Describe the infringement” section that describe acts infringing your copyrights, specifying how the respondent engaged in the infringing activity. You should be as detailed as possible, setting forth what the respondent did in relation to the work you allege was infringed.

Access

Your claim does not provide facts about how the respondent had access to your work. “Access” means a reasonable opportunity to view or hear your work before the alleged infringement took place. In your claim, you did not provide any information detailing how Apple had access to your software. To address this issue, you must file an amended claim with allegations that make access a reasonable possibility, not just hypothetically or theoretically possible. Acceptable allegations of access may include how your work (a) was sent directly to the respondent or a close associate of the respondent; (b) was widely disseminated or was available to the respondent; or (c) is so strikingly similar to the respondent’s work that the respondent could not have created it independently. Alternatively, you can upload copies of your work and the allegedly infringing work if they demonstrate that the works are so strikingly similar that they could not have been created independently. 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.

Substantial Similarity

Your claim also does not include enough facts that explain the similarities between your work and the respondent’s allegedly infringing work. 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 allegedly infringing work are similar.

Your claim states that your work is a “computer program/design.” However, you do not provide any

information describing or showing your work. No allegations in the “Describe the infringement” field of the claim describe your work or the allegedly infringing work, or state or show how they are identical or substantially similar. In the claim, you state that you “have identified striking similarities in design and functionality between these offerings and my own intellectual properties” and that “the intellectual properties in question pertain to certain features and functionalities” that you have identified. However, copyright law does not protect ideas, features, or functionality. It protects the author’s particular expression (for example, computer code or screen displays). You do not specifically state which aspects of the respondent’s work are substantially similar to the particular expression in the computer program you have registered. You will need to show specific substantial similarities between your code and the respondent’s code (or other expression in your work), and not just that your code and the respondent’s code execute the same function. For more information about what is protected by copyright please review “[Works Not Protected by Copyright.](#)”

In addition, you have not provided a copy of your work or the allegedly infringed work as supplemental documents. As a result, the claim does not provide enough information to enable the respondent to understand the claim and respond to it. 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 which portions of your work were taken by the respondent in the allegedly infringing work, 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 [Starting an Infringement Claim](#) 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, you must re-upload any documents you wish to include in the amended claim 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 asktheboard@ccb.gov. 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 [Pro Bono Assistance](#) page on ccb.gov. You may also refer to the [Compliance Review](#) chapter of the CCB Handbook for more assistance.

Copyright Claims Attorney