

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

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE

IVI, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

FISHER COMMUNICATIONS, INC., NBC
UNIVERSAL, INC., CBS BROADCASTING,
INC., THE CW TELEVISION STATIONS,
INC., DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC., FOX
TELEVISION STATIONS, INC., MAJOR
LEAGUE BASEBALL, TWENTIETH
CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION,
WGBH EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION,
and WNET.ORG

Defendants.

Civil Action No. 10-cv-1512

COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY
JUDGMENT OF COPYRIGHT
NONINFRINGEMENT

JURY DEMANDED

ivi, Inc. (a Washington corporation, which uses a lowercase “i” for its name and is referred to in this complaint as “ivi”) has been accused of copyright infringement by each of the defendants in this action. ivi seeks a declaratory judgment that it has not infringed any copyrights owned by the defendants, and alleges as follows.

The Parties

1
2
3 1. ivi, Inc. is a company having a principal place of business in Seattle, Washington.

4 2. Fisher Communications, Inc. is a company having a principal place of business at
5 140 Fourth Avenue N., Suite 500, Seattle, Washington 98109.

6 3. NBC Universal, Inc. is a company having a principal place of business at 30
7 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York, 10112.

8 4. CBS Broadcasting, Inc. is a company having a principal place of business at 51
9 W. 52nd Street, New York, New York, 10019.

10 5. The CW Television Stations, Inc. is a company having a principal place of
11 business at 524 W. 57th Street, New York, New York 10019.

12 6. Disney Enterprises, Inc. is a company having a principal place of business at 500
13 S. Buena Vista Street, Burbank, California, 91521.

14 7. Fox Television Stations, Inc. is a company having a principal place of business at
15 1211 Avenue of the Americas, 21st Floor, New York, New York 10036.

16 8. Major League Baseball is a company having a principal place of business at 245
17 Park Avenue, New York, New York, 10167.

18 9. Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation is a company having a principal place of
19 business at 10201 West Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, 90035.

20 10. WGBH Educational Foundation is a company having a principal place of business
21 at 125 Western Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts, 02134.

22 11. WNET.ORG is a company having a principal place of business at 450 W. 33rd
23 Street, New York, New York 10001.

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

Jurisdiction and Venue

12. As an action arising under the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*, this Court has exclusive jurisdiction over this action under 28 U.S.C. § 1338. The Court further has jurisdiction over the subject matter as an action arising under the Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201.

13. Each of the Defendants is the owner of television stations located and operating within this district, or the originator of television content that is intentionally distributed for transmission by one or more television stations located in this district. Each Defendant has substantial, continuous and systematic contacts with this district through the operation of such television stations or the distribution of content intended to be transmitted from within this district and directed toward consumers residing within this district. Each Defendant is therefore subject to personal jurisdiction in the Western District of Washington.

ivi TV & the Present Dispute

14. ivi is an entity that receives over-the-air broadcasts of television content that originates with others. Under the Copyright Act, these original over-the-air broadcasts are called “primary transmissions.” ivi then makes the original content from the primary transmissions available to consumers who download the ivi TV player. The ivi TV player allows consumers to receive the television content over the Internet in much the same way that cable or satellite television consumers are able to play the identical content using a set top box or similar player. Under the Copyright Act, the subsequent distribution of the primary transmission is called a “secondary transmission.”

15. Each of the Defendants claims to own copyrights in primary transmissions received by ivi and subsequently distributed by ivi as a secondary transmission.

16. The Copyright Act expressly authorizes secondary transmissions of copyrighted works embodied in primary transmissions. For example, the Copyright Act expressly approves of the secondary transmission of an original television broadcast where the secondary transmission

1 is subject to a statutory license. Under Section 111 of the Copyright Act, statutory licensing fees
2 are paid periodically to the Register of Copyrights in accordance with an established scale and
3 schedule. Section 111 further provides that the secondary transmission of an over-the-air primary
4 transmission is not an infringement of copyrights in the works contained in the primary
5 transmission.

6 17. The secondary transmission by ivi of the primary transmission of content
7 originating with the Defendants is permissible under the statutory licensing provisions of the
8 Copyright Act.

9 18. Because ivi's secondary transmissions of the original primary transmissions are
10 allowed by the Copyright Act, ivi has not infringed any copyrights owned by any of the
11 Defendants.

12 19. Despite the clear availability of the statutory license, each of the Defendants has
13 expressly accused ivi of infringing the Copyright Act. ivi has denied that its activities constitute
14 copyright infringement.

15 20. The accusations of the Defendants creates a case of actual controversy concerning
16 whether ivi's secondary transmission constitutes an infringement under the Copyright Act.

17 21. Because ivi has not infringed any copyrights owned by any of the Defendants, ivi
18 is entitled to a declaratory judgment of noninfringement of any copyrights owned by any of the
19 Defendants.

20 ///

21 ///

22 ///

23 ///

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, ivi seeks judgment as follows:

1. That ivi has not infringed any copyrights owned by any of the defendants;
2. That ivi be awarded its attorneys' fees as provided by the Copyright Act or any other applicable authority;
3. That ivi be awarded its costs in this action; and
4. That the Court award such other and further relief as it may deem just and proper.

DATED this 20th day of September, 2010.

BLACK LOWE & GRAHAM^{PLLC}

S/ Lawrence D. Graham
Lawrence D. Graham, WSBA No. 25,402
Email: graham@blacklaw.com
David A. Lowe, WSBA No. 24,453
Email: lowe@blacklaw.com
701 Fifth Avenue, Suite 4800
Seattle, Washington 98104
T: 206.381.3300
F: 206.381.3301