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26 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
27 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

28 PARAMOUNT PICTURES
CORPORATION et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

REPLAYTV, INC. and
SONICBLUE, INC.,

Defendants.

Case No. 01-09358 FMC (Ex)
Hon. Florence-Marie Cooper

**REPLY MEMORANDUM IN
SUPPORT OF THE MOTION OF
THE COPYRIGHT OWNERS FOR
ORDER MODIFYING THE
COURT'S MARCH 24, 2003 STAY
ORDER FOR LIMITED PURPOSES;
REPLY DECLARATION OF SCOTT
P. COOPER IN SUPPORT THEREOF**

AND CONSOLIDATED ACTIONS.

DATE: November 10, 2003
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: Courtroom 750

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1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 With the agreed-upon dismissal of SONICblue, this action no longer satisfies
3 the “case or controversy” requirement of Article III and will have to be dismissed.
4 The opposition brief makes clear that the lawyers for the Newmark Plaintiffs would
5 like to continue litigating legal issues in the abstract, unfettered by the jurisdictional
6 limitations of the Constitution. The Court need not resolve this issue at this time,
7 however, because the only issue on this motion is whether to grant a limited lifting
8 of the stay so the Court can consider the Copyright Owners’ Motion to Dismiss the
9 Newmark Plaintiffs’ claims. Nothing in the Newmark Plaintiffs’ opposition
10 provides a basis for denying the procedural relief requested by the Copyright
11 Owners, which is the fair and efficient way to proceed towards resolution of this
12 action.

13 This reply addresses the three requests for relief that the Newmark Plaintiffs
14 seek that were not included in the Copyright Owners’ original request. Two of the
15 Newmark Plaintiffs’ requests are not the subject of controversy. The third request –
16 for irrelevant discovery – is unwarranted and should be denied.

17 First, there is no real dispute about whether a complete lifting of the stay is
18 appropriate; both sides agree it is not. Although the Newmark Plaintiffs’ opposition
19 starts out by saying the stay should be lifted completely, the Newmark Plaintiffs
20 later concede that allowing the case to proceed during the pendency of the
21 Copyright Owners’ jurisdictional and potentially case-dispositive Motion to Dismiss
22 is inappropriate and unnecessary. Thus, there is no reason for an unlimited lifting of
23 the stay. *See* Section II.A. below.

24 Second, the Newmark Plaintiffs ask that their motion for leave to amend their
25 complaint, which seeks to convert this two year old case into a class action, be heard
26 at the same time as the hearing on the Copyright Owners’ Motion to Dismiss. The
27 Newmark Plaintiffs’ proposed motion for leave to amend is an attempt to resurrect a
28 case that is and should be over. Nevertheless, to avoid any argument that the

1 Copyright Owners were trying to gain a procedural advantage over the Newmark
2 Plaintiffs, the Copyright Owners' moving papers explicitly provided for an order
3 allowing the Newmark Plaintiffs to file their motion for leave to amend. As of the
4 date that the instant motion was filed, the Newmark Plaintiffs had not yet completed
5 their motion to amend. Now that the Newmark Plaintiffs have proffered their
6 proposed motion for leave to amend, the Copyright Owners have no objection to a
7 simultaneous briefing and hearing schedule on the two motions. *See* Section II.B.
8 below.

9 Third, the Newmark Plaintiffs seek leave to propound, at any time, discovery
10 allegedly relevant to the Copyright Owners' Motion to Dismiss for lack of subject
11 matter jurisdiction. However, no form of discovery could be relevant to the Motion
12 to Dismiss, which demonstrates that no case or controversy exists because no
13 ReplayTV DVR owner could have an objectively reasonable apprehension that the
14 Copyright Owners will sue them. Because the test depends on the reasonable belief
15 of potential plaintiffs based on objective facts already within their knowledge, there
16 is no relevant discovery. The Newmark Plaintiffs' request for discovery thus
17 appears to be nothing more than an attempt to delay the inevitable dismissal of this
18 case, or to harass, or both. The Court should not allow the Newmark Plaintiffs to
19 conduct discovery when there are no factual issues relevant to the Motion to
20 Dismiss. *See* Section II.C. below.

21 **II. ARGUMENT**

22 **A. The Newmark Plaintiffs Concede That A Complete Lifting Of The** 23 **Stay Order Is Inappropriate.**

24 The Newmark Plaintiffs include a request that once SONICblue is dismissed
25 from these proceedings, the Court should lift the stay for all purposes. *See* Opp., at
26 4:12-5:5. Yet they then concede that a complete lifting of the stay is inappropriate.
27 *See id.*, at 6-7.

28 As the Copyright Owners previously explained, long-standing authority

1 supports a stay of merits discovery during the pendency of potentially case-
2 dispositive motions, like a motion to dismiss. *See* Motion, at 8:19-28. The
3 Newmark Plaintiffs do not challenge the applicability of this well-settled law here.
4 Rather, they acknowledge it at some length. *See* Opp., at 6-7 n.2 (citing case law
5 staying merits discovery during pendency of potentially case-dispositive motions).¹
6 In fact, later in their opposition, they concede: “[i]n agreeing to stipulate to a more
7 limited lifting of the stay, the Newmark Plaintiffs *have already agreed to forego*
8 *merits discovery pending the outcome of the two motions.*” *Id.*, at 6:22-7:2
9 (emphasis added).² The Court should therefore reject the Newmark Plaintiffs’
10 request for a complete lifting of the stay.

11 **B. Given The Changed Circumstances, The Copyright Owners Do**
12 **Not Object To Consolidating The Hearing On Their Motion To**
13 **Dismiss With The Hearing On The Newmark Plaintiffs’ Motion**
14 **For Leave To Amend Their Complaint.**

15 The Newmark Plaintiffs unfairly contend that the Copyright Owners are
16 looking for an “unwarranted procedural advantage” concerning the timing of the
17 hearing of the Motion to Dismiss and the Newmark Plaintiffs’ motion for leave to
18 amend. *See* Opp., at 8:4-7. With the dismissal of the underlying action against
19 SONICblue, which constituted the sole basis for finding an actual controversy
20 between the Newmark Plaintiffs and the Copyright Owners in the Newmark
21 Declaratory Relief Action, the Copyright Owners believe that the Court must and
22
23

24 ¹ Merits discovery has been stayed for over seven months now, without complaint by the
25 Newmark Plaintiffs. The Newmark Plaintiffs also do not claim any prejudice if the stay of merits
discovery continues for another brief period during the Court’s consideration of the Copyright
Owners’ Motion to Dismiss.

26 ² Similarly, the Newmark Plaintiffs reaffirm that their request for a complete lifting of the stay is
27 off the table when they assert that “[t]he real question” before the Court is whether the Copyright
28 Owners’ Motion to Dismiss and the Newmark Plaintiffs’ motion for leave to amend should be
heard at the same time, an issue addressed in Section II.B. Opp., at 8:21-23.

1 will dismiss this action.³ However, to avoid any suggestion that the Copyright
2 Owners were seeking an unfair procedural advantage, the Copyright Owners
3 included within this motion a request for relief from the stay to allow the Newmark
4 Plaintiffs to file their motion for leave to amend. At the time the Copyright Owners
5 filed the instant motion (annexing their proposed Motion to Dismiss), the Newmark
6 Plaintiffs had disclosed only their general intention to move for leave to amend their
7 declaratory relief complaint. They had therefore not satisfied their obligations under
8 Local Rule 7-3 concerning the disclosure of the grounds or relief contemplated for
9 such a motion, and had not told the Copyright Owners when they would even
10 proffer their contemplated motion. Under those circumstances, and facing the
11 possibility of open-ended delay, the Copyright Owners told the Newmark Plaintiffs
12 that they would not prospectively agree to the Newmark Plaintiffs' request to
13 schedule the hearing of the two motions at the same time. *See* Motion, at 9:23-
14 10:4.⁴

15
16 ³ The Newmark Plaintiffs contend that there are over 60 additional ReplayTV DVR owners who
17 have indicated an interest in joining the Newmark Plaintiff Declaratory Relief Action in order to
18 obtain the same covenant not to sue provided to the five Newmark Plaintiffs. *Opp.*, at 3:8-11.
19 Incredibly, counsel for the Newmark Plaintiffs refuse to identify any of these individuals in their
20 proposed amended pleading because they purportedly are afraid that the Copyright Owners will
21 covenant not to sue these individuals for their uses of their ReplayTV DVRs. *See* Hinze
22 Declaration, Exh. L, Exh. E, at 2 n.1. What the Newmark Plaintiffs' counsel are asserting is that
23 these supposed additional plaintiffs have a reasonable apprehension that they will not be sued by
24 the Copyright Owners. While the Court need not resolve the issue at this juncture, the Copyright
25 Owners note that this novel conception of declaratory judgment jurisdiction provides further proof
26 that there no longer is a case or controversy here.

27 ⁴ The Newmark Plaintiffs contend in their opposition papers that they satisfied their obligations
28 under Local Rule 7-3 to meet and confer concerning their contemplated motion for leave to amend
their declaratory relief complaint prior to the Copyright Owners' filing of the instant motion. *See*
Opp., at 3:11-4:10. The Copyright Owners strongly disagree with this contention.

The Newmark Plaintiffs' proposed motion seeks leave to attempt to convert this case into a class
action. While the Newmark Plaintiffs previously mentioned to the Copyright Owners the
possibility that they might seek to amend their complaint "to add additional plaintiffs," as of the
filing of the instant motion, the Newmark Plaintiff had not even described beyond that perfunctory
reference the relief to be sought or the grounds for that relief as required under Local Rule 7-3.
See annexed Reply Declaration of Scott P. Cooper ("Cooper Reply Decl."), Exh. A. As the record
makes clear, the Newmark Plaintiffs never even mentioned a desire to seek to assert class
allegations until October 17, 2003, four days after the filing of the motion, and the parties did not
discuss the issue until October 27, 2003. *Id.*, at ¶¶ 2-3 and Exh. A. The Newmark Plaintiffs'

1 Now that the Newmark Plaintiffs have proffered their motion for leave to
2 amend their complaint, the Copyright Owners do not object to the proposed motion
3 being heard at the same time as the Copyright Owners' Motion to Dismiss, provided
4 that both motions can be heard by the Court on a reasonably prompt schedule. The
5 Copyright Owners propose that the two motions be set for hearing on December 15,
6 2003, with opposition and reply papers due on November 24, 2003 and December 8,
7 2003, respectively, for both motions.

8 **C. Given The Undisputed Factual Record, The Newmark Plaintiffs**
9 **Should Be Required To Demonstrate Their Need For, And The**
10 **Propriety Of, Discovery On The Motion To Dismiss.**

11 The only issue that the parties seriously dispute is the Newmark Plaintiffs'
12 request to propound discovery on the Copyright Owners' Motion to Dismiss. The
13 Newmark Plaintiffs address this issue in a footnote, and their argument does not
14 withstand scrutiny. *See Opp.*, at 6 n.1. All of the facts relevant to the Court's
15 consideration of the Motion to Dismiss are undisputed and already are known to the
16 Newmark Plaintiffs. The Newmark Plaintiffs' request for discovery that can have
17 no effect on the Motion to Dismiss appears to be nothing more than an attempt to
18 needlessly increase the expense and delay associated with the inevitable dismissal of
19 this case. At the very least, the Newmark Plaintiffs should be required to
20 demonstrate a need for, and the propriety of, discovery relevant to the Copyright
21 Owners' Motion to Dismiss, so as to avoid an open-ended, unsupervised exercise in
22 irrelevancy, expense and delay.

23 The question at the heart of the Copyright Owners' Motion to Dismiss is
24 whether, as a result of recent events, the Newmark Plaintiffs continue to have a
25 "reasonable apprehension" of liability based on the Copyright Owners' actions. *See*
26 *Order Denying Copyright Owners' Motion to Dismiss, Cooper Declaration, Exh. K,*
27
28 suggestion that they previously complied with Local Rule 7-3 is not borne out by the record.

1 at 119 (“[C]ourts must focus on whether a declaratory plaintiff has a ‘reasonable
2 apprehension’ that he or she will be subjected to liability.” (citing *Societe de*
3 *Conditionnement en Aluminium v. Hunter Eng’g Co.*, 655 F.2d 938, 944 (9th Cir.
4 1981)); *Hal Roach Studios, Inc. v. Feiner & Co.*, 896 F.2d 1542, 1556 (9th Cir.
5 1990) (the declaratory plaintiff’s reasonable apprehension “must have been caused
6 by the defendant’s actions”).

7 While the parties may dispute the legal significance of the facts relevant to
8 this inquiry, the facts are a matter of public record, and therefore known to the
9 Newmark Plaintiffs and their counsel, and not subject to dispute: In the almost two
10 years since the Copyright Owners commenced the Copyright Actions against
11 SONICblue in late 2001, the Copyright Owners have not filed or threatened any
12 legal action against any ReplayTV DVR owner concerning their uses of the DVR.
13 Moreover, even when the Newmark Plaintiffs filed the Newmark Declaratory Relief
14 Action against the Copyright Owners in June 2002, the Copyright Owners did not
15 assert counterclaims against the Newmark Plaintiffs, or commence any legal action
16 against any other ReplayTV DVR owner. The Newmark Plaintiffs can point to
17 nothing ever said or done by the Copyright Owners to them that constitutes, or
18 suggests, or even hints at, a threat of suit. In addition, all of the parties recently
19 stipulated to the dismissal of the Copyright Actions against SONICblue that
20 precipitated the Newmark Plaintiffs’ filing of their declaratory relief complaint.
21 Finally, the Copyright Owners have covenanted not to sue the Newmark Plaintiffs
22 for copyright infringement arising from the Newmark Plaintiffs’ uses of their
23 ReplayTV DVRs as alleged in their declaratory relief complaint, thereby removing
24 any conceivable threat of liability as a matter of law. These are the undisputed facts
25 that show there is no case or controversy between the Newmark Plaintiffs and the
26 Copyright Owners, and that therefore the Court should dismiss the Newmark
27 Plaintiffs’ complaint for lack of subject matter jurisdiction. The Newmark Plaintiffs
28 are free to argue that they do have an objective basis to anticipate being sued, if in

1 fact there is any basis. But they have no need for discovery that can have no effect
2 on the Motion to Dismiss.

3 The Newmark Plaintiffs have stated a desire to propound discovery
4 concerning the Copyright Owners' undisclosed intentions with respect to ReplayTV
5 DVR owners. Discovery targeted at the Copyright Owners' subjective state of
6 mind, however, is legally irrelevant to the Motion to Dismiss. The relevant test is
7 whether the declaratory relief plaintiff's knowledge of the defendant's actions has
8 created within the declaratory relief plaintiff an objectively real and reasonable
9 apprehension of suit. *See, e.g., K-Lath, Div. of Tree Island Wire (USA), Inc. v.*
10 *Davis Wire Corp.*, 15 F. Supp.2d 952, 958 (C.D. Cal. 1998) (“The test, however,
11 stated is objective”) (citation omitted). The focus is thus on the declaratory
12 relief plaintiff's knowledge of the defendant's actions. The defendant's
13 uncommunicated, subjective state of mind is irrelevant to the question of whether
14 the declaratory plaintiff had an objectively reasonable apprehension of suit. *See id.*,
15 at 962 and n.12 (finding that the objective words and actions of the defendant
16 control whether the declaratory plaintiff's apprehension of suit is reasonable). Since
17 those facts are necessarily already known to the Newmark Plaintiffs, their requested
18 discovery is an utter waste of time.

19 Finally, the order sought by the Newmark Plaintiffs would delay the
20 adjudication of the Motion to Dismiss. For example, if the Court were to grant the
21 Newmark Plaintiffs' Second Proposed Order, the Newmark Plaintiffs presumably
22 would be permitted to propound discovery on the Copyright Owners at any time
23 before the hearing on the Motion to Dismiss. The Copyright Owners then might
24 have grounds to object to the discovery, and the parties would be required to engage
25 in the lengthy discovery dispute process mandated by the Local Rules, including the
26 preparation of a joint stipulation for submission of the dispute to the Magistrate
27 Judge, substantially delaying the resolution of the Motion to Dismiss. The
28 procedural mechanism envisioned by the Newmark Plaintiffs is inefficient and

1 inconsistent with the Newmark Plaintiffs' claimed interest in "an orderly and logical
2 schedule for further proceedings in this action." Opp. at 1:9-10. Accordingly, the
3 Court should reject it.

4 **III. CONCLUSION**

5 For the foregoing reasons, the Court should enter the proposed order
6 previously submitted by the Copyright Owners, modified only to: (1) allow for the
7 filing of the proposed motion for leave to amend proffered by the Newmark
8 Plaintiffs in connection with their opposition to the instant motion; and (2) set the
9 hearing date and briefing schedule on the Copyright Owners' Motion to Dismiss and
10 the Newmark Plaintiffs' motion for leave to amend, consistent with the dates
11 requested above. The Court should not allow the Newmark Plaintiffs to propound
12 any discovery unless and until they demonstrate good cause to permit them to do so.

13 Dated: November 3, 2003

14 Respectfully submitted,

15
16 By: 

17 SCOTT P. COOPER

18
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1 **REPLY DECLARATION OF SCOTT P. COOPER**

2 I, Scott P. Cooper, declare as follows:

3 1. I am an attorney at law duly admitted to practice before this Court, and
4 I am a member of Proskauer Rose LLP, counsel for Plaintiffs Metro-Goldwyn-
5 Mayer Studios Inc., Orion Pictures Corporation, Twentieth Century Fox Film
6 Corporation, Universal City Studios Productions LLLP (formerly Universal City
7 Studios Productions, Inc.), Fox Broadcasting Company, Paramount Pictures
8 Corporation, Disney Enterprises, Inc., National Broadcasting Company, Inc., NBC
9 Studios, Inc., Showtime Networks Inc., UPN (formerly the United Paramount
10 Network), ABC, Inc., Viacom International Inc., CBS Worldwide Inc., CBS
11 Broadcasting, Inc. in the above-captioned consolidated actions. I submit this
12 declaration in further support of the Copyright Owners' Motion For Order
13 Modifying The Court's March 24, 2003 Stay Order For Limited Purposes, dated
14 October 13, 2003 (the "Motion"). I make this declaration of my own personal
15 knowledge except where otherwise stated, and, if called as a witness, I could and
16 would testify competently as set forth below.

17 2. Attached hereto as Exhibit A is a true and correct copy of my October
18 20, 2003 letter to Gwen Hinze, one of the counsel for the Newmark Plaintiffs. As I
19 explained in my October 20, 2003 letter, Ms. Hinze's October 17, 2003 letter, a
20 copy of which is attached as Exhibit K to Ms. Hinze's declaration in opposition to
21 the Motion, informed the Copyright Owners for the first time that the Newmark
22 Plaintiffs would be seeking leave to amend their complaint to add class allegations.

23 3. On October 27, 2003, I participated in a Local Rule 7-3 telephonic
24 meeting and conference with counsel for the Newmark Plaintiffs to discuss their
25 contemplated motion for leave to amend their complaint to add class allegations.
26 This call was the first time during which the parties discussed the Newmark
27 Plaintiffs' contemplated motion for leave to amend their complaint to add class
28 allegations.

1 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of
2 America that the foregoing is true and correct.

3 Executed this 3rd day of November, 2003, in Los Angeles, California.

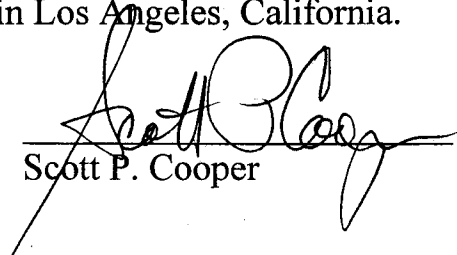
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EXHIBIT A

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October 20, 2003

VIA FACSIMILE AND EMAIL

Gwen Hinze, Esq.
Electronic Frontier Foundation
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Re: Paramount Pictures Corporation, et al. v. ReplayTV, Inc., et al.
U.S. District Court (C.D. Ca.) Case No. CV 01-09358 FMC (Ex) *and Related Cases*

Dear Gwen:

This responds on behalf of my firm's clients in the above-referenced litigation to that portion of your October 17, 2003 letter referring to compliance with Local Rule 7-3. Your letter appears to contend that our prior telephone conversations regarding the Entertainment Companies' proposed motions for relief from stay and to dismiss the Newmark Plaintiffs' declaratory relief action also satisfied the Newmark Plaintiffs' obligation to meet and confer regarding a motion to amend their declaratory relief complaint. As you know from our prior correspondence, we strongly disagree with this contention. While you and Ira have mentioned on several occasions the possibility that the Newmark Plaintiffs might seek to amend their complaint "to add additional plaintiffs," you have never described beyond that perfunctory reference the relief to be sought or the grounds for that relief as required under Local Rule 7-3. The most specific either you or Ira ever got with respect to a potential motion to amend was to suggest that you might be seeking to add four or five new named plaintiffs to replace the existing Newmark Plaintiffs.

If the Newmark Plaintiffs' now-proposed motion to amend sought no more than to add a few new individual plaintiffs, a good faith argument at least might exist whether the Newmark Plaintiffs had satisfied their obligations under Local Rule 7-3. Your October 17 letter, however, informs us for the very first time that the Newmark Plaintiffs will be seeking to amend their complaint, not to add a few new plaintiffs, but to add entirely new, and as yet unspecified, class allegations. It is difficult to conceive of class allegations that would be appropriate to be added now to a two-year old litigation. Be that as it may, there can be no argument that you raised those issues in any prior discussion.

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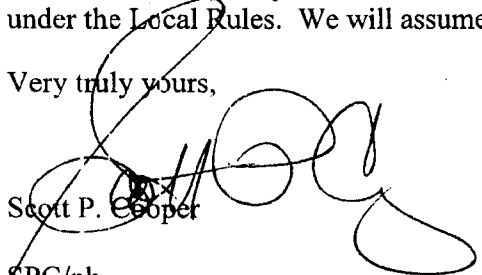
PROSKAUER ROSE LLP

Gwen Hinze, Esq.
October 20, 2003
Page 2

Therefore, we will treat your letter as an invitation to meet and confer on the subject of the Newmark Plaintiffs' motion to amend under Local Rule 7-3. I am sure that Bobby Schwartz and Bob Rotstein will want to participate in that conversation. I understand that Bobby's father died on Friday and that he is out of the office at present. I also understand that Bob is traveling through Wednesday. I have messages in to both of their offices to determine a convenient time when we all can speak.

Finally, I note that your letter makes no mention of your intention to file a motion for relief from the stay in this action as a first step to gain permission to file a motion to seek to pursue a class action. Since that subject as well has never previously been discussed, it too remains to be done under the Local Rules. We will assume that you will address that subject as well when we speak.

Very truly yours,


Scott P. Cooper

SPC/ph

cc: Emmett C. Stanton, Esq.
Laurence F. Pulgram, Esq.
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Copyright Owner Plaintiffs' Counsel

PROOF OF SERVICE BY MAIL

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

I declare that: I am employed in the County of Los Angeles, California. I am over the age of eighteen years and not a party to the within cause; my business address is 2049 Century Park East, Suite 3200, Los Angeles, California 90067-3206.

On November 3, 2003, I served the foregoing document described as:

REPLY MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION OF THE COPYRIGHT OWNERS FOR ORDER MODIFYING THE COURT'S MARCH 24, 2003 STAY ORDER FOR LIMITED PURPOSES; REPLY DECLARATION OF SCOTT P. COOPER IN SUPPORT THEREOF

on the interested parties in this action:

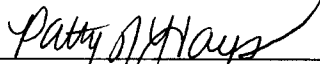
(By Mail) By placing true copies thereof enclosed in sealed envelopes addressed as follows:

SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST

I am "readily familiar" with the firm's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice, the envelopes would be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid at Los Angeles, California, in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one day after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.

(Federal) I declare that I am employed in the office of a member of the bar of this Court at whose direction the service was made.

Executed on November 3, 2003, at Los Angeles, California.


PATTY J. HAYS

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