



Department of Justice

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JUSTICE PLANS SUIT AGAINST AMPHITHEATER MERGER

The Department of Justice announced today it intends to file a civil antitrust suit in opposition to the proposed combination of the Pacific Amphitheater Partnership of Costa Mesa, California, and the Irvine Meadows Amphitheater Partnership of Irvine, California.

James F. Rill, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division, said the lawsuit will allege that the proposed merger would violate Section 7 of the Clayton Act because it might substantially lessen competition in the rental of concert venues in Orange County, California.

Performers such as Linda Ronstadt, Willie Nelson, and Dizzy Gillespie have appeared at the amphitheaters, which are located only 10 miles apart. Total revenues from concerts at these facilities are about \$20 million annually.

"It appears that the proposed transaction would create a monopoly in concert venues in Orange County," Rill said. "We found no circumstances that would justify this result, which we believe would adversely affect consumers."

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