No	 		

IN THE

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

ALEXANDER GRAHAM-SULT and DAVID GRAHAM

Petitioners

v.

NICHOLAS P. CLAINOS

Respondent

On Petition for Certiorari to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI

Karl Olson (SBN 104760)
Supreme Court Bar No. 187154
Therese Y. Cannata (SBN 88032)
Kimberly A. Almazan (SBN 288605)
Zachary Colbeth (SBN 297419)
Cannata, O'Toole, Fickes & Almazan LLP
100 Pine Street, Suite 350
San Francisco, CA 94111
Tel: (415) 409-8900
Counsel for Petitioner



QUESTION PRESENTED

- I. Whether the "instance and expense" test for determining copyright authorship between the commissioning party and the artist under the work-for-hire doctrine is properly used to determine copyright ownership as between the commissioning party and the commissioning party's wholly-owned corporation, under the Copyright Acts of 1909 and 1976.
- II. Whether the Court of Appeals, in refusing to hold a fiduciary accountable for the loss of valuable estate assets belonging to rock and roll concert promoter Bill Graham, failed to view evidence at summary judgment in light most favorable to petitioners as nonmoving parties.



PARTIES TO PROCEEDING

The petitioners are David Graham and Alexander Graham-Sult, as individuals, who were plaintiffs-appellants in the Ninth Circuit. The respondent is Nicholas P. Clainos, an individual, who was a defendant-appellee in the Ninth Circuit.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Questions Presentedi
Parties to Proceedingii
Table of Contentsiii
Table of Authoritiesvi
Introduction1
Opinion Below3
Jurisdiction3
Statutory Provisions Involved3
Statement of the Case 4
Reasons for Granting the Petition11
I. The Ninth Circuit's Decision Erroneously Applied the Instance and Expense Test to a Copyright Ownership Dispute Where There Is No Dispute on the Issue of Authorship
II. The Ninth Circuit's Refusal to Hold a Fiduciary Accountable for the Loss of Valuable Estate Assets and Undisputed Self-Dealing Conflicts With Well-Established Law That One Must View Evidence at Summary Judgment in the Light Most Favorable to the Non-Moving Parties



A. Petitioners Presented Sufficient Evidence to Create Genuine Issues of Material Fact Concerning Bill Graham's Personal Ownership of the Disputed Assets and Clainos's Conversion of Those Assets 17
1. The Ninth Circuit Erroneously Allowed Summary Judgment on the Claim for Conversion of the Poster Copyrights
2. The Ninth Circuit Erroneously Allowed Summary Judgment on the Claim for Conversion of the Poster Scrapbooks
3. The Ninth Circuit Erroneously Allowed Summary Judgment on the Claim for Conversion of the 100 Sets Collection
4. The Ninth Circuit Erroneously Allowed Summary Judgment on the Claim for Conversion of "The Fillmore" Trademark
B. Petitioners Presented Sufficient Evidence to Create Genuine Issues of Material Fact Concerning Clainos's Breach of His Fiduciary Duties27
Conclusion and Prayer for Relief
APPENDIX31
APPENDIX TABLE OF CONTENTS A-i
Memorandum of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, <i>Alexander Graham-Sult and David Graham v. Nicholas P. Clainos, et al.</i> Nos. 15-17204, 16-16768, 16-17083 (9th Cir. Dec 13, 2017)



DOCKET

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.

