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9	UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	
10	NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA	
11	SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION	
12	LIUXIA WONG,	Case No.: 5:12-cv-00469-HRL
13	Plaintiff,	PLAINTIFF'S FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT
14	v.	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
15	HARD DRIVE PRODUCTIONS, INC., AND DOES 1-50,	
16	Defendants.	
17		
18	I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>	
19	1. This is a civil action seeking declaratory relief based upon the continuing improper	
20	conduct of defendants Hard Drive Productions, Inc. (hereafter "Hard Drive") and Does 1-50 in	
21	harassing plaintiff and others like her to settle claims of purported infringement of Hard Drive's	
22	purported copyrighted works.	
23	II. <u>PARTIES</u>	
24	2. Plaintiff Liuxia Wong is an individual over the age of 18 residing in the County of	
25	Solano, California.	
26	3. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Hard Drive is an Arizona	
27	Corporation whose principal place of residence is in Maricopa County, and which does business	
28	worldwide including in the State of California, Counties of San Francisco and Solano.	

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- 4. The true names and capacities of defendants named as Does 1 through 50 are presently unknown to plaintiff.
- 5. Plaintiff will amend this complaint setting forth the true names and capacities of these fictitious defendants when they are ascertained.
- 6. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that each of the fictitious defendants have participated in the acts alleged in this complaint to have been done by the named defendant.
- 7. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that, at all relevant times, each defendant, whether named or fictitious, was the alter ego, agent, and/or employee of each of the other defendant, and in doing the things alleged to have been done in the complaint, acted within the scope of such agency and/or employment, and/or ratified the acts of the other.

III. **JURISDICTION**

- 8. This action arises under the copyright laws of the United States, 17 U.S.C. sections 101 et seq.
- 9. The court has subject matter jurisdiction over this claim pursuant to 28 U.S.C. sections 1331 and 1338, and the Declaratory Judgment Act codified at 28 U.S.C. sections 2201 and 2202.
- 10. This court has personal jurisdiction over Hard Drive because it has submitted itself to the jurisdiction of this court by filing an action on November 28, 2011, case number 4:11-cv-05630-RS, and which is related to this action.
- 11. Due to Hard Drive's filing of prior action number 3:11-cv-01957-JCS and its present action number 4:11-cv-05630-RS, and its conduct, it has created an actual and continuing controversy within the court's jurisdiction such that the court needs to declare the rights and other legal relations of plaintiff who is seeking such declarations from the court.

IV. **VENUE**

12. Venue is proper in the Eastern District of California pursuant to 28 U.S.C. section 1400(a) as Hard Drive has claimed that plaintiff infringed its purported copyrighted work by downloading such works where she resides.

13. Venue is also proper in the Northern District of California as Hard Drive has consented to the venue of this court by filing action number 4:11-cv-05630-RS in this district and by its conduct which has created an actual and continuing controversy such that the court needs to declare the rights and other legal relations of plaintiff who is seeking such declarations from the court, and which is related to this action.

V. <u>INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT</u>

- 14. Assignment of this action to the San Francisco Division is proper as Hard Drive's present action number of 4:11-cv-05630-RS is assigned to the Honorable Richard Seeborg in the San Francisco Division.
- 15. Assignment of this action to the San Francisco Division is also proper as Hard Drive's prior filed action number of 3:11-cv-01957-JCS was assigned to the Honorable Joseph C. Spero in the San Francisco Division.
- 16. This action and action number 4:11-cv-05630-RS should be assigned to the Honorable Joseph C. Spero in the San Francisco Division per the Local Rules of Practice in Civil Proceedings before the United States District Court for the Northern District of California (hereafter "Civil L.R.") 3-3(c) and 3-12.

VI. <u>FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS</u>

A. Hard Drive's Prior Lawsuit

- 17. On April 22, 2011, Hard Drive filed a complaint for copyright infringement which was assigned case number 3:11-cv-01957-JCS (hereafter "prior action").
- 18. Based on Hard Drive's consent to proceed before a U.S. Magistrate Judge, the prior action was assigned to the Honorable Joseph C. Spero.
- 19. In this prior action, Hard Drive failed to comply with Civil L.R. 3-16(b)(1) by failing to disclose "any persons, associations of persons, firms, partnerships, corporations (including parent corporations), or other entities other than the parties themselves known by the party to have either: (i) a financial interest (of any kind) in the subject matter in controversy or in a party to the proceeding; or (ii) any other kind of interest that could be substantially affected by the outcome of the proceeding."

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- 20. Instead on April 22, 2011, Hard Drive violated Civil L.R. 3.16(b) by purposefully limiting and qualifying its disclosure to only state that Hard Drive does not have a parent corporation that owns 10% or more of its stock, and that there are no known persons, associations of persons, firms, partnerships, corporations (including parent corporations), or other entities that may have a personal or affiliated financial interest in the subject matter or controversy.
- 21. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Hard Drive reported in its 2011 annual report received on or about January 28, 2011 by the Arizona Secretary of State that Paul Pilcher owns more than 20% of any class of shares issued by Hard Drive, or having more than a 20% beneficial interest in Hard Drive, information which is publicly available electronically from the Arizona Secretary of State at http://starpas.azcc.gov/scripts/cgiip.exe/WService=wsbroker1/names-detail.p?name-id=11235797&type=CORPORATION.
- 22. In this prior action, Hard Drive sued 48 anonymous doe defendants by improperly joining them in one action without taking into account the requirements of 28 U.S.C. section 1400(a) which provides that a defendant in a copyright infringement action may only be sued in the district where the defendant or his or her agent resides or may be found.
- 23. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Hard Drive improperly joined multiple defendants in one action to avoid paying the \$350 filing fee for each action had Hard Drive properly filed separate actions for each defendant.
- 24. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Hard Drive improperly joined multiple defendants in one action to avoid having any cases dismissed due to failure to prosecute by failing to pay the \$350 filing fee for each separate defendant.
- 25. Hard Drive is improperly receiving the benefits and services of the court without paying the requisite filing fee of \$350 for each separate action against each defendant.
- 26. Hard Drive alleged copyright infringement associated with plaintiff's Internet Protocol (IP) Address occurred on March 28, 2011 which is more than three months after the work was first published on March 3, 2010, and which is before the work's registration date of April 22, 2011.

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- 27. In this prior action, Hard Drive alleged that it owned the purported copyright to an adult video entitled "Amateur Allure Jen" (hereafter "work") which is purportedly registered with the United States Copyright Office.
- 28. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Hard Drive represented to the U.S. Copyright Office that the work was first published on March 3, 2010.
- 29. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that the work was registered on April 22, 2011.
- 30. In this prior action, Hard Drive alleged that it was entitled to recover statutory damages and attorneys' fees per 17 U.S.C. section 504(c) as stated in its complaint at paragraph 31, and in its prayer for relief at paragraph 4.
- 31. A party is not entitled to recover statutory damages and attorneys' fees under 17 U.S.C. section 504(c) if the alleged infringement of copyright commenced after first publication of the work and before the effective date of its registration, unless such registration is made within three months after the first publication of the work per 17 U.S.C. section 412.
 - 32. Hard Drive is not entitled to recover statutory damages and attorneys' fees.
- 33. After filing its prior action, Hard Drive then applied ex parte for expedited discovery seeking the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the account holders whose IP addresses resolved to them.
- 34. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Hard Drive had entered into an agreement with a third party private investigator, who is unlicensed under California law, to log IP addresses that were allegedly transmitting Hard Drive's work via Bittorrent.
 - 35. A Bittorrent tracker is a computer server.
 - 36. A Bittorrent tracker is required to initiate any download of the work.
- 37. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Hard Drive gave the right to distribute the work to its unlicensed private investigator, otherwise it would not have been able to log the IP addresses.
- 38. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Hard Drive knew of the IP addresses of the Bittorrent trackers that were being used distribute the work.

- 39. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Hard Drive never issued any Digital Millennium Copyright Act (D.M.C.A.) takedown notices to the owners and/or operators of the Bittorrent trackers that were being used distribute the work.
- 40. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Hard Drive never issued any D.M.C.A. takedown notices to the owners and/or operators of the Bittorrent trackers, because it and/or its agents were using them as honeypots so that they could continue to log IP address.
- 41. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Hard Drive knew it could make more money by allowing its work to continue to be distributed instead of shutting down the Bittorrent trackers.
- 42. Contrary to Hard Drive's allegation that venue under 28 U.S.C. section 1391(b) governs copyright infringement actions, it does not; only section 1400(a) governs venue in copyright infringement actions per the Supreme Court's holding in <u>Schnell v. Peter Eckrich & Sons, Inc.</u> (1961) 365 U.S. 260, 262-263.
- 43. The <u>Schnell</u> court's analysis of venue in section 1400(b) for patent infringement actions should likewise be applied for venue in copyright infringement actions under section 1400(a).
- 44. Plaintiff did not move to quash Hard Drive's subpoena issued to her internet service provider.
- 45. Plaintiff's internet service provider released her name, address, and telephone number to Hard Drive.
- 46. After receipt of plaintiff's name, address, and telephone number, Hard Drive transmitted a letter demanding that she settle the prior action for \$3,400. A true and correct copy of this letter is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- 47. In Hard Drive's settlement demand letter, it notified plaintiff that it was prepared to commence a lawsuit against her if its settlement efforts failed.
- 48. In Hard Drive's settlement demand letter, it notified plaintiff to act promptly by settling to avoid being named as a defendant in the lawsuit.

- 49. In Hard Drive's settlement demand letter, it notified plaintiff that she was liable for copyright infringement by merely having an unsecured wireless network/router even though plaintiff did not download the work, did not tell anyone else to download the work, and did not know anyone was using her internet service to download the work.
- 50. In Hard Drive's settlement demand letter, it notified plaintiff that she may be liable for statutory damages of up to \$150,000.
- 51. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Hard Drive's prior action complaint coupled with the settlement demand letter was designed to intimidate and to coerce plaintiff into paying the settlement demand of \$3,400, especially when confronted with the statutory damages figure of \$150,000, and when she was not represented by counsel.
- 52. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Hard Drive's prior action complaint coupled with the settlement demand letter was designed to intimidate and to coerce plaintiff into paying the settlement demand of \$3,400 as it would be more expensive for her to retain an attorney to defend her against all allegations.
- 53. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that no facts existed for Hard Drive to represent, either in its prior action complaint or in its settlement demand letter, to plaintiff that Hard Drive was entitled to recover any statutory damages award given that the alleged infringement occurred on March 28, 2011 which is more than three months after the work was first published on March 3, 2010, and which is before the work's registration date of April 22, 2011.
- 54. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Hard Drive's communications transmitted to plaintiff were designed to intimidate and to coerce her into settling the case despite the absence of any facts supporting liability against her.
- 55. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Hard Drive, its agents and/or its employees also contacted her telephonically in order to extract a settlement from her based on their acts of coercion and intimidation.
- 56. Hard Drive subsequently obtained a continuance of the case management conference in the prior action.

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- 57. On or before September 27, 2011, plaintiff notified Hard Drive that she denied all liability alleged in the prior action's complaint.
- 58. In response to plaintiff's notification described in paragraph 57, Hard Drive notified plaintiff that they would name and serve her with a lawsuit.
- 59. On September 27, 2011, Hard Drive subsequently dismissed its prior action without prejudice.
- 60. Plaintiff is informed and believes that Hard Drive dismissed its prior action as it could not, and did not want to address the issues and questions that the court had with the prior action, and that it also did not want to be sanctioned for failing to prosecute the case, and for misjoining all anonymous doe defendants.
- 61. On or about October 10, 2011, plaintiff notified Hard Drive that she denied all liability alleged in the prior action's complaint.
- 62. On or about October 10, 2011, plaintiff notified Hard Drive that if it dismissed plaintiff with prejudice, she would agree that each party would bear their own costs and attorneys' fees. Hard Drive did not accept this offer.

B. Hard Drive's Present Lawsuit

- 63. On November 21, 2011, Hard Drive filed a complaint for copyright infringement against a single John Doe defendant which was initially assigned case number 4:11-cv-05630-YGR (hereafter "present action"), and which was subsequently reassigned to the Honorable Richard Seeborg on November 30, 2011.
- 64. Despite the fact that Hard Drive knew that the present action was related the dismissed prior action, Hard Drive failed to comply with Civil L.R. 3-3(c) which requires the refiling party to file a motion to consider whether cases should be related pursuant to Civil L.R. 3-12 so that the judge originally assigned to the action which had been dismissed should have the refiled case transferred to him or to her to avoid the unduly burdensome duplication of labor and expense.

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- 65. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Hard Drive purposefully failed to comply with Civil L.R. 3-3(c), because the previously assigned judge, the Honorable Joseph C. Spero, had made certain rulings adverse to Hard Drive and to Hard Drive's counsel in other improperly joined copyright infringement cases.
- 66. Hard Drive further misrepresented to the court that plaintiff resided in this district although at all relevant times, it knew that plaintiff resided in the City of Fairfield, County of Solano which falls under the venue of the Eastern District of California. See attached Exhibit A.
- 67. In the present action, Hard Drive alleged that it was entitled to recover statutory damages and attorneys' fees per 17 U.S.C. section 504(c) as stated in its complaint at paragraph 31, and in its prayer for relief at paragraph 2.
- 68. Again, Hard Drive was not entitled to recover statutory damages and attorneys' fees, because Hard Drive claimed that the alleged infringement occurred on March 28, 2011 which is more than three months after the work was first published on March 3, 2010, and which is before the work's registration date of April 22, 2011.
- 69. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Hard Drive's present action complaint coupled with the settlement demand letter was designed to intimidate and to coerce plaintiff into paying the settlement demand of \$3,400 especially when confronted with a statutory damages figure of \$150,000.
- 70. On January 9, 2012, Hard Drive applied ex parte to take the deposition of plaintiff who was not named as a defendant in Hard Drive's present action.
- 71. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that despite Hard Drive's erroneous position that plaintiff is vicariously liable for any acts or conduct occurring through her internet account, it purposely avoided naming plaintiff for the purposes of obtaining ex parte discovery in the present action on an expedited basis, and to cause plaintiff to incur attorneys' fees in defending herself at deposition to force her to settle.

- 72. Hard Drive's tactics were improper as plaintiff had offered it at all relevant times that she was prepared to execute a declaration under penalty of perjury that: (1) she did not download the movie, and (2) she did not tell anyone else to download the movie for her, and (3) she did not know anyone else was using her computer or network equipment to download the movie.
 - 73. Hard Drive rejected plaintiff's offered declaration as stated in paragraph 72.
- 74. Hard Drive then improperly demanded \$3,000 from plaintiff in exchange for not proceeding with her deposition despite plaintiff's offer of a declaration as stated in paragraph 72. A true and correct copy of this settlement demand is attached hereto as Exhibit D.
- 75. Plaintiff then offered to execute a declaration under penalty of perjury that: (1) she does not know who downloaded the movie, and (2) that her internet service provider set up her wi-fi equipment.
 - 76. Hard Drive again rejected plaintiff's offered declaration, as stated in paragraph 75.
- 77. At all relevant times, Hard Drive notified plaintiff that it would proceed with her deposition unless she offered \$3,000 in settlement.
- 78. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Hard Drive knew that plaintiff would incur substantial costs and attorneys' fees if her deposition were to proceed, and used this information to extract a settlement from plaintiff.
- 79. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that the acts and conduct of Hard Drive and its agents or employees as described herein was unlawful and/or improper.

C. Hard Drive's Work is Not Copyrightable

- 80. Article I, Section 8, Clause 8 of the United States Constitution, known as the Copyright Clause, empowers the United States Congress: "To promote the Progress of Science and useful Arts, by securing for limited Times to Authors and Inventors the exclusive Right to their respective Writings and Discoveries."
- 81. Thus, copyright is authorized only for works which promote the progress of science and the useful arts.

- 83. Early Circuit law in California held that obscene works did not promote the progress of science and the useful arts, and thus cannot be protected by copyright.
- 84. Subsequent non-en banc decisions by the Ninth Circuit failed to follow this prior circuit decision in California.
- 85. Given the absence of any subsequent en-banc Ninth Circuit decisions, Supreme Court precedent, or changes in the Constitution that copyright is authorized for works which does not promote the progress of science and the useful arts, the subsequent Ninth Circuit decisions are void and do not constitute binding precedent.
 - 86. Hard Drive's work does not promote the progress of science.
 - 87. Hard Drive's work does not promote the useful arts.
 - 88. Hard Drive has judicially admitted that its work is adult pornography.
 - 89. Hard Drive's work depicts obscene material.
- 90. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that to create the work, Hard Drive and its agents and/or its employees violated laws which prohibited pimping, pandering, solicitation and prostitution, including any claims of conspiracy.
 - 91. Hard Drive's work depicts criminal acts and/or conduct.
 - 92. Hard Drive's work is not copyrightable.

VII. FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION FOR DECLARATORY RELIEF AND/OR JUDGMENT THAT PLAINTIFF IS NOT LIABLE TO HARD DRIVE FOR COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT AGAINST ALL DEFENDANTS

93. Plaintiff realleges and incorporates by reference as though fully stated here, paragraphs 1 to 92.

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described herein, plaintiff denies that she i

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- 94. Although Hard Drive in its public present action denies that it does not know if plaintiff is liable to it for copyright infringement, in nonpublic communications, Hard Drive's position is completely the opposite—that plaintiff is liable to Hard Drive.
- 95. On July 13, 2011, Hard Drive, through its counsel transmitted a letter to plaintiff which is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- 96. In its letter, Hard Drive demanded \$3,400 from plaintiff to avoid being named as a defendant in Hard Drive's prior lawsuit for copyright infringement. (Exhibit A at p.3.)
- 97. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that along with the settlement demand letters Hard Drive and/or its counsel have transmitted, they also included a "memorandum of law" authored by its then counsel John Steele of Steele | Hansmeier, PLLC whose firm name has since changed to Prenda Law Inc. A true and correct copy of the "memorandum of law" is attached hereto as Exhibit B and a true and correct copy of the metadata for the "memorandum of law" is attached hereto as Exhibit C.
- 98. In Hard Drive's counsel's "memorandum of law," it is their ultimate position that the account holder is liable for copyright infringement committed by any person who uses the account holder's internet access.
- 99. On January 18, 2012, Hard Drive improperly demanded a settlement of \$3,000 in exchange for dismissing the present case against the John Doe defendant to avoid plaintiff having her deposition taken. See Exhibit D.
- 100. Hard Drive's present action, in which it allegedly denies that it does not know who infringed its work is false and mere pretext given its nonpublic actions and conduct as alleged herein.
- 101. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Hard Drive is purposefully avoiding naming plaintiff so that it can improperly conduct expedited ex parte discovery upon plaintiff.
- 102. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and thereon alleges that Hard Drive is purposefully conducting expedited ex parte discovery upon plaintiff in order to intimidate and to coerce plaintiff into settling with Hard Drive.
- 103. As alleged in Hard Drive's present action, and based upon its actions and conduct as described herein, plaintiff denies that she is liable to Hard Drive for copyright infringement.

- 104. Based on all the information stated herein, an actual and continuing controversy exists between plaintiff and Hard Drive such that plaintiff needs the court to declare the rights between the parties.
 - 105. Wherefore, plaintiff prays for the following relief.

VIII. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Plaintiff seeks relief as follows:

- 106. That the court issue an order declaring that plaintiff is not liable to Hard Drive for copyright infringement, and/or has not infringed Hard Drive's copyrights, if any;
- 107. That the court issue an order declaring that Hard Drive's work is not copyrightable and/or to strike its copyright registration as the work does not promote the progress of science and the useful arts as required by the U.S. Constitution, including but not limited to the fact that the work is obscene, was created by unlawful conduct, and depicts unlawful activity, and that Hard Drive, its owners, agents, and/or employees have engaged in unlawful activity and/or conduct such as pimping, pandering, solicitation, and prostitution, including conspiracy to commit such acts.
- 108. That the court issue an order declaring that Hard Drive has not mitigated damages, including but not limited to being based upon the doctrines of estoppel and laches, and due to its failure to issue Digital Millennium Copyright Act (D.M.C.A.) take down notices to the Bittorrent trackers, and or by continuing to allow
- 109. That the court issue an order declaring that Hard Drive is not entitled to recover statutory damages and attorneys' fees;
- 110. That the court issue an order declaring that no infringement has occurred given that Hard Drive had authorized its work to be distributed by its non-California unlicensed private investigators, who are in violation of California Business and Professions Code sections 7520 and 7521, while they were distributing and participating in the distribution of the work, and/or that Hard Drive is guilty of unclean hands due to its and/or its agents' operation and use of honeypots, and/or the use of a third-party's services as honeypots;

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Case5:12-cv-00469-HRL Document4 Filed01/31/12 Page14 of 14 111. That the court issue an order declaring that Hard Drive, its agents, and/or employees have unlawfully and improperly demanded settlements not supported by facts and law which constitute copyright misuse; That plaintiff be awarded her costs and attorneys' fees as provided by law, including but 112. not limited to U.S.C. section 505; That the court enter judgment in favor of plaintiff, and against Hard Drive and any other 113. named defendants; and 114. For such other and further relief as the court deems just and proper. IX. **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL** Plaintiff demands a jury trial for all issues triable by jury. 115. DATED: January 31, 2012 MURPHY, PEARSON, BRADLEY & FEENEY /s/ Steven W. Yuen By Steven W. Yuen Attorneys for Plaintiff LIUXIA WONG SWY.20356758.doc

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