

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

DUSTIN K. ADLER, an individual,
Plaintiff,

No. Civ. 2:08-CV-01333 JAM EFB

ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES AND
COSTS

v.

RELYNET, INC., a California
Corporation, MICHAEL DICARLO,
an individual, and DOES 1-50,
inclusively,

Defendants. /

RELYNET, INC., a California
Corporation, MICHAEL DICARLO,
an individual, and DOES 1-50,
inclusively,

Counterclaimants,

v.

DUSTIN K. ADLER, an individual,

Counterdefendant.
/

1 This matter, having come before the Court on Plaintiff
2 Dustin Adler's Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs and this
3 Court having considered the briefs and conducted oral
4 examination of the parties at the April 7, 2010 hearing, the
5 Court hereby rules as follows:
6

7 As the Court indicated at the April 7, 2010 hearing,
8 Plaintiff is seeking attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to 17
9 U.S.C. § 505. Title 17 U.S.C § 505 of the Copyright Act states,
10 "[e]xcept as otherwise provided by this title, the court may
11 also award a reasonable attorney's fee to the prevailing party
12 as part of the costs." In applying this provision, district
13 courts are charged with two tasks: first, deciding whether an
14 award of attorneys' fees is appropriate, and second, calculating
15 the amount of fees to be awarded." Traditional Cat Ass'n v.
16 Gilbreath, 340 F.3d 829, 832-33 (9th Cir. 2003). Factors that
17 may be considered by a court in deciding whether to award fees
18 include: (1) the degree of success obtained by the prevailing
19 party, (2) the frivolousness of the losing party's claim, (3)
20 the motivation of the losing party, (4) the reasonableness of
21 the losing party's legal and factual arguments, (5) the need to
22 advance considerations of compensation and deterrence, (6) the
23 purposes of the Copyright Act, and (7) whether the chilling
24 effect of attorney's fees may be too great or impose an
25 equitable burden on an impecunious plaintiff. See Wall Data Inc.
26
27
28

1 v. L.A. County Sheriff's Dep't, 447 F.3d 769, 787 (9th Cir.
2 2006).

3 As indicated at the hearing, the Court finds Plaintiff is
4 entitled to attorneys' fees and costs as the prevailing party,
5 however, the Court does not find that Plaintiff attained
6 complete success in the litigation. Notably, Plaintiff lost his
7 defense against Defendants' Penal Code § 502 claim, lost his
8 copyright claim against Intermedia Outdoors, Inc., and Plaintiff
9 was not found to be the prevailing party in his claim against
10 Internet Brands, Inc. As such, the Court hereby discounts
11 Plaintiff's fee and cost request to account for Plaintiff's
12 limited success. In addition, the Court reduces Plaintiff's
13 bill for unnecessarily duplicative work and inefficiency.

14 Here, Plaintiff submitted inadequate documentation of
15 attorneys' fees and costs to the Court. As such, the Court is
16 without a reasonable guide to determine what portion of the fees
17 billed are those in which Plaintiff is entitled. Nevertheless,
18 where a district court must apportion fees, "the impossibility
19 of making an exact apportionment does not relieve the district
20 court of its duty to make some attempt to adjust the fee award
21 in an effort to reflect an apportionment." Traditional Cat
22 Ass'n v. Gilbreath, 340 F.3d 829, 833 (9th Cir. 2003).

23
24
25
26
27 Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:
28

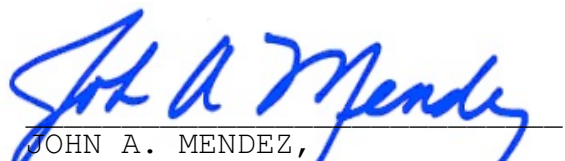
1 1. The Court deducts \$5,310.50 in objectionable costs
2 from Plaintiff's cost request of \$22,107.50. As
3 indicated at the April 7, 2010 hearing, a late filing
4 of the bill of costs does not affect the Court's
5 ability to award costs under Federal Rule of Civil
6 Procedure 54 or under Local Rule 292. Thus, the Court
7 awards a total of \$16,797.00 in costs to Plaintiff.
8

9 2. In considering Plaintiff's attorneys' fees request,
10 the Court notes that there was no objection to the
11 rate being charged by Plaintiff's attorneys. Rather,
12 the objection concerned the number of excessive hours
13 billed. After considering Plaintiff's limited success
14 and the unnecessary duplicative work and
15 inefficiencies of Plaintiff's counsel, the Court
16 awards a total of \$291,045.00 in attorneys' fees to
17 Plaintiff.
18
19

20 Accordingly, it is hereby ordered that Plaintiff's Motion
21 for Attorneys' Fees and Costs is GRANTED. Plaintiff is entitled
22 to an award of attorneys' fees and costs in the amount of
23 \$307,842.00.
24

25
26 IT IS SO ORDERED.

27 Dated: April 8, 2010

28 

JOHN A. MENDEZ,
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE