Rupa Marya v. Warner Chappell Music Inc

Doc. 116 Att. 3

HAVING FOUND GOOD CAUSE APPEARING in Plaintiffs', Good Morning To You Productions Corp., Robert Siegel, Rupa Marya, and Majar Productions, LLC ("Plaintiffs"), *ex parte* application for an extension of the current fact discovery cut-off deadline of July 11, 2014 in order to permit Plaintiffs' motion under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(5)(B) for an order: (i) overruling the claim of privilege by defendants Warner/Chappell Music, Inc. and Summy-Birchard, Inc. ("Defendants"), to certain documents produced by non-party American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers ("ASCAP"), or, in the alternative, permitting a Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(6) deposition to determine the factual basis for the claimed privilege to be fully briefed and heard by Magistrate Judge Michael R. Wilner ("the Motion"). The Court makes the following findings:

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

- 1. The Court initially set the fact discovery deadline for June 27, 2014. (Dkt. 92);
- 2. On June 9, 2014, the fact discovery deadline was extended by Magistrate Judge Wilner, in connection with this Court, and at the request of both parties, to July 11, 2014 in order to successfully resolve an outstanding discovery dispute relating to Defendants' privilege log;
- 3. Plaintiffs were diligent in their discovery and have made substantial efforts to complete discovery prior to July 11, 2014;
- 4. Plaintiffs served a document subpoena on ASCAP on March 28, 2014; and the parties received the ASCAP Documents on May 9, 2014. On May 22, 2014, for the first time, ASCAP advised Plaintiffs that Defendants claimed certain of the ASCAP Documents were privileged and that counsel for the Defendants would be contacting Plaintiffs directly;
- 5. As required under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(5)(B), copies of the disputed ASCAP Documents were sequestered by Plaintiffs' counsel and will

- be submitted to the Magistrate Judge under seal for a determination of Defendants' claim of privilege;
- 6. On May 22, 2014, Plaintiffs promptly noticed the deposition of Defendants pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(6) for the corporation's testimony about the extent of ASCAP's interest (if any) in the Song and the royalties it collects for public performances of the Song and whether ASCAP produced the documents knowingly and intentionally. On May 27, 2014, Defendants objected to Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(6) deposition and declined to produce a witness;
- 7. Plaintiffs also subpoenaed ASCAP under Fed. R. Civ. P. 45 and 30(b)(6) for the deposition of a representative of ASCAP most knowledgeable about the scope or validity of any copyright to Song and other related issues but ASCAP moved to quash the subpoena. ASCAP and Plaintiffs then resolved the dispute and ASCAP withdrew its motion to quash;
- 8. ASCAP's deposition will take place in New York on July 11, 2014;
- 9. Plaintiffs seek an extension of the discovery deadline to resolve this remaining discovery dispute relating to Defendants' privilege claims as to certain ASCAP Documents;
- 10. The pre-filing conference of counsel has already occurred and Plaintiffs, prior to the filing of this *ex parte* application, provided Defendants' counsel with Plaintiffs' portion of the Local Rule 37-2.2 Joint Stipulation and noticed the Motion for July 30, 2014, the first available date under the Local Rules;
- 11. Absent this relief, under Local Rule 37-2, the Joint Stipulation and Supplemental Memorandum process cannot be fully completed and the motion heard prior to the discovery cut-off; and

Plaintiffs meet the requirements both for ex parte relief and for the 12. 1 2 underlying request to permit its motion to be heard after the cutoff. 3 **ORDER** 4 THEREFORE, based upon the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions 5 of Law, Plaintiffs' Ex Parte Application is hereby **GRANTED**, as follows: 6 7 Plaintiffs acted diligently in serving its discovery requests and deposition 1. 8 notices, meeting and conferring with Defendants and ASCAP, and filing 9 its motion to compel. 10 There is no prejudice to Defendants in having this motion heard now. 2. 11 The information sought is very limited in scope, and has already been 12 produced by ASCAP. 13 Plaintiffs are not at fault in the need for this ex parte relief and good 3. 14 cause exists for an extension of the discovery cut-off deadline for this 15 limited purpose. 16 4. Discovery cut-off is hereby extended as to this limited discovery 17 dispute until the parties have completed the scheduled briefing and the 18 Magistrate Judge completes its review of Defendants' documents and 19 makes a ruling on the issues raised. 20 IT IS SO ORDERED. 21 22 Dated: HON. GEORGE H. KING, CHIEF JUDGE 23 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT JUDGE 24 25 26 27 WARNER/CHAPPELL:20975.ORDER 28