

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

Christopher J. Syrratos

(Full Name of Plaintiff or Plaintiffs)

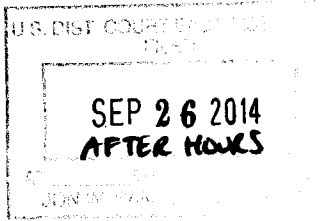
vs

Def Jam Records

Universal Music Group

Jay Wayne Jenkins (B.K.A. Jeezy)

(Full Name of Defendant or Defendants)



U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT-WI
FILED

~~2014 SEP 29 P 12:04~~

JON A. SAMPOLIPPO
CLERK

14-C-1197

Case No.

(Supplied by Clerk)

COMPLAINT

I. PREVIOUS LAWSUITS

A. Have you begun other lawsuits in state or federal court relating to the same occurrence involved in this action?

YES NO

B. Have you begun other lawsuits in state or federal court?

YES NO

C. If your answer to A or B was YES, provide the requested information below. If there is more than one lawsuit, describe each additional one on a separate sheet of paper, using the same outline.

1. Parties to the previous lawsuit

Plaintiff(s) _____

Defendant(s) _____

2. Court in which lawsuit brought (if federal court, name district; if state court, name the county)

3. Docket number _____
4. Current status (for example: Was the case dismissed? Was it appealed? Is it still pending)?

5. Approximate date of filing lawsuit _____
6. Approximate date of disposition _____

II. PARTIES

- A. Your name (PLAINTIFF) Christopher J. Syrrakes

- B. Your Address and Phone Number W166 N8963 Grand Ave. Apt. A.
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051 (414)553-7003
(If there is more than one plaintiff, use the margin for extra space if you need it. List the address only if it is different from the address listed above).
- C. DEFENDANT (name) DeF Jam Records, Universal Music Group Recordings

- D. Defendants address 2220 Colorado Ave Santa Monica, CA 90404

- E. Additional DEFENDANTS (names and addresses) Jay Wayne Jenkins
Address Unknown.

III. STATEMENT OF CLAIM (follow instructions carefully)

State briefly as possible the *essential facts* of your case. Tell what each defendant did to you that caused you to file this suit against them. If you are complaining about more than one wrong, use a separate **numbered** paragraph for each wrong, and describe each wrong in that paragraph and only that paragraph. State only the facts. *Do not give any legal theories or arguments, do not cite any cases or statutes. Do not feel you have to use all the space. USE NO MORE THAN THE SPACE PROVIDED. THE COURT STRONGLY DISAPPROVES OF STATING CLAIMS OUTSIDE THE SPACE PROVIDED.*

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF
WISCONSIN EASTERN DIVISION

CHRISTOPHER SYRRAKOS P/KA BIG CHRIS;)

Plaintiff,)

V.

JAY WAYNE JENKINS
P/K/A YOUNG JEEZY; and

DEF JAM RECORDINGS,

A DIV. OF UMG RECORDINGS INC,) LLC,

Defendants)

COMPLAINT

Introduction

1. This is an action for injunctive and other relief under the Copyright Act of 1976, as amended, 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.* (the "Copyright Act"), arising out of Defendants' ongoing infringement of Plaintiff's copyright in his hip hop song entitled "13 shots."

2. By any measure, Defendants' "ME OK" song is a mega-hit. Defendant Young Jeezy has performed the song on national television and at sold-out concerts around the nation. It has been at or near the top of various Billboard and other music charts since its release this past July. Millions of digital copies have been sold and downloaded. The song has been in near constant play on Top 40 radio stations throughout the United States. As of this week, 10 million viewers worldwide have watched the official music video of the Me Ok song on YouTube and World Star Hip-Hop.

3. By any measure, the Me Ok song also constitutes an infringement of Plaintiffs' copyright in his hip-hop song 13 shots, released five years before Me Ok. Specifically, Defendants' unauthorized reproduction, distribution, and public performance of Plaintiffs' musical composition constitute infringement of plaintiffs' exclusive rights in their copyright.

The Plaintiff

4. Plaintiff Christopher Syrrakos p/k/a Big Chris is an American hip hop musician and record producer and a citizen of Wisconsin who resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Defendants

5. Upon information and belief, Defendant Jay Wayne Jenkins (b/k/a Young Jeezy) is a citizen of Georgia presently residing at UNKNOWN ADDRESS.

6. Def Jam Recordings, A Div. of UMG Recordings, Inc. Address: 2220 Colorado Ave., Santa Monica, CA, 90404. is a California limited liability company with its principal place of business at 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10011.

Jurisdiction and Venue

7. This is an action for copyright infringement arising under the Copyright Act. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction under 17 U.S.C. § 501 and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a).

8. This Court has personal jurisdiction over defendants because Defendants have

purposefully directed their marketing and promotion of the Me Ok song toward Wisconsin residents, have profited from Wisconsin residents purchasing downloads of the Me Ok song and viewing the music video of the Me Ok song, have authorized, arranged for and/or performed the Me Ok song on national television broadcasts into Wisconsin, have engaged in infringing activities that have damaged the Wisconsin Plaintiff, and have otherwise had sufficient contacts with the State of Wisconsin and this District. Defendants thus do continuous and systematic business or have a place of business in this judicial district.

9. Venue is proper in this district under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b), (c) and 1400(a).

Plaintiffs' Song: "13 Shots"

10. Plaintiff is the authors and creator of an original musical composition embodied in the sound recording entitled 13 Shots.

11. Plaintiff created 13 Shots in 2008 and published it in Jan. of 2009.

12. Plaintiff is and has been at all times the sole owners of the copyright in the song 13 Shots. Pending before the U.S. Copyright Office is their application to register the copyright in 13 Shots, filed on September 25, 2014 and bearing file number 1-1777372867.

13. Pursuant to Section 106 of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 106, Plaintiff, as owner of the copyright in 13 Shots, is the owner of the exclusive rights to reproduce that song, to distribute copies of that song, to prepare derivative works based upon that song, and to publicly perform that song.

14. The 13 Shots song appears on the album entitled *BIG CHRIS UNCUT*, which was released in 2009.

Defendants' Song: "Me Ok"

15. In May of 2014, Def Jam Records released the "Me Ok" song ("Defendants' Song") as the first promotional single from Defendant Jenkins' seventh studio album, entitled *Seen It All The Autobiography*.

16. On information and belief, based in part on U.S. Copyright Registration No. SR0000745042, the individual Defendant in this action claim to be author of Defendants' Song.

17. In May of 2014, Def Jam Records released Defendants' Song as the album's

official lead single.

18. On or about September 2, 2014, Defendants' album debuted at number 2 on the Billboard 200 with sales of 121,000 copies in the United States

Defendants' Infringement of Plaintiffs' Copyright

19. Defendants never sought or obtained permission from Plaintiffs to use the Joyful Noise song in creating, reproducing, recording, distributing, selling, or publicly performing Defendants' Song.

20. Plaintiffs never gave any of the Defendants permission, consent, or a license to use 13 Shots for any purpose, including creation of a derivative work based on 13 Shots.

21. Defendants have sold, performed, and otherwise commercially exploited and profited from Defendants' Song in numerous ways, included but not limited to the following:

a. Selling the compact disc-release of *Seenitall the autobiography* to the public on numerous websites and through retail stores throughout the nation; and

b. Duplicating and uploading the digital version of Defendants' Song to, among other sites, iTunes, Amazon, Google Play, and eMusic for purchase by consumers.

22. In addition, Defendant publicly performed Defendants' Song

23. In addition, Def Jam Records prepared the music video of Defendants' song and, in conjunction with its affiliated company Vevo, LLC, arranged for its commercial syndication and publication on YouTube and other commercial sites, which have been viewed by the public more than 10 million times, thus generating additional profits for Defendants.

24. Defendants' actions, as alleged above, constitute infringement of Plaintiffs' copyright in 13 Shots. Among other things, Defendants' actions violate Plaintiffs' exclusive rights in 13 Shots under Section 106 of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 106.

25. These Defendants have already infringed Plaintiffs' copyright and caused damage and irreparable harm through their unauthorized copying, distribution, and public performance of Defendants' Song. If not enjoined, they will continue to cause Plaintiffs irreparable harm.

26. Plaintiff has given written notice of the infringement to Defendants or their

representatives.

27. Defendants have continued to infringe the copyright in 13 Shots.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray that this Court enter judgment in their favor and against Defendants as follows:

A. A permanent injunction enjoining and restraining Defendants, their agents, servants, employees, attorneys, partners, licensees, divisions, affiliates, parent corporation(s), and all others in active concert or participation with any of them from copying, distributing, publicly displaying, or otherwise making any use of the 13 Shots or Defendants' Song;

B. An award of monetary damages sufficient to compensate Plaintiffs for the injuries suffered as a result of Defendants' wrongful conduct;

C. An award of Defendants' profits and unjust enrichment realized from their infringement and other wrongful conduct;

D. An award to Plaintiffs of interest, costs and reasonable attorney's fees expended in this action; and

E. An award of such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

JURY DEMAND

Plaintiff respectfully requests a jury trial.

CHRISTOPHER J. SYRRAKOS

W166 N8963 Grand Ave. #A

Menomonee Falls, Wi 53051

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