

FILED

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

FEB 21 2014

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS

MOLLY C. DWYER, CLERK
U.S. COURT OF APPEALS

FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

BRYAN PRINGLE, an individual,

Plaintiff - Appellant,

v.

WILLIAM ADAMS, Jr., individually and collectively as the music group the Black Eyed Peas; STACY FERGUSON, individually and collectively as the music group the Black Eyed Peas; JAIME GOMEZ, individually and collectively as the music group the Black Eyed Peas; DAVID GUETTA; FREDERICK RIESTERER; UMG RECORDINGS, INC.; INTERSCOPE RECORDS; EMI APRIL MUSIC, INC.; HEADPHONE JUNKIE PUBLISHING, LLC; WILL.I.AM MUSIC, LLC; JEEPNEY MUSIC, INC.; TAB MAGNETIC PUBLISHING; CHERRY RIVER MUSIC CO.; SQUARE RIVOLI PUBLISHING; RISTER EDITIONS; SHAPIRO BERNSTEIN & CO., INC.; ALLAN PINEDA, Individually and collectively as the music group the Black Eyed Peas,

Defendants - Appellees.

No. 12-55998

D.C. No. 8:10-cv-01656-JST-RZ

MEMORANDUM*

* This disposition is not appropriate for publication and is not precedent except as provided by 9th Cir. R. 36-3.

BRYAN PRINGLE, an individual,

Plaintiff - Appellee,

v.

WILLIAM ADAMS, Jr., individually and collectively as the music group the Black Eyed Peas; STACY FERGUSON, individually and collectively as the music group the Black Eyed Peas; JAIME GOMEZ, individually and collectively as the music group the Black Eyed Peas; ALLAN PINEDA, Individually and collectively as the music group the Black Eyed Peas; DAVID GUETTA; FREDERICK RIESTERER; UMG RECORDINGS, INC.; INTERSCOPE RECORDS; EMI APRIL MUSIC, INC.; HEADPHONE JUNKIE PUBLISHING, LLC; WILL.I.AM MUSIC, LLC; JEEPNEY MUSIC, INC.; TAB MAGNETIC PUBLISHING; CHERRY RIVER MUSIC CO.; SHAPIRO BERNSTEIN & CO., INC.,

Defendants - Appellants.

No. 12-56744

D.C. No. 8:10-cv-01656-JST-RZ

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Central District of California
Josephine L. Staton, District Judge, Presiding

Argued and Submitted February 7, 2014
Pasadena, California

Before: SCHROEDER and CLIFTON, Circuit Judges, and COGAN, District Judge.**

Bryan Pringle (“Plaintiff”) appeals the district court’s decision granting summary judgment to Defendants and its order of sanctions against Plaintiff under 28 U.S.C. § 1927. Defendants cross-appeal the district court’s refusal to impose sanctions on Plaintiff and his counsel. We have jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1291.

Plaintiff brought this complaint alleging that Defendants violated the copyright of his song “Take a Dive” and its derivative. “Take a Dive” was properly registered for copyright in 1998. The evidence in support of Plaintiff, however, raises only the barest possibility that Defendants had access to “Take a Dive,” and Plaintiff does not argue that there is a “striking similarity” between “Take a Dive” and Defendants’ allegedly infringing work. *See Art Attacks Ink, LLC v. MGA Entm’t, Inc.*, 581 F.3d 1138, 1143–45 (9th Cir. 2009) (holding that where there is no more than a bare possibility of access, summary judgment is appropriate); *Three Boys Music Corp. v. Bolton*, 212 F.3d 477, 485 (9th Cir. 2000) (noting that if there is no evidence of access, infringement may be found only if the songs are “strikingly similar”). Further, Plaintiff’s attempt to show a valid copyright in the derivative version of “Take a Dive” fails because the copy deposited with

** The Honorable Brian M. Cogan, United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, sitting by designation.

the U.S. Copyright Office was an impermissible reconstruction. *See Kodadek v. MTV Networks, Inc.*, 152 F.3d 1209, 1211–12 (9th Cir. 1998).

Additionally, the district court did not abuse its discretion in ordering sanctions against Plaintiff under § 1927 for improper service. *See Lahiri v. Universal Music & Video Distrib. Corp.*, 606 F.3d 1216, 1218 (9th Cir. 2010). Plaintiff’s third attempt to serve Rister Editions through Shapiro Bernstein & Co. violated a court order, and the district court reasonably concluded it was “reckless[.]” and that it “unreasonably and vexatiously multiplied the proceedings.” Sanctions may be imposed for willful violation of a court order without a showing or finding of bad faith. *Evon v. Law Offices of Sidney Mickell*, 688 F.3d 1015, 1035 (9th Cir. 2012).

Defendants’ cross-appeal is also unavailing. The district court reasonably concluded that it could not “identify any single piece of unassailable evidence . . . conclusively establishing that Pringle’s claim was legally and factually baseless.” *See Christian v. Mattel, Inc.*, 286 F.3d 1118, 1128 (9th Cir. 2002). The district court did not abuse its discretion in declining to impose Rule 11 sanctions against Plaintiff and his counsel.

We therefore **AFFIRM**.

United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

Office of the Clerk
95 Seventh Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Information Regarding Judgment and Post-Judgment Proceedings

Judgment

- This Court has filed and entered the attached judgment in your case. Fed. R. App. P. 36. Please note the filed date on the attached decision because all of the dates described below run from that date, not from the date you receive this notice.

Mandate (Fed. R. App. P. 41; 9th Cir. R. 41-1 & -2)

- The mandate will issue 7 days after the expiration of the time for filing a petition for rehearing or 7 days from the denial of a petition for rehearing, unless the Court directs otherwise. To file a motion to stay the mandate, file it electronically via the appellate ECF system or, if you are a pro se litigant or an attorney with an exemption from using appellate ECF, file one original motion on paper.

Petition for Panel Rehearing (Fed. R. App. P. 40; 9th Cir. R. 40-1)

Petition for Rehearing En Banc (Fed. R. App. P. 35; 9th Cir. R. 35-1 to -3)

(1) A. Purpose (Panel Rehearing):

- A party should seek panel rehearing only if one or more of the following grounds exist:
 - ▶ A material point of fact or law was overlooked in the decision;
 - ▶ A change in the law occurred after the case was submitted which appears to have been overlooked by the panel; or
 - ▶ An apparent conflict with another decision of the Court was not addressed in the opinion.
- Do not file a petition for panel rehearing merely to reargue the case.

B. Purpose (Rehearing En Banc)

- A party should seek en banc rehearing only if one or more of the following grounds exist:

- ▶ Consideration by the full Court is necessary to secure or maintain uniformity of the Court's decisions; or
- ▶ The proceeding involves a question of exceptional importance; or
- ▶ The opinion directly conflicts with an existing opinion by another court of appeals or the Supreme Court and substantially affects a rule of national application in which there is an overriding need for national uniformity.

(2) Deadlines for Filing:

- A petition for rehearing may be filed within 14 days after entry of judgment. Fed. R. App. P. 40(a)(1).
- If the United States or an agency or officer thereof is a party in a civil case, the time for filing a petition for rehearing is 45 days after entry of judgment. Fed. R. App. P. 40(a)(1).
- If the mandate has issued, the petition for rehearing should be accompanied by a motion to recall the mandate.
- *See* Advisory Note to 9th Cir. R. 40-1 (petitions must be received on the due date).
- An order to publish a previously unpublished memorandum disposition extends the time to file a petition for rehearing to 14 days after the date of the order of publication or, in all civil cases in which the United States or an agency or officer thereof is a party, 45 days after the date of the order of publication. 9th Cir. R. 40-2.

(3) Statement of Counsel

- A petition should contain an introduction stating that, in counsel's judgment, one or more of the situations described in the "purpose" section above exist. The points to be raised must be stated clearly.

(4) Form & Number of Copies (9th Cir. R. 40-1; Fed. R. App. P. 32(c)(2))

- The petition shall not exceed 15 pages unless it complies with the alternative length limitations of 4,200 words or 390 lines of text.
- The petition must be accompanied by a copy of the panel's decision being challenged.
- An answer, when ordered by the Court, shall comply with the same length limitations as the petition.
- If a pro se litigant elects to file a form brief pursuant to Circuit Rule 28-1, a petition for panel rehearing or for rehearing en banc need not comply with Fed. R. App. P. 32.

- The petition or answer must be accompanied by a Certificate of Compliance found at Form 11, available on our website at www.ca9.uscourts.gov under *Forms*.
- You may file a petition electronically via the appellate ECF system. No paper copies are required unless the Court orders otherwise. If you are a pro se litigant or an attorney exempted from using the appellate ECF system, file one original petition on paper. No additional paper copies are required unless the Court orders otherwise.

Bill of Costs (Fed. R. App. P. 39, 9th Cir. R. 39-1)

- The Bill of Costs must be filed within 14 days after entry of judgment.
- See Form 10 for additional information, available on our website at www.ca9.uscourts.gov under *Forms*.

Attorneys Fees

- Ninth Circuit Rule 39-1 describes the content and due dates for attorneys fees applications.
- All relevant forms are available on our website at www.ca9.uscourts.gov under *Forms* or by telephoning (415) 355-7806.

Petition for a Writ of Certiorari

- Please refer to the Rules of the United States Supreme Court at www.supremecourt.gov

Counsel Listing in Published Opinions

- Please check counsel listing on the attached decision.
- If there are any errors in a published opinion, please send a letter **in writing within 10 days** to:
 - ▶ Thomson Reuters; 610 Opperman Drive; PO Box 64526; St. Paul, MN 55164-0526 (Attn: Jean Green, Senior Publications Coordinator);
 - ▶ and electronically file a copy of the letter via the appellate ECF system by using "File Correspondence to Court," or if you are an attorney exempted from using the appellate ECF system, mail the Court one copy of the letter.

United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

BILL OF COSTS

Note: If you wish to file a bill of costs, it **MUST** be submitted on this form and filed, with the clerk, with proof of service, within 14 days of the date of entry of judgment, and in accordance with 9th Circuit Rule 39-1. A late bill of costs must be accompanied by a motion showing good cause. Please refer to FRAP 39, 28 U.S.C. § 1920, and 9th Circuit Rule 39-1 when preparing your bill of costs.

v. 9th Cir. No.

The Clerk is requested to tax the following costs against:

Cost Taxable under FRAP 39, 28 U.S.C. § 1920, 9th Cir. R. 39-1	REQUESTED Each Column Must Be Completed				ALLOWED To Be Completed by the Clerk				
	No. of Docs.	Pages per Doc.	Cost per Page*	TOTAL COST	No. of Docs.	Pages per Doc.	Cost per Page*	TOTAL COST	
Excerpt of Record	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	
Opening Brief	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	
Answering Brief	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	
Reply Brief	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	
Other**	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	
TOTAL:				\$ <input type="text"/>	TOTAL:				\$ <input type="text"/>

* Costs per page may not exceed .10 or actual cost, whichever is less. 9th Circuit Rule 39-1.

** Other: Any other requests must be accompanied by a statement explaining why the item(s) should be taxed pursuant to 9th Circuit Rule 39-1. Additional items without such supporting statements will not be considered.

Attorneys' fees **cannot** be requested on this form.

Continue to next page.

Form 10. Bill of Costs - Continued

I, , swear under penalty of perjury that the services for which costs are taxed were actually and necessarily performed, and that the requested costs were actually expended as listed.

Signature

("s/" plus attorney's name if submitted electronically)

Date

Name of Counsel:

Attorney for:

(To Be Completed by the Clerk)

Date

Costs are taxed in the amount of \$

Clerk of Court

By: , Deputy Clerk