

1 RUSSELL J. FRACKMAN (SBN 49087)  
 rjf@msk.com  
 2 ALEXA L. LEWIS (SBN 235867)  
 all@msk.com  
 3 MITCHELL SILBERBERG & KNUPP LLP  
 11377 West Olympic Boulevard  
 4 Los Angeles, California 90064-1683  
 Telephone: (310) 312-2000  
 5 Facsimile: (310) 312-3100  
 6 Attorneys for Roc-A-Fella Records, LLC  
 7

8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
 9 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, WESTERN DIVISION  
 10

11 Osama Ahmed Fahmy, an individual,  
 12 Plaintiff,  
 13 v.

CASE NO. CV 07-05715 CAS (PJWx)

The Honorable Christina A. Snyder

**ANSWER TO COMPLAINT OF  
 DEFENDANT ROC-A-FELLA  
 RECORDS, LLC**

14 Jay-Z (aka Shawn Carter), Timothy  
 Mosely, Kyambo Joshua, Rob Bourdon,  
 15 Brad Delson, Mike Shinoda, Dave  
 Farrell, Joseph Hahn, Chester  
 16 Bennington, Big Bad Mr. Hahn Music,  
 Chesterchaz Publishing, EMI Blackwood  
 17 Music, Inc., EMI Music Publishing Ltd.,  
 Kenji Kobayashi Music, Lil Lulu  
 18 Publishing, Machine Shop Recordings,  
 LLC, Marcy Projects Productions II,  
 19 Inc., MTV Networks Enterprises Inc.,  
 Nondisclosure Agreement Music,  
 20 Paramount Home Entertainment, Inc.,  
 Paramount Pictures Corporation, Radical  
 21 Media, Rob Bourdon Music, Roc-A-  
 Fella Records, LLC, Timbaland  
 22 Productions, Inc., UMG Recordings,  
 Inc., Universal Music and Video  
 23 Distribution, Inc., and Warner Music  
 Inc.,

24 Defendants.  
 25

1 Defendant Roc-A-Fella Records, LLC (“Defendant”), answers the  
2 Complaint of Osama Ahmed Fahmy (“Plaintiff”) as follows:

3 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

4 1. The allegations contained in paragraph 1 are legal conclusions to  
5 which a response is not required. To the extent the allegations in paragraph 1 are  
6 factual in nature, Defendant denies each and every allegation set forth therein.

7 **PARTIES**

8 2. Answering the first and second sentences of paragraph 2, Defendant  
9 lacks information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of said allegations and  
10 on that basis denies each and every allegation set forth therein; and answering the  
11 third sentence of paragraph 2, denies each and every allegation set forth therein.

12 3. Answering paragraph 3, Defendant admits the allegations in the first  
13 sentence of paragraph 3; lacks information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth  
14 of the allegations in the second sentence of paragraph 3, and on that basis denies  
15 each and every allegation set forth therein; and denies each and every remaining  
16 allegation set forth in paragraph 3.

17 4. Answering paragraph 4, Defendant admits that Rob Bourdon, Brad  
18 Delson, Mike Shinoda, Dave Farrell, Joseph Hahn, and Chester Bennington are  
19 entertainers who record, produce, and perform music as members of the band  
20 “Linkin Park,” but lacks information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of  
21 the remaining allegations of paragraph 4 and on that basis denies each and every  
22 allegation set forth therein.

23 5. Defendant admits that it is a corporate entity that has been identified in  
24 product packaging as having participated in the release of an album entitled  
25 *Collision Course*, which contained a track entitled “Big Pimpin’/Papercut,” but  
26 denies each and every remaining allegation set forth in the first sentence of  
27 paragraph 5. Answering the second sentence of paragraph 5, Defendant lacks

1 information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of said allegations and on that  
2 basis denies each and every allegation set forth therein.

3         6. Defendant admits that it is a corporate entity that has been identified in  
4 product packaging as having participated in the release of the album entitled *Vol.*  
5 *3...Life and Times of S. Carter*. Answering the remaining allegations in paragraph  
6 6, Defendant lacks information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of said  
7 allegations and on that basis denies each and every allegation set forth therein.

8         7. Answering paragraph 7, Defendant lacks information sufficient to  
9 form a belief as to the truth of said allegations and on that basis denies each and  
10 every allegation set forth therein.

11                                 **ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS**

12         8. Answering the final sentence of paragraph 8, Defendant denies each  
13 and every allegation set forth therein. Answering the remainder of paragraph 8,  
14 Defendant lacks information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of said  
15 allegations and on that basis denies each and every allegation set forth therein.

16         9. Answering paragraph 9, Defendant lacks information sufficient to  
17 form a belief as to the truth of said allegations and on that basis denies each and  
18 every allegation set forth therein.

19         10. Answering paragraph 10, Defendant lacks information sufficient to  
20 form a belief as to the truth of said allegations and on that basis denies each and  
21 every allegation set forth therein.

22         11. Answering paragraph 11, Defendant lacks information sufficient to  
23 form a belief as to the truth of said allegations and on that basis denies each and  
24 every allegation set forth therein.

25         12. Answering paragraph 12, Defendant admits that the album *Vol.*  
26 *3...Life and Times of S. Carter*, which contains a sound recording entitled “Big  
27 Pimpin,” was released in or about December 1999. Answering the remaining  
28 allegations in paragraph 12, Defendant lacks information sufficient to form a belief

1 as to the truth of said allegations and on that basis denies each and every allegation  
2 set forth therein.

3 13. Answering the first sentence of paragraph 13, Defendant admits that  
4 distribution of the album *Vol. 3...Life and Times of S. Carter* has continued from  
5 its original release through the present. Defendant denies each and every  
6 remaining allegation set forth in paragraph 13.

7 14. Answering paragraph 14, Defendant admits that, in or about July  
8 2004, Linkin Park and Jay-Z performed a concert at the Roxy Theater in West  
9 Hollywood; that, during said concert Jay-Z and Linkin Park performed a song  
10 entitled “Big Pimpin’/Papercut;” and that, in approximately late November 2004, a  
11 work entitled *Collision Course*, which jointly packaged a DVD recording of said  
12 concert and a CD containing an in-studio recording of “Big Pimpin’/Papercut;”  
13 was released, which continues to be distributed today. Defendant denies each and  
14 every remaining allegation set forth in paragraph 14.

15 15. Answering paragraph 15, Defendant lacks information sufficient to  
16 form a belief as to the truth of said allegations and on that basis denies each and  
17 every allegation set forth therein.

18 16. Answering the first sentence of paragraph 16, Defendant denies each  
19 and every allegation set forth therein. Answering the second sentence of paragraph  
20 16, Defendant lacks information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of said  
21 allegations and on that basis denies each and every allegation set forth therein.

22 17. The allegations contained in paragraph 17 are legal conclusions to  
23 which a response is not required. To the extent the allegations in paragraph 17 are  
24 factual in nature, Defendant lacks information sufficient to form a belief as to the  
25 truth of said allegations and on that basis denies each and every allegation set forth  
26 therein.

27 18. The allegations contained in paragraph 18 are legal conclusions to  
28 which a response is not required. To the extent the allegations in paragraph 18 are

1 factual in nature, Defendant lacks information sufficient to form a belief as to the  
2 truth of said allegations and on that basis denies each and every allegation set forth  
3 therein.

4 **ANSWER TO FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

5 19. Answering paragraph 19, Defendant incorporates by reference its  
6 answers to paragraphs 1 through 18 above, as if set forth in full herein.

7 20. Answering paragraph 20, Defendant denies each and every allegation  
8 set forth therein.

9 21. Answering paragraph 21, Defendant denies each and every allegation  
10 set forth therein.

11 22. Answering paragraph 22, Defendant denies each and every allegation  
12 set forth therein.

13 23. Answering paragraph 23, Defendant denies each and every allegation  
14 set forth therein.

15 24. Answering paragraph 24, Defendant denies each and every allegation  
16 set forth therein.

17 25. Answering paragraph 25, Defendant denies each and every allegation  
18 set forth therein.

19 26. Answering paragraph 26, Defendant denies each and every allegation  
20 set forth therein.

21 27. Answering paragraph 27, Defendant denies each and every allegation  
22 set forth therein.

23 **ANSWER TO SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

24 28. Answering paragraph 28, Defendant incorporates by reference its  
25 answers to paragraphs 1 through 18 above, as if set forth in full herein.

26 29. Answering paragraph 29, Defendant denies each and every allegation  
27 set forth therein.

1           30. Answering the first sentence of paragraph 30, Defendant denies each  
2 and every allegation set forth therein. Defendant lacks information sufficient to  
3 form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in the second sentence of paragraph  
4 30 and on that basis denies each and every allegation set forth therein.

5           31. Answering paragraph 31, Defendant lacks information sufficient to  
6 form a belief as to the truth of the allegations that Linkin Park and Jay-Z have  
7 performed “Big Pimpin’/Papercut” at venues and on occasions other than the July  
8 2004 performance at the Roxy, and on that basis denies those allegations.  
9 Defendant denies each and every remaining allegation set forth in Paragraph 31.

10          32. Answering paragraph 32, Defendant denies each and every allegation  
11 set forth therein.

12          33. Answering paragraph 33, Defendant denies each and every allegation  
13 set forth therein.

14          34. Answering paragraph 34, Defendant denies each and every allegation  
15 set forth therein.

16          35. Answering paragraph 35, Defendant denies each and every allegation  
17 set forth therein..

18                               **ANSWER TO THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

19          36. Answering paragraph 36, Defendant incorporates by reference its  
20 answers to paragraphs 1 through 18 above, as if set forth in full herein.

21          37. Answering paragraph 37, Defendant denies each and every allegation  
22 set forth therein.

23          38. Answering paragraph 38, Defendant denies each and every allegation  
24 set forth therein.

25          39. Answering paragraph 39, Defendant denies each and every allegation  
26 set forth therein.

27          40. Answering the first sentence of paragraph 40, Defendant denies each  
28 and every allegation set forth therein. Answering the second sentence of paragraph

1 40, Defendant lacks information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of said  
2 allegations and on that basis denies each and every allegation set forth therein.

3 41. Answering paragraph 41, Defendant denies each and every allegation  
4 set forth therein.

5 42. Answering paragraph 42, Defendant denies each and every allegation  
6 set forth therein.

7 **ANSWER TO FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

8 43. This claim for relief has been dismissed pursuant to the Court's Order  
9 of March 20, 2008, and as such no answer to paragraph 43 is required. To the  
10 extent any answer is required, Defendant incorporates by reference its answers to  
11 paragraphs 1 through 37 above, as if set forth in full herein.

12 44. This claim for relief has been dismissed pursuant to the Court's Order  
13 of March 20, 2008, and as such no answer to paragraph 44 is required. To the  
14 extent any answer is required, Defendant denies each and every allegation set forth  
15 therein.

16 45. This claim for relief has been dismissed pursuant to the Court's Order  
17 of March 20, 2008, and as such no answer to paragraph 45 is required. To the  
18 extent any answer is required, Defendant denies each and every allegation set forth  
19 therein.

20 46. This claim for relief has been dismissed pursuant to the Court's Order  
21 of March 20, 2008, and as such no answer to paragraph 46 is required. To the  
22 extent any answer is required, Defendant denies each and every allegation set forth  
23 therein.

24 47. This claim for relief has been dismissed pursuant to the Court's Order  
25 of March 20, 2008, and as such no answer to paragraph 47 is required. To the  
26 extent any answer is required, Defendant denies each and every allegation set forth  
27 therein.

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**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

48. Defendant denies that Plaintiff is entitled to recover any of the damages, injunctive or other relief sought in his Prayer for Relief, and denies each and every allegation contained therein.

**FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Failure to State a Claim for Relief)**

49. The Complaint fails to state facts sufficient to state a claim upon which relief may be granted.

**SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Statute of Limitations)**

50. Plaintiff's claims are barred in whole or in part by the applicable statute(s) of limitations.

**THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Standing)**

51. Plaintiff lacks standing to bring this action or any claim against Defendant for the relief sought herein.

**FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Failure to Join Necessary and Indispensable Parties)**

52. The Complaint fails to name necessary or indispensable parties, including persons and entities that own the allegedly infringed works, as alleged in the Complaint.



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**FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Independent Creation)**

53. Defendant’s works were the result of Defendant’s independent creation.

**SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Adequate Remedy at Law)**

54. Plaintiff’s causes of action, and each of them, and his injunctive and restitution remedies, are barred in light of the fact that Plaintiff has an adequate remedy at law.

**SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Attorneys’ Fees Not Recoverable)**

55. Plaintiff is barred from any recovery of attorneys’ fees, because, in bringing this action, Plaintiff has not alleged any basis upon which attorneys’ fees are recoverable.

**EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Laches)**

56. Plaintiff is barred by the doctrine of laches from asserting any of his claims for relief.

**NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Waiver)**

57. Plaintiff has, through his actions, conduct, delay, and failure to act, waived any right to relief.

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**TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Estoppel)**

58. Plaintiff is estopped by his own acts and omissions from asserting any claims in this action.

**ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(De Minimis)**

59. To the extent any copyrightable elements from any of the allegedly infringed works were used in allegedly infringing works and were not independently created, such use is *de minimis* and not actionable.

**TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Authorization, License, Acquiescence, Ratification, Consent)**

60. To the extent any of the acts or omissions averred in the Complaint occurred, those acts were authorized, licensed, acquiesced in, ratified, or consented to it, expressly, by implication, or by conduct.

**THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Lack of Willfulness)**

61. Defendant has not willfully infringed any alleged copyright in the Plaintiff's purported work.

**FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Failure to Comply with Statutory Requirements)**

62. Plaintiff has failed to comply with the registration, deposit, and other statutory requirements that are conditions precedent to maintaining this action and/or to the recovery of statutory damages and attorneys' fees.

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**FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Work for Hire)**

63. To the extent Baligh Hamdy wrote or contributed to “Khosara Khosara,” such contribution was a work made for hire.

**SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Unclean Hands)**

64. Plaintiff’s claims are barred by the doctrine of unclean hands.

**SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Good Faith)**

65. To the extent Defendant engaged in any act averred by Plaintiff, it did so innocently and in good faith.

**EIGHTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Lack of Originality)**

66. Plaintiff’s causes of action are barred as the portion of the Plaintiff’s work alleged to have been infringed is not original.

**NINETEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Lack of Protectability)**

67. Plaintiff’s causes of action are barred as the portion of the Plaintiff’s work alleged to have been infringed is not protectable.

**TWENTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Forfeiture by General Publication)**

68. Plaintiff’s works are in the public domain by reason of the alleged author’s sale of said works without affixing any copyright notice thereto.

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**TWENTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Fair Use)**

69. To the extent any copyrightable elements from the allegedly infringed work was used in allegedly infringing works and were not independently created, such use constituted fair use.

**TWENTY-SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE**

**(Not Copyrightable Expression)**

70. Plaintiff’s claims are barred, in whole or in part, because there is no infringement of copyrightable expression.

WHEREFORE, Defendant prays:

- 1. That Plaintiff take nothing by the Complaint, and that the Complaint, and each claim for relief therein, be dismissed with prejudice;
- 2. For Defendant’s attorneys’ fees and full costs incurred herein; and
- 3. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

DATED: April 3, 2008

RUSSELL J. FRACKMAN  
ALEXA L. LEWIS  
MITCHELL SILBERBERG & KNUPP LLP

By: /s/ Alexa L. Lewis  
Alexa L. Lewis

Attorneys for Defendant Roc-A-Fella  
Records, LLC