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On October 24, 2011, Defendant and Counterclaimant Democratic Underground filed a Motion for Summary Judgment on the Counterclaim (Dkt. No. 168) against Counterdefendant Stephens Media LLC ("Stephens Media"), seeking a declaration of non-infringement based on both fair use and lack of any volitional act. On November 17, 2011, Stephens Media submitted a limited response to the Motion in which Stephens Media "does not contest the substantive arguments presented by [Democratic Underground] on the issues of volitional act and fair use as applied to the material facts of this case." Docket No. 174 at 2. Accordingly, the Court should grant this uncontested Motion for Summary Judgment on the Counterclaim in accordance with the Proposed Declaratory Judgment attached hereto, which declares the finding that Stephens has not opposed.

The only issue raised by Stephens Media in its Response (Dkt. No. 174) to the Motion for Summary Judgment, is to request that the Court maintain the confidentiality and sealed status of various non-party contracts that were produced by Stephens Media in this action, as well as the portions of the moving papers that reference to these materials. See Dkt No. 174 at 3-8. Democratic Underground takes no position on the propriety of maintaining the sealed status of the non-party contracts, Exhibits 9 and 12-17 of the Supporting Declaration of Kurt Opsahl (Dkt. No. 168-1, Ex. 9, 12-17). However, with respect to the content of the motion itself (Dkt. No. 168), only minimal parts of the sealed contracts have been excerpted.

The strict standard limiting filing under seal applies to materials included in dispositive motions. While the Court may ultimately reach its own conclusions based on the record, Democratic Underground respectfully suggests that Stephens Media has not provided compelling reasons that would justify maintaining the sealed status of the small amount of information that is excerpted in the motion, and certainly not "compelling reasons supported by specific factual findings that outweigh the general history of access and public policies favoring disclosure." Kamakana v. City & County of Honolulu, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178-79 (9th Cir. 2006) (internal citation omitted). Pursuant to Kamakana, a solid basis exists for this Court to conclude that the unredacted version of the motion itself could be unsealed.

JUDGMENT ON COUNTERCLAIM

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Finally, the entry of summary judgment as to the Counterclaim in this action also impacts the order needed to finalize judgment as to the Complaint filed by Plaintiff Righthaven LLC. In light of this Court's dismissal of Righthaven's complaint based on its lack of ownership of the copyrighted work at issue, and the resulting lack of standing to assert any claim, prior to moving for summary judgment against Stephens Media, Defendants on October 21, 2011 moved for entry of a partial final judgment dismissing with prejudice Righthaven's claims, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. Rule 54(b). See Dkt. No. 166. A response was due on November 7, 2011. However, Righthaven filed no opposition to that motion, nor did it dispute the propriety of entry of a dismissal with prejudice. See Local Rule of Civil Practice 7-2(d) ("The failure of an opposing party to file points and authorities in response to any motion shall constitute a consent to the granting of the motion."). As the entry of summary judgment will now dispose of all claims in this action, no further certification of a partial judgment as to "fewer than all claims or parties" is required under Rule 54(b). Rather, a single final judgment should be entered both declaring noninfringement and dismissing Righthaven's claims with prejudice.

The [Proposed] Final Declaratory Judgment submitted herewith has been prepared to accomplish this result.

By:

Dated: December 5, 2011 FENWICK & WEST LLP

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