## IN THE Supreme Court of the United States

\*\*\*

FOURTH ESTATE PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION,

—v.—

Petitioners,

WALL-STREET.COM, LLC, et al.,

Respondents.

ON WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ELEVENTH CIRCUIT

#### BRIEF OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION AS AMICUS CURIAE SUPPORTING PETITIONER

Of Counsel: Dale M. Cendali Joshua L. Simmons Kirkland & Ellis LLP 601 Lexington Avenue New York, New York 10019 (212) 446-4800 ROBERT M. CARLSON *Counsel of Record* AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION 321 North Clark Street Chicago, Illinois 60654 (312) 988-5000 abapresident@americanbar.org

Attorneys for Amicus Curiae American Bar Association

September 4, 2018

DOCKF

#### **QUESTION PRESENTED**

Whether "registration of [a] copyright claim has been made" within the meaning of § 411(a) when the copyright holder delivers the required application, deposit, and fee to the Copyright Office, as the Fifth and Ninth Circuits have held, or only once the Copyright Office acts on that application, as the Tenth and, in the decision below, the Eleventh Circuit have held.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

QUESTION PRESENTED	i
INTEREST OF AMICUS CURIAE	1
SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT	3
ARGUMENT	7
I. THE APPLICATION APPROACH IS CONSISTENT WITH THE TEXT OF THE COPYRIGHT ACT	7
II. THE APPLICATION APPROACH BETTER REFLECTS THE UNIQUE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF COPYRIGHT LAW AS OPPOSED TO PATENT LAW	12
A. Copyright is Created through Fixation in a Tangible Medium, Not Copyright Office Grant	12
B. The Procedural Barriers to Patent Protection are Higher than Copyright	16
C. The Copyright Office's Opinion on Registrability is Not Binding on Courts	21

III. THE APPLICATION APPROACH	
SAFEGUARDS AUTHORS'	
ABILITIES TO EFFECTIVELY	
RESOLVE INFRINGEMENT	
	0.0
CLAIMS	23
A. The Application Approach Ensures that Authors May Seek the Injunctive Relief that is Critical to Copyright Litigation	23
B. The Application Approach Better Accounts for Copyright Infringement's Short Statute of Limitations	29
C. The Application Approach Eliminates the Wasteful Re-Filing of Infringement Claims that Occurs Under the Certificate Approach	31
IV. THE APPLICATION APPROACH MINIMIZES PREJUDICE TO AUTHORS OF UNITED STATES WORKS	33
CONCLUSION	35

**DOCKET** A L A R M Find authenticated court documents without watermarks at <u>docketalarm.com</u>.

## TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

PAGE(S)

## Cases

A&M Records, Inc. v. Napster, Inc., 239 F.3d 1004 (9th Cir. 2001) 27	
Abramski v. United States, 134 S. Ct. 2259 (2014) 13	
Apple Comput., Inc. v. Franklin Comput. Corp.,           714 F.2d 1240 (3d Cir. 1983)           24	
<ul> <li>Aqua Creations USA Inc. v. Hilton Hotels Corp., No. 10 Civ. 246, 2011 WL 1239793 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 28, 2011), aff'd sub nom.</li> <li>Aqua Creations USA Inc. v. Hilton Worldwide, Inc., 487 Fed. App'x 627 (2d Cir. 2012)</li></ul>	
Asche & Spencer Music, Inc. v. Principato- Young Entm't, Inc., 147 F. Supp. 3d 833 (D. Minn. 2015) 31	
Asche & Spencer Music, Inc. v. Principato- Young Entm't, Inc., No. 17 Civ. 150 (D. Minn. filed Jan. 18, 2017)	
ATCS Int'l LLC v. Jefferson Contr. Corp., 807 F. Supp. 2d 516 (E.D. Va. 2011) 22	
Bartok v. Boosey & Hawkes, Inc., 523 F.2d 941 (2d Cir. 1975) 21	
In re Brandt, 886 F.3d 1171 (Fed. Cir. 2018) 17	

## DOCKET A L A R M



# Explore Litigation Insights

Docket Alarm provides insights to develop a more informed litigation strategy and the peace of mind of knowing you're on top of things.

## **Real-Time Litigation Alerts**



Keep your litigation team up-to-date with **real-time alerts** and advanced team management tools built for the enterprise, all while greatly reducing PACER spend.

Our comprehensive service means we can handle Federal, State, and Administrative courts across the country.

## **Advanced Docket Research**



With over 230 million records, Docket Alarm's cloud-native docket research platform finds what other services can't. Coverage includes Federal, State, plus PTAB, TTAB, ITC and NLRB decisions, all in one place.

Identify arguments that have been successful in the past with full text, pinpoint searching. Link to case law cited within any court document via Fastcase.

## **Analytics At Your Fingertips**



Learn what happened the last time a particular judge, opposing counsel or company faced cases similar to yours.

Advanced out-of-the-box PTAB and TTAB analytics are always at your fingertips.

## API

Docket Alarm offers a powerful API (application programming interface) to developers that want to integrate case filings into their apps.

#### LAW FIRMS

Build custom dashboards for your attorneys and clients with live data direct from the court.

Automate many repetitive legal tasks like conflict checks, document management, and marketing.

#### FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Litigation and bankruptcy checks for companies and debtors.

## E-DISCOVERY AND LEGAL VENDORS

Sync your system to PACER to automate legal marketing.