

From: Steve Merola <stevemero[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, August 3, 2014 4:41 PM
To: ATR-LT3-ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review <ASCAP-BMI-Decree-Review@ATR.USDOJ.GOV>
Subject: Consent Decree

ASCAP and BMI protect and represent the interests of songwriters and music publishers.

With the advent of digital technology it is easier than ever to keep track of each and every play and performance of works represented by these performing rights organizations. This use of copyrighted intellectual property must be paid for.

Currently, fees paid by streamers & other broadcasters (internet, radio, TV, film et al) are set at an unreasonable and archaic rate which is totally out of line with reality. The amounts of money generated by the presentation of music is unfairly hoarded by the broadcaster. It's as if people were paying for wires but not electricity.

Fees should be set and adjusted annually to match inflation, cost of living, and not affected at all by the requests of broadcasters and/or streamers.

Without music, Pandora or Spotify couldn't exist.

Without a streamer music will go on.

Broadcasting or streaming music is an advertising platform and NOT some kind of "innovation". It is simply using technology to make more money for the presenter of the music, rather than the creators and owners of the music. This is a fraudulent racket, not a "disruption".

The EU model of "pay per play" should also be applied to domestic theatrical performances in the US.

Thank you

--

Steve Merola