Realnetworks, Inc.	et al v. DVD Copy Control Association,	, Inc. et al			Doc		
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10	JAMES A. DiBOISE, State Bar N Email: jdiboise@wsgr.com LEO CUNNINGHAM, State Bar J Email: lcunningham@wsgr.com COLLEEN BAL, State Bar No. 16 Email: cbal@wsgr.com MICHAEL A. BERTA, State Bar Email: mberta@wsgr.com TRACY TOSH LANE, State Bar Email: ttosh@wsgr.com WILSON SONSINI GOODRICH Professional Corporation One Market Street Spear Tower, Suite 3300 San Francisco, CA 94105 Attorneys for Plaintiffs and Counterclaim Defendants REALNETWORKS, INC. and REALNETWORKS HOME	No. 121605 57637 No. 194650 No. 184666					
11	ENTERTAINMENT, INC.						
12	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT						
13	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA						
14	REALNETWORKS, INC., a Washington Case Nos. C08 04548 MHP;						
15	REALNETWORKS, INC., a Wasl corporation; and REALNETWOR ENTERTAINMENT, INC., a Dela	KS HOME	CO	8 04719 MHP			
16	corporation,			ORKS' OPPOSITIO ON OF DVD CCA FO			
17	Plaintiffs,	ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS PURSUANT TO MAY 5, 2009 ORDER					
18	V.		OF THE COU	URT			
19 20	DVD COPY CONTROL ASSOCI Delaware nonprofit corporation, D	DISNEY					
	ENTERPRISÉS, INC., a Delaward PARAMOUNT PICTURES CORI						
21 22	corporation; SONY PICTURES ENTER., INC., a Delaware corporation; TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORP., a Delaware corporation; NBC						
22	UNIVERSAL, INC., a Delaware corporation; WARNER BROS. ENTER. INC., a Delaware						
24	corporation; and VIACOM, Inc., a Delaware corporation,						
25	Defendants.						
26							
27	AND RELATED CASES						
28							
	REALNETWORKS' OPP. TO DVD CCA'S A ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS CASE NOS. 08-cv-04548 MHP 08-cv-04179 MHP	APP. FOR		Docł	kets.Justia		

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REALNETWORKS' OPPOSITION TO APPLICATION OF DVD CCA FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS PURSUANT TO MAY 5, 2009 ORDER OF THE COURT

RealNetworks, Inc. and RealNetworks Home Entertainment, Inc. ("Real") hereby oppose
the application for fees submitted by the DVD Copy Control Association, Inc. ("DVD CCA").
The DVD CCA seeks \$17,525.20 in attorneys' fees, an amount which reflects 27.3 hours of
attorney time purportedly expended by the DVD CCA to join the Studios' Motion for Sanctions.
Application at 2; Declaration of Teresa W. Wang in Support of Application of DVD CCA for
Attorneys' Fees and Costs Pursuant to May 5, 2009 Order of the Court ("Wang Decl.") at ¶¶ 2-5.
The fees requested by the DVD CCA should be denied.

10 First, the DVD CCA merely *joined* in the Studio Defendants' Motion for Sanctions. The 11 DVD CCA prepared a four-page Notice of Joinder and Joinder – a document which is primarily 12 devoted to twice listing seven issue sanctions that the DVD CCA sought, none of which was 13 granted by the Court. Even if the Court intended that the DVD CCA would be awarded fees for 14 merely joining the Studios' Motion, the \$17,525.20 claimed by the DVD CCA for preparing a 4-15 page submission is excessive. By comparison, the Studio Defendants – which pursued and 16 conducted Ms. Hamilton's deposition, researched and drafted the lengthy Motion for Sanctions 17 and argued that motion at the hearing – claimed \$19,475.50 in fees relating to Ms. Hamilton's 18 notebooks. The DVD CCA cannot possibly have reasonably incurred roughly equivalent fees by 19 simply piggybacking on the work performed by the Studios. Notably, Real stipulated to the 20 Studio Defendants' fee submission; given the unreasonableness of the DVD CCA's position, 21 Real could not stipulate to the DVD CCA's requested fees. 22 Second, the DVD CCA has explicitly disregarded the Court's directive that fees were

only to be awarded for "pursuing the evidence of spoliation of Hamilton's notebooks and for
bringing this part of the sanctions motion" (Order at 20), and admittedly seeks <u>all fees</u> incurred
in connection with researching and preparing the Joinder.¹ Application at 2. The DVD CCA

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¹ The DVD CCA asked only one question at Ms. Hamilton's deposition relating to the notebooks and made no oral argument during the hearing of the Sanctions Motion.

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1 admits that it did not partition fees specifically relating to Ms. Hamilton's notebooks as 2 instructed, but instead claims that "the legal arguments and research dedicated to the Hamilton 3 notebooks and Hamilton e-mails cannot be segregated from one another." Id. If the DVD CCA 4 cannot identify any fees relating to Ms. Hamilton's notebooks as the Court ordered, then the 5 DVD CCA should not be awarded any fees at all. Moreover, the Joinder itself reveals that it is 6 not primarily directed to the issue of Ms. Hamilton's notebooks: (1) only three sentences of the 7 Joinder even mention the Hamilton notebooks; (2) the requested sanctions which comprise the 8 majority of the Joinder are based entirely on Ms. Hamilton's deposition testimony and that cited 9 testimony does not mention or relate to the notebooks; and (3) the three cases cited in the Joinder 10 do not appear to relate to Real's alleged failure to preserve Ms. Hamilton's notebooks, but to 11 other issues discussed in the Joinder. In short, there is no merit to the DVD CCA's claim that it 12 should be awarded the entire purported cost of preparing the Joinder to the Studios' Motion for 13 Sanctions.

14 Courts have broad discretion under their inherent powers to sanction litigants. Order at 15 page 8. Nonetheless, an award of attorneys' fees as a form of sanctions for duplicative or 16 excessive attorney work is inappropriate. Erum v. County of Kaui, Civil No. 08-00113 SOM-17 BMK, 2008 WL 2598138, at *5 (D.Hawaii June 30, 2008). Real respectfully submits that the 18 DVD CCA is not entitled to any fees for simply joining in another party's motion. If the Court is inclined to award any fees to the DVD CCA, the \$17,525.20 sought by the DVD CCA is 19 20 excessive. Instead, the DVD CCA should be awarded at most 2.5 hours of attorney time at a blended rate of \$653 per hour, for a total of \$1,632.50.² This amount represents approximately 21 22 8.5% of the amount claimed by the Studio Defendants, which performed virtually all of the work 23 relating to the Motion for Sanctions. 24 For all the foregoing reasons, the DVD CCA's Fee Application should be denied.

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REALNETWORKS' OPP. TO DVD CCA'S APP. FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS CASE NOS. 08-cv-04548 MHP 08-cv-04179 MHP 2

 ²⁷ a The blended rate proposed by Real is the average of the hourly billing rates of the three attorneys identified by the DVD CCA as participating in the preparation of the Joinder. *See* Wang Decl. at ¶5 (relevant hourly rates are \$703.80, \$765 and \$490).

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3			By: <u>/s/</u>	
4			By: <u>/s/</u> Leo Cunning	gham
5			Attorneys for Plain Defendants REAL	tiffs and Counterclaim NETWORKS, INC. and
6			REALNETWORK ENTERTAINMEN	S HOME
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