

EXHIBIT 14

Case No. C 07 0943 WHA

Parrish v. National Football League Players Association, et al.

Pages 1 - 55

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

BEFORE THE HONORABLE WILLIAM H. ALSUP

BERNARD PAUL PARRISH, et al.,)	
Plaintiffs,)	
VS.)	NO. C 07 0943 WHA
NFL PLAYERS, INCORPORATED d/b/a)	
PLAYERS INC., a Virginia)	
corporation,)	
Defendant.)	San Francisco, California
)	Thursday
)	May 31, 2007
)	8:04 a.m.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

APPEARANCES:

For Plaintiffs: Manatt, Phelps & Phillips
1001 Page Mill Road, Building 2
Palo Alto, California 94304
By: Ronald S. Katz, Esquire
Ryan S. Hilbert, Esquire

McCool, Smith
300 Crescent Court
Dallas, Texas 75201
By: Lewis T. LeClair, Esquire
Jill Adler, Esquire

(Appearances continued on next page)

Reported By: Katherine A. Powell, CSR #5812, RPR, CRR
Official Reporter - U.S. District Court

Appearances continued:

For Defendant: Dewey, Ballantine LLP
1301 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10019-6092
By: Jeffrey L. Kessler, Esquire
Eamon O'Kelly, Esquire

0943may31.txt
Weil, Gotshal & Manges
201 Redwood Shores Parkway
Redwood Shores, California 94065
By: Kenneth L. Steinthal, Esquire

3

1

P R O C E E D I N G S

2 MAY 31, 2007

8:04 A.M.

3

4 THE CLERK: Calling Civil 07-0943, Bernard Parrish
5 versus NFL Players, Inc.

6 MR. KESSLER: Good morning, Your Honor.

7 Jeffrey Kessler of Dewey Ballantine, appearing on
8 behalf of the defendant National League Players, Inc., along
9 with Mr. Steinthal.

10 MR. STEINTHAL: Kenneth Steinthal from Weil, Gotshal
Page 2

22 surprisingly. And this is a class action. And our belief is
23 if there was a class, even the law of Virginia has to apply
24 because it's the only one that can apply uniformly, or you are
25 looking at the law of all the 50 states for which there are
29

1 dramatic differences. In fact, I'm not even sure that would
2 permit a class to go forward.

3 But there is no way there could be California law
4 applying for the class. The rest of the class has no
5 connection with California. And California applies what's
6 called a governmental interest test. In the governmental
7 interest test for choice of law, you look first to see are the
8 laws different? They are different. And once they are
9 different, you weigh the interest.

10 California has no interest, for example, in applying
11 its fiduciary duty law to a citizen of Florida in a case
12 against a Virginia corporation. You have zero interest in that
13 in California. And, therefore, there's no interest even to
14 balance against the interest of either Virginia or Florida.
15 Those would be the choices with respect to each class member.

16 So there's no way that you would ever get to a class
17 action applying California law here to the class. It's not
18 possible under the governmental interests test because there
19 are differences. But there was no concession on that point.

20 The concession was simply, we argue, it doesn't make
21 a difference for this motion which law you apply to determine
22 if there's fiduciary duty, because these defects are so
23 substantial, there's no fiduciary duty probably under the law
24 of the 50 states with respect to this particular set of facts.

25 That leaves their last two claims, which are

30

1 completely derivative. One is a claim for an accounting. And
Page 24

2 they argue --

3 THE COURT: Derivative of the fiduciary --

4 MR. KESSLER: Of fiduciary duty. They argue --

5 THE COURT: So your argument is they fall away
6 because the predicate falls away?

7 MR. KESSLER: That's correct. With respect to
8 accounting, they say, well, accounting can be --

9 THE COURT: I understand that argument. You're
10 right, there's no primary cause of action, there's no claim for
11 an accounting.

12 MR. KESSLER: The other claim is unjust enrichment.
13 Now, unjust enrichment, the courts in California are actually
14 split. Some use language, which I will call loose language,
15 referring to it as a separate cause of action. Others say
16 absolutely it is not a separate cause of action, you have to
17 have another cause of action that supports it.

18 But, again, that debate, very interesting theoretical
19 question, doesn't matter. The reason it doesn't matter is
20 because what's clear for unjust enrichment, you have to show
21 that the plaintiffs conferred a benefit -- somehow they have to
22 allege that -- on Players, Inc., and that Players, Inc. was
23 enriched by that benefit.

24 Other than conclusory assertions, they have no
25 factual allegation. What is the benefit they conferred on
31

1 Players, Inc.? They don't claim they gave Players, Inc. their
2 rights to their images to license. They do not claim that.
3 That would be something they conferred. They don't claim that,
4 that that was given with respect to Mr. Roberts and with
5 respect to Mr. Parrish. They don't make that claim. They also
6 don't claim that Players, Inc. licensed their rights.

25 which says that they represent all 1800 active and 3500 retired
41

1 NFL players.

2 THE COURT: I'm sorry, where is that?

3 MR. LeCLAIR: That's Exhibit A to the complaint. One
4 back, Your Honor. And if you go to -- this is a press release
5 of Players, Inc.

6 THE COURT: well, it says all active and 3500
7 retired.

8 MR. LeCLAIR: Well, I will concede, Your Honor, it's
9 an ambiguous statement. It could be read either way. We -- we
10 believe it reasonably can be read to state that they represent
11 all retired players. But, again, it's not -- it is
12 grammatically ambiguous. It could be read either way.

13 And I think the essence of the problem that we have,
14 Your Honor, is exactly why this argument is being made. The
15 problem the retired players have, it's a heads they win, tails
16 we lose situation.

17 They claim to represent everybody to their licensees.
18 They tender GLAs -- one of the questions was, what is
19 Mr. Allen's testimony -- what is important about Mr. Allen's
20 testimony? Mr. Allen is someone who wrote a letter, a cover
21 letter to a GLA that says these are nonexclusive, and the first
22 line of the GLA says, You hereby exclusively authorize Players,
23 Inc. So there's a lot of issues that will need to be addressed
24 about what it is that Players has done.

25 But what they do is they tender GLAs that don't
42

1 require any specific payment, don't require them to do
2 anything. If a player signs it, 90 percent of them get
3 absolutely nothing in exchange for it, and they say, we have no
4 duty to you, we don't owe you anything. And unless they sign a

5 separate contract that says we'll pay you \$1,200, 90 percent of
6 them get absolutely nothing.

7 And so the only -- turning to my second point, Your
8 Honor, which is a confidential, informal confidential
9 relationship, which is the second basis on which we claim a
10 fiduciary duty. And the cases say that the existence of that
11 relationship is a question of fact which should properly be
12 resolved by looking to the particular facts and circumstances.
13 And it --

14 THE COURT: What are the particular facts and
15 circumstances that your record shows?

16 MR. LeCLAIR: The record shows that the players,
17 retired players' team group marketing rights are entirely
18 derivative of what it is that Players, Inc. -- when they go to
19 sell these rights to licensees, player video games being the
20 single biggest money, biggest deal, it's all controlled by
21 Players, Inc. It's all their rights are derivative of the
22 union. They get the GLAs from the union, they get the rights
23 from the union. They are the ones who are able to go and
24 market these rights.

25 And what they do is, they don't provide information.
43

1 The retired players have no information about who gets paid
2 what, how much money is paid, exactly who gets it. There's no
3 ability to negotiate from an equal bargaining position. It's a
4 take-it-or-leave-it offer.

5 As we have seen, what they do is they tender this
6 meaningless document that doesn't provide any specific payment,
7 and they say -- by the way, that's what it is, it's not the
8 agency agreement; it's really a limitation of their liability.
9 It's the ability for them to say, we don't owe you anything.

10 They already are agent by virtue of their saying to licensees,
11 You have to come to us.

12 But what they do is they effectively take away any
13 ability for the players to get anything. And 90 percent of
14 them get absolutely nothing. And yet millions and millions and
15 millions of dollars are paid for these team rights, with teams
16 going back all the way back to the '60s. And what happens is,
17 somebody is getting a lot of money.

18 And the question is -- this is why it is so
19 peculiarly appropriate for a fiduciary duty, a confidential
20 relationship, because they control all the information. They
21 control the allocation of the money. They don't -- they don't
22 allow any independent negotiation with a licensee. They keep
23 it all to themselves. And they decide whether you get one
24 dollar, ten dollars, zero or a million dollars.

25 THE COURT: I thought -- maybe I misunderstood, but I
44

1 thought that the three plaintiffs here, their name has never
2 been used in any -- well, take Mr. Adderley out of it. The
3 other two, Roberts and Parrish, their names have never been
4 used in these games or they have never been licensed.

5 MR. LeCLAIR: That is correct, Your Honor. And that
6 is exactly --

7 THE COURT: How is anybody exploiting their name and
8 their reputation?

9 MR. LeCLAIR: It's not an exploiting of their name
10 and reputation, Your Honor. It's the fiduciary relationship.
11 Which is, why is it that there has never been a fair proposal
12 made to these retired players saying, we're getting 34 million.
13 We think the retired players on these teams should get x
14 amount.

15 That's the whole problem, which is that there isn't a
Page 36

16 fair allocation. The fact that these people aren't getting any
17 money is, in fact, part of the problem.

18 And we don't -- specifically we are not to the stage
19 of saying that these names have never been used. In fact,
20 we're saying that we have a claim independent of that. It
21 doesn't matter whether their names have been used because
22 they --

23 THE COURT: well, what if Joe Montana is the one who
24 drives the marketing; why shouldn't he get the lion's share?
25 why should somebody who is not as famous get anything?

45

1 MR. LeCLAIR: That may be correct, Your Honor. But
2 the problem is, who gets to decide? In this relationship the
3 players never know, don't know who gets what, and have no
4 ability to determine whether it is fair. And that's the very
5 reason why we say the second --

6 THE COURT: well, you're going to say a jury is going
7 to decide that?

8 MR. LeCLAIR: Sure.

9 THE COURT: A jury is going to sit there and decide
10 who deserves more? I mean, that's what we normally have
11 contracts for. People decide that in the marketplace. If they
12 are famous, they get more money. If they are not famous, they
13 don't get much. They get nothing.

14 MR. LeCLAIR: And, Your Honor -- I apologize, Your
15 Honor. I didn't mean to interrupt.

16 THE COURT: Now, the only thing that you've said so
17 far that seems like it states -- maybe states a claim, is this
18 thing, the letter.

19 I am troubled by the fact that -- see, your opponent
20 told me that you based your entire case upon a press release.