

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF OREGON

IN RE:

COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT CASES
INVOLVING PEER-TO-PEER
FILE-SHARING SOFTWARE

Standing Order No.: 2016-7

AVAILABILITY OF PRO BONO
COUNSEL

**PERSONS INVOLVED IN PEER-TO-PEER FILE-SHARING
COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT ACTIONS SHOULD
READ THIS ORDER CAREFULLY**

WHEREAS:

A. Various plaintiffs have filed lawsuits in this Court to enforce their copyright in various motion pictures. In each case, the plaintiff alleges that an unknown party, identified only by an Internet Protocol (“IP”) address, has copied and distributed their motion pictures without their consent through a public BitTorrent or other file-sharing network.

B. In an effort to obtain the identity of the “subscriber” – namely, the person or other entity to which an Internet Service Provider (“ISP”) assigned the account associated with the alleged infringing activity – plaintiffs have served the ISP with a formal legal document, called a subpoena. In many instances the ISP will identify an individual person or company as the subscriber who was assigned a particular IP address at the time of the accused download of the motion picture. The subscriber may or may not be the same as the alleged infringer. In order to find out whether the subscriber is an innocent third party (and whether the subscriber has information that may help the plaintiff to identify the alleged infringer), plaintiffs request the Court to enter Orders allowing them to take certain actions, such as issuing a subpoena to the subscriber for a deposition.

C. Notwithstanding contrary information available through the Internet, if a subscriber or defendant ignores a Court Order, a subpoena seeking the subscriber's deposition, or a Summons and Complaint, then plaintiff may ask the Court for relief, including an award of attorney fees, and possibly the entry of a default judgment for money damages.

D. Accordingly, it is important that subscribers and defendants seek proper legal advice concerning their rights and obligations.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. Subscribers and defendants are urged to consult an attorney as soon as possible. An attorney may be found by contacting the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service online at www.oregonstatebar.org or by calling 503-684-3763 (in the Portland metropolitan area) or toll free elsewhere in Oregon at 800-452-7636.

2. For those subscribers and defendants who cannot afford to hire an attorney, the Court has established a panel of attorneys who are willing to provide assistance and advice at no charge for up to three (3) hours. To obtain this free service, subscribers and defendants must contact the following person and request appointment of counsel from the Court's Copyright Litigation Panel:

Nicole T. Munoz, Pro Bono Panel Administrator
U.S. District Court, District of Oregon
740 U.S. Courthouse | 1000 S.W. Third Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97204
Phone: (503) 326-8014 | Fax: (503) 326-8010
Email: Nicole_Munoz@ord.uscourts.gov

Done on behalf of the Court on this 15 day of March, 2016.


MICHAEL W. MOSMAN
CHIEF U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

- This Order will be posted publicly on the District Court's web page at: <https://www.ord.uscourts.gov/index.php/court-info/standing-orders>