

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
AUSTIN DIVISION**

UMG RECORDINGS, INC., CAPITOL
RECORDS, LLC, WARNER BROS.
RECORDS INC., SONY MUSIC
ENTERTAINMENT, ARISTA
RECORDS LLC, ARISTA MUSIC,
ATLANTIC RECORDING
CORPORATION, CAPITOL
CHRISTIAN MUSIC GROUP, INC.,
ELEKTRA ENTERTAINMENT GROUP
INC., FONOVisA, INC., FUELED BY
RAMEN LLC, LAFACE RECORDS
LLC, NONESUCH RECORDS INC.,
RHINO ENTERTAINMENT
COMPANY, ROADRUNNER
RECORDS, INC., ROC-A-FELLA
RECORDS, LLC, TOOTH & NAIL, LLC,
and ZOMBA RECORDING LLC,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

GRANDE COMMUNICATIONS
NETWORKS LLC
and
PATRIOT MEDIA CONSULTING, LLC

Defendants

Civil Action No. 1:17-cv-365

Jury Trial Demanded

PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL COMPLAINT

TO THE HONORABLE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE:

Plaintiffs file their Original Complaint against Defendants and would respectfully show
the Court as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This is a case about the ongoing infringement of Plaintiffs' copyrights by Grande Communications Networks LLC ("Grande"), its management company Patriot Media Consulting, LLC ("Patriot," and together with Grande, "Defendants"), and its internet service users, and Defendants' failure and refusal to prevent these users from repeatedly infringing those copyrights.

2. Plaintiffs are record companies that produce, manufacture, distribute, sell, and license the great majority of all legitimate commercial sound recordings in this country.

3. Defendant Grande is a Texas Internet Service Provider ("ISP") that provides internet services to customers in Austin, Dallas, San Antonio, and other locations throughout the state. Defendant Patriot is a company that has provided, and continues to provide, management services to Grande.

4. Defendants have been notified that their internet customers have engaged *in more than one million infringements* of copyrighted works over BitTorrent systems (as described herein), including *tens of thousands of blatant infringements by repeat infringers of Plaintiffs' copyrighted works*. Despite their knowledge of repeat infringements, Defendants have permitted repeat infringers to use the Grande service to continue to infringe Plaintiffs' copyrights without consequence. Upon information and belief, neither Grande nor its management company Patriot has taken any meaningful action to discourage this continuing theft, let alone suspend or terminate subscribers who repeatedly commit copyright infringement through its network, as required by law. Upon information and belief, this is so even where Defendants have specific and actual knowledge of those subscribers' blatant, repeat infringement.

5. Upon information and belief, Defendants' policy of refusing to take meaningful action against repeat infringers protects a significant revenue stream that Grande receives every

month from its many infringing subscribers. Defendants' effective acquiescence in this wholesale violation of Plaintiffs' rights, coupled with their failure to adopt and reasonably implement a policy to stop repeat infringers, excludes Defendants from the safe harbor protections of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act ("DMCA"). As a result, Defendants' knowledge of repeat infringements by identified subscribers occurring on Grande's service, along with their material contribution to, participation in, enablement of, and profiting from such infringement, renders Defendants liable for contributory and vicarious copyright infringement, and inducement of copyright infringement.

6. Plaintiffs invest significant amounts of money, time, and effort to discover and develop recording artists, and to create, manufacture, advertise, promote, sell, and distribute sound recordings embodying their performances. Defendants' actions, including their refusal to prevent their users' repeat infringement of those works, have caused — and continue to cause — Plaintiffs significant and irreparable harm. Defendants' acts of infringement have eroded the legitimate sales and distribution of Plaintiffs' copyrighted sound recordings through physical and digital channels. Plaintiffs are entitled to preliminary and permanent injunctive relief to stop Defendants' ongoing violation of Plaintiffs' rights, as well as damages resulting from Defendants' egregious infringing conduct.

II. JURISDICTION AND VENUE

7. This is a civil action seeking damages and injunctive relief for copyright infringement under the copyright laws of the United States, 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*

8. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (federal question jurisdiction) and 28 U.S.C. § 1338(a) (jurisdiction over copyright actions).

9. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Grande because Grande resides in and does systematic and continuous business in Texas and in this judicial district. Grande provides a

full slate of services in Texas, including internet, TV, and phone service, among others. Grande's corporate headquarters are located at 401 Carlson Circle, San Marcos, Texas, within this judicial district and division. Grande also has stores and service centers within this judicial district and division, including one at 911 W. Anderson Lane, Suite 123, Austin, TX 78757.

10. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Patriot because Patriot does systematic and continuous business in Texas and in this judicial district and division, including providing executive and general counsel services to Grande at and through its corporate headquarters.

11. In addition, many of the acts complained of herein occurred in Texas and in this judicial district. For example, many of the most egregious repeat infringers on Grande's network reside in Texas and in this judicial district. Plaintiffs have identified hundreds of accounts of Grande subscribers suspected of residing in Texas who have repeatedly infringed one or more of Plaintiffs' copyrighted works.

12. Venue in this judicial district is proper under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)-(c), and/or 28 U.S.C. § 1400(a). A substantial part of the acts of infringement complained of herein occurs or has occurred in this judicial district, where Grande resides or may be found.

III. THE PARTIES

A. Plaintiffs

13. Plaintiff UMG Recordings, Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Santa Monica, California.

14. Plaintiff Capitol Records, LLC is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of business in Santa Monica, California.

15. Plaintiff Warner Bros. Records Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Burbank, California.

16. Plaintiff Sony Music Entertainment is a Delaware partnership with its principal place of business in New York, New York.

17. Plaintiff Arista Records LLC is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of business in New York, New York.

18. Plaintiff Arista Music is a New York partnership with its principal place of business in New York, New York.

19. Plaintiff Atlantic Recording Corporation is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in New York, New York.

20. Plaintiff Capitol Christian Music Group, Inc. is a California corporation with its principal place of business in Santa Monica, California.

21. Plaintiff Elektra Entertainment Group Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in New York, New York.

22. Plaintiff Fonovisa, Inc. is a California corporation with its principal place of business in Santa Monica, California.

23. Plaintiff Fueled by Ramen LLC is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of business in New York, New York.

24. Plaintiff LaFace Records LLC is a Delaware limited liability company with its principal place of business in New York, New York.

25. Plaintiff Nonesuch Records Inc. is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in New York, New York.

26. Plaintiff Rhino Entertainment Company is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business in Burbank, California.

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