# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA CHARLOTTESVILLE DIVISION

MATTHEW ROSENBERG,	)
Plaintiff,	)
	)
VS.	)
	) CASE NO. 3:09-CV-37
SPICY BEAR MEDIA LLC,	)
KYLE J. REDINGER, individually,	)
and JOHN DOES 1-10,	) Jury Trial Demanded
Defendants.	)
	)

# **COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES**

## JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1.

This action arises under the Federal Copyright Act of 1976, as amended, 17 U.S.C. § 101, et seq. Jurisdiction is founded on 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

2.

This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants Spicy Bear Media LLC and Kyle J. Redinger by virtue of their physical presence in this District, and because a substantial part of the relevant events occurred in this District.

3.

Venue is Proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)(1) and (c) and 1400(a).

## THE PARTIES TO THIS COMPLAINT

4.

Plaintiff Matthew Rosenberg (hereinafter "Rosenberg,") is an individual residing in Charlottesville, VA 22901.

Defendant Spicy Bear Media LLC ("Spicy Bear") is a company formed in Virginia with headquarters located at 250 West Main Street, Suite 201, Charlottesville, VA 22902. It may be served through its registered agent, Kyle J. Redinger, at the same address.

6.

On information and belief, Spicy Bear Media LLC owns and operates cVillain.com.

7.

Defendant Kyle J. Redinger (hereinafter "Defendant Redinger,") is an individual residing in Charlottesville, VA, who, upon information and belief, owns and operates Spicy Bear Media, LLC.

8.

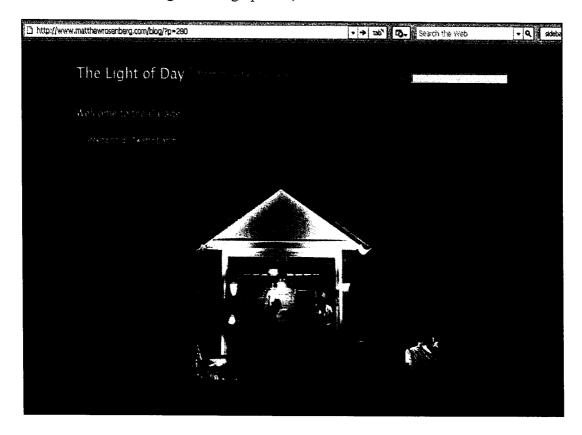
Plaintiff does not know the true names of defendants John Does 1 through 10, inclusive, and therefore sues them by those fictitious names. Plaintiff is informed and believes and, on the basis of that information and belief, alleges that each of those defendants was in some manner negligent, grossly negligent, guilty of willful and wanton conduct, and proximately caused Plaintiff's damages.

## **FACTS**

9.

Rosenberg is a professional photographer who took a picture of a venue in Charlottesville known as the Garage (hereinafter "the Photograph").

On or around June 18, 2008, Rosenberg posted the Photograph on his website at http://www.matthewrosenberg.com/blog/?p=280, as shown below:



11.

Rosenberg is and has always has been the sole proprietor of all rights, title, and interest in and to the copyright in the Photograph. Rosenberg has complied in all respects with the Copyright Act of 1976, 17 U.S.C. §101 *et seq.*, as amended, and all other laws and regulations governing copyrights, and has secured the exclusive rights and privileges in and to the copyright for the Photograph. The Register of Copyrights for the U.S. Copyright Office issued Rosenberg a valid Certificate of Copyright Registration for the Photograph, (VA-1-647-367) effective September 16, 2008.

## **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

(Copyright Infringement – 17 U.S.C. §§ 101 et seq.)

12.

Rosenberg re-alleges and incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 11 above.

13.

On or about September 15, 2008, the Defendants copied, reproduced, and/or created a derivative work of the Photograph on the www.cvillain.com website at http://cvillain.com/2008/09/15/downtown-re-defines-the-garage-band/ without authorization (the "First Infringement") as shown below:



14.

The Defendants' conduct related to the First Infringement violates the exclusive rights belonging to Rosenberg as owner of the copyright for the Photograph, including without limitation, Rosenberg's exclusive rights under 17 U.S.C. § 106.

15.

As a direct and proximate result of its wrongful conduct, the Defendants have realized profits and other benefits rightfully belonging to Rosenberg for the Photograph. Accordingly, Rosenberg seeks an award of actual damages plus attorneys' fees and costs for the First Infringement pursuant to 17 U.S.C. §§ 504 and 505.

16.

In the alternative, Rosenberg is entitled to and seeks statutory damages for the First Infringement of the Photograph, including attorneys' fees and costs, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. §§ 504 and 505.

17.

The First Infringement by the Defendants was willful and performed with knowledge that the use of the Photograph was unauthorized; Rosenberg is therefore entitled to the recovery of enhanced statutory damages pursuant to 17 § U.S.C. 504.

## **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

(Copyright Infringement – 17 U.S.C. §§ 101 et seq.)

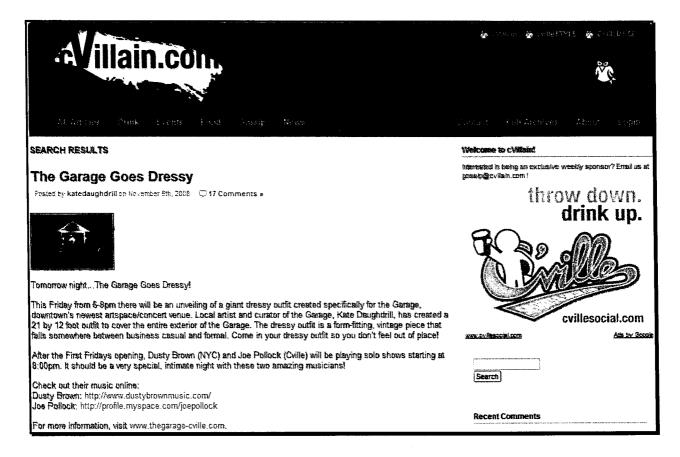
18.

Rosenberg re-alleges and incorporates by reference Paragraphs 1 through 17 above.

On September 15, 2008, after the First Infringement, Rosenberg sent a notice by facsimile to Defendants that the use of his Photograph by Defendants was not authorized.

20.

On or about November 6, 2008, the Defendants again copied, reproduced, and/or created a derivative work by displaying the Photograph at http://cvillain.com/?s=Garage+Goes+Dressy without authorization (the "Second Infringement") as shown below:



The Defendants' conduct related to the Second Infringement violates the exclusive rights belonging to Rosenberg as owner of the copyright for the Photograph, including without limitation, Rosenberg's exclusive rights under 17 U.S.C. § 106.

22.

As a direct and proximate result of its wrongful conduct, the Defendants have realized profits and other benefits rightfully belonging to Rosenberg for the Photograph. Accordingly, Rosenberg seeks an award of actual damages plus attorneys' fees and costs for the Second Infringement pursuant to 17 U.S.C. §§ 504 and 505.

23.

In the alternative, Rosenberg is entitled to and seeks statutory damages for the Second Infringement of the Photograph, including attorneys' fees and costs, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. §§ 504 and 505.

24.

The Second Infringement by the Defendants was willful and performed with knowledge that the use of the Photograph was unauthorized; Rosenberg is therefore entitled to the recovery of enhanced statutory damages pursuant to 17 § U.S.C. 504.

## THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Removal/Alteration of Copyright Management Information-

17 U.S.C. §§ 1202 et seq.)

25.

Plaintiff re-alleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 24 above.

26.

Rosenberg conveyed his name and title of the work, as described in 17 U.S.C. § 1202(c) (hereinafter, "Copyright Management Information"), with the Photograph on his website at http://www.matthewrosenberg.com/blog/?p=280.

27.

For the Second Infringement, Defendants knowingly and with the intent to induce, enable, facilitate or conceal infringement provided and/or distributed Copyright Management Information that is false for Rosenberg's Photograph, in violation of 17 U.S.C. § 1202 (a).

28.

For the Second Infringement, Defendants, without the authority of Rosenberg or the law, intentionally removed and/or altered Rosenberg's Copyright Management Information, distributed Copyright Management Information knowing that Rosenberg's Copyright Management Information had been removed or altered without the authority of Rosenberg or the law, and/or distributed Rosenberg's Photograph knowing that Rosenberg's Copyright Management Information had been removed or altered without the authority of Rosenberg or the law, in violation of 17 U.S.C. § 1202 (b).

Rosenberg is entitled to and seeks statutory damages for Defendants' removal of the Copyright Management Information from the Photograph, including attorneys' fees and costs, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1203.

# **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

(Vicarious, Contributory, and/or Personal Liability of Kyle J. Redinger)

30.

Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference paragraphs 1 through 29 above.

31.

As the owner and/or operator of www.cVillain.com, Redinger had: (1) the right and ability to supervise or control the activity related to the First, Second, and Third Causes of Actions; and (2) a direct financial benefit from the activity related to the First, Second, and Third Causes of Actions. As such, Redinger is vicariously, contributory, and personally liable for the First, Second, and Third Causes of Actions.

# WHEREFORE Plaintiff prays for judgment as follows:

- 1. Declare that the Defendants' unauthorized conduct violates Rosenberg's rights under common law and the Federal Copyright Act;
- 2. Order the Defendants to account to Rosenberg for all gains, profits, and advantages derived by their infringements of Rosenberg's copyright; or such damages as are proper;
- 3. Award Rosenberg profits and damages in such amount as may be found pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504 (b) for the Infringements of the Photograph; alternatively,

award Rosenberg maximum statutory damages in the amount of \$30,000 for each infringement pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504 (c)(1); or such other amount as may be proper pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504;

- 4. Award Rosenberg maximum statutory damages in the amount of \$150,000 for each infringement pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504 (c)(2) for the Photograph; or such other amount as may be proper pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504;
- 5. Award Rosenberg actual damages in such amount as may be found pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1203(c)(2); alternatively, award Rosenberg maximum statutory damages in the amount of \$25,000, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1203(c)(3)(B); or such other amounts as may be proper pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 1203;
- 6. Award Rosenberg his costs, reasonable attorneys' fees, and disbursements in this action, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505 and 17 U.S.C. § 1203(b)(5); and
- 7. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Plaintiff demands a jury trial on all of the foregoing counts.

This 15th day of May, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Peter J. Caramanis, Esq.
Virginia Bar Number: 43447
Tremblay & Smith, LLP
P. O. Box 1585
105-109 East High Street
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902
Phone (434) 977-4455
Facsimile (434) 979-1221
Email: Pete.Caramanis@tremblaysmith.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff

# **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS		DEFENDANTS			
Matthew Rosenberg			Kyle J. Redinger Spicy Bear Media, LLC		
(b) County of Residence	of First Listed Plaintiff Albemarle	County of Residence of	of First Listed Defendant	Charlottesville	
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)		
		1	D CONDEMNATION CASES, US INVOLVED.	SE THE LOCATION OF THE	
(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)		Attorneys (If Known)	Attorneys (If Known)		
Tremblay & Smith, LLP; P. O. Box 1585; 105-109 East High Street;		t; Unknown	Unknown		
Charlottesville, Virgin	<del></del>				
II. BASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)	I. CITIZENSHIP OF P	RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff	
☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff	2 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)		TF DEF D 1 Incorporated or Pri of Business In This		
☐ 2 U.S. Government	☐ 4 Diversity	Citizen of Another State	1 2 Incorporated and F		
Defendant	(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)		of Business In A	Another State	
IV MATHDE OF SUIT	Γ	Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country	3 Foreign Nation	06 06	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT CONTRACT	(Place an "X" in One Box Only) TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
110 Insurance	PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJURY	☐ 610 Agriculture	☐ 422 Appeal 28 USC 158	☐ 400 State Reapportionment	
☐ 120 Marine ☐ 130 Miller Act	☐ 310 Airplane ☐ 362 Personal Injury - Med, Malpractice	☐ 620 Other Food & Drug ☐ 625 Drug Related Seizure	☐ 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157	410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking	
☐ 140 Negotiable Instrument☐ 150 Recovery of Overpayment	Liability 365 Personal Injury -	of Property 21 USC 881		☐ 450 Commerce	
& Enforcement of Judgment		630 Liquor Laws 640 R.R. & Truck	PROPERTY RIGHTS  820 Copyrights	460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and	
☐ 151 Medicare Act ☐ 152 Recovery of Defaulted	330 Federal Employers' Injury Product Liability Liability	☐ 650 Airline Regs. ☐ 660 Occupational	☐ 830 Patent ☐ 840 Trademark	Corrupt Organizations  480 Consumer Credit	
Student Loans	☐ 340 Marine PERSONAL PROPERTY	Safety/Health	1 040 Hademark	490 Cable/Sat TV	
(Excl. Veterans)  153 Recovery of Overpayment	345 Marine Product	G 690 Other LABOR	SOCIAL SECURITY	☐ 810 Selective Service ☐ 850 Securities/Commodities/	
of Veteran's Benefits  160 Stockholders' Suits	☐ 350 Motor Vehicle ☐ 380 Other Personal ☐ 355 Motor Vehicle Property Damage	710 Fair Labor Standards Act	☐ 861 HIA (1395ff) ☐ 862 Black Lung (923)	Exchange  875 Customer Challenge	
☐ 190 Other Contract ☐ 195 Contract Product Liability	Product Liability 385 Property Damage	☐ 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations	☐ 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	12 USC 3410	
☐ 196 Franchise	Injury	☐ 730 Labor/Mgmt,Reporting & Disclosure Act	☐ 864 SSID Title XVI ☐ 865 RSI (405(g))	☐ 890 Other Statutory Actions ☐ 891 Agricultural Acts	
REAL PROPERTY  210 Land Condemnation	CIVIL RIGHTS PRISONER PETITIONS  441 Voting 510 Motions to Vacate	740 Railway Labor Act 790 Other Labor Litigation	FEDERAL TAX SUITS  870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff	□ 892 Economic Stabilization Act □ 893 Environmental Matters	
☐ 220 Foreclosure	☐ 442 Employment Sentence	791 Empl. Ret. Inc.	or Defendant)	☐ 894 Energy Allocation Act	
☐ 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment☐ 240 Torts to Land	Accommodations Habeas Corpus:	Security Act	☐ 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	☐ 895 Freedom of Information Act	
☐ 245 Tort Product Liability ☐ 290 All Other Real Property	☐ 444 Welfare ☐ 535 Death Penalty ☐ 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - ☐ 540 Mandamus & Other	]	20 300 1007	900Appeal of Fee Determination	
2707th Outer real Property	Employment			Under Equal Access to Justice	
	446 Amer. w/Disabilities - 555 Prison Condition Other			☐ 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes	
	☐ 440 Other Civil Rights			State Statutes	
☑1 Original ☐ 2 F	tan "X" in One Box Only)  Remanded from	Reinstated or 🛄 🥇 anoth	eferred from		
Proceeding S	Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are f	Reopened (speci iling (Do not cite jurisdiction	ify) Litigation al statutes unless diversity):	Judgment	
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION	ON Brief description of cause: Unauthorized use of Plaintiff's photogr	anh hy Defendants	3,		
VII. REQUESTED IN		DEMAND \$	CHECK AES only	if demanded in complaint:	
COMPLAINT:	UNDER F.R.C.P. 23	\$175,000	JURY DEMAND:		
VIII. RELATED CAS IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions): JUDGE		DOCKET NUMBER		
DATE	SIGNATURE OF ATTO	RNEY OF RECORD			
5/15/2009 FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	s/ Peter J. Carama	nis (VSB No. 43447)			
	MOUNT				
RECEIPT #	AMOUNT APPLYING IFP	JUDGE	MAG. JUI	OGE	

### **Pete Caramanis**

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Subject:

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Complaint

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#### **U.S. District Court**

# Western District of Virginia

# **Notice of Electronic Filing**

The following transaction was entered on 5/15/2009 at 1:24 PM EDT and filed on 5/15/2009

Case Name:

Rosenberg v. Spicy Bear Media, LLC et al

Case Number:

3:09-cv-37

Filer:

Matthew Rosenberg

**Document Number: 1** 

## **Docket Text:**

COMPLAINT against all defendants (Filing fee \$ 350.), filed by Matthew Rosenberg. 100 Day Notice due by 8/24/2009 120 Day Service due by 9/14/2009 (Attachments: # (1) Civil Cover Sheet)(mab)

## 3:09-cv-37 Notice has been electronically mailed to:

Peter James Caramanis pete.caramanis@tremblaysmith.com

# 3:09-cv-37 Notice has been delivered by other means to:

The following document(s) are associated with this transaction:

**Document description:** Main Document

Original filename:n/a

**Electronic document Stamp:** 

[STAMP dcecfStamp\_ID=1052918722 [Date=5/15/2009] [FileNumber=1111303-0] [6ea555aa442a702fc1a07807a55383f63b3210b9212d579b0e59c74857d7dc4d181 dd91669b594a9280b49e70d0365af295552ab4d3665612bc02731a24bfe13]]

**Document description:**Civil Cover Sheet

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[STAMP deecfStamp\_ID=1052918722 [Date=5/15/2009] [FileNumber=1111303-1 [661bddf257e7be414b4e4bc2ba0164a4f9b943d9faa8425a6c0f9eec51fe1bde186 111fcfdd500aff56a7d43428a23058b619afb3a5c0026e6971dce5a89f4a4]]