# Steele Hansmeier PLLC

Intellectual Property Law Firm

October 10, 2011

Firm Partners:

JOHN L. STEELE Licensed only in IL

PAUL R. HANSMEIER Licensed only in MN

ROBERT P. BALZEBRE Licensed only in FL

<u>VIA U.S. MAIL</u>

Re: AF Holdings LLC v. Does 1-135

Case No. 4:11-cv-03336-DMR,

Dear

San Jose, CA

Steele Hansmeier, PLLC has been retained by AF Holdings LLC to pursue legal action against people who illegally downloaded their copyrighted content (i.e., "digital pirates"). Digital piracy is a very serious problem for adult content producers, such as our client, who depend on revenues to sustain their businesses and pay their employees.

On May 2011 at PM (UTC), our agents observed the IP address with which you are associated illegally downloading and sharing with others via the BitTorrent protocol the following copyrighted file(s):

#### Sexual Obsession

The ISP you were connected to: Comcast Cable Communications

Your IP Address you were assigned during your illegal activity:

We have received a subpoena return from your ISP confirming that you are indeed the person that was associated with the IP address that was performing the illegal downloading of our client's content listed above on the exact date(s) listed above.

On July 07, 2011 we filed a lawsuit in United States Federal Court in the Northern District of California against several anonymous digital pirates (Case No. 4:11-cv-03336-DMR). Under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, our lawsuit against you personally will not commence until we serve you with a Complaint, which we are prepared to do if our

settlement efforts fail. While it is too late to undo the illegal file sharing associated with your IP address, we have prepared an offer to enable our client to recover damages for the harm caused by the illegal downloading and to allow both parties to avoid the expense of a lawsuit.

Under the Copyright Law of the United States, copyright owners may recover up to \$150,000 in statutory damages (in cases where statutory damages are applicable, which may or may not be the case here) per infringing file plus attorney's fees in cases, whereas here, infringement was willful. In it least one case where the Copyright Law has been applied to digital piracy and statutory damages were applicable, juries have awarded over \$20,000 per pirated file. During the RIAA's well-publicized campaign against digital music piracy, over 30,000 people nationwide settled their cases for amounts ranging from an average of \$3,000 to \$12,000. More recently, on December 22, 2010, a case in which a defendant was accused of illegally downloading six works via BitTorrent, a settlement was reached for \$250,000.

In light of these factors, we believe that providing you with an opportunity to avoid litigation by working out a settlement with us, versus the costs of attorneys' fees and the uncertainty associated with jury verdicts, is very reasonable and in good faith.

In exchange for a comprehensive release of all legal claims in this matter, which will enable you to avoid becoming a named Defendant in our lawsuit, our firm is authorized to accept the sum of \$3,400.00 as full settlement for the claims. This offer will expire on 10/24/2011 at 4:00 p.m. CST. If you reject our settlement offers, we expect to serve you with a Complaint and commence litigation.

To reiterate: if you act promptly you will avoid being named as a Defendant in the lawsuit. You may pay the settlement amount by:

(a) Mailing a check or money order payable to "Steele Hansmeier Trust Account" to:

Steele Hansmeier 1111 Lincoln Rd., Suite 400 Miami Beach, Florida 33139;

(b) Completing and mailing/faxing the enclosed payment authorization to:

Steele Hansmeier 1111 Lincoln Rd., Suite 400 Miami Beach, Florida 33139 Facsimile: (305) 748-2103.

Be sure to reference your case number and your "Ref#" on your method of payment. Regardless of your payment method, once we have processed the settlement, we will mail you your signed Release as confirmation that your payment has been processed and that you have been released from the lawsuit.

#### RELEASE

Company: AF Holdings LLC

IN RE: AF Holdings LLC v. Does 1-135, Case No. 4:11-cv-03336-DMR

Settlement Purposes Only - Inadmissible Under FRE 408

BE IT KNOWN, that Steele | Hansmeier, PLLC. on behalf of the Company named above, (hereinafter referred to as "Releasor"), for and in consideration of the sum of Three Thousand Four Hundred (\$3,400.00) Dollars, and other valuable consideration received from or on behalf of , (hereinafter referred to as "Releasee"), provided that Releasee's payment in full in the amount of \$3,400.00 is received by Releasor within seven calendar days from the date of this release and such payment is made with no chargebacks, cancellations or revocations, does hereby remise, release, acquit, satisfy, and forever discharge the said Releasee, of and from all manner of actions, causes of action, suits, debts, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, claims, and demands regarding the lawsuit referred to as AF Holdings LLC v. Does 1-135, Case No. 4:11-cv-03336-DMR. In consideration for foregoing release and for other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, Releasee hereby releases Releasor, Steele | Hansmeier, PLLC., Media Copyright Group, LLC., and the owners and operators of the foregoing entities from all manner of actions, causes of action, suits, debts, covenants, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, claims and demands arising from or relating to the aforementioned lawsuit or any claim related to any act Releasee alleges that Releasor may or may not have done, which said Releasee ever had, now has, or which any heir. successor or assign of Releasee can, shall or may have against Releasor. Releasor and Releasee both agree that the terms of this agreement shall forever remain confidential, and both parties agree that they shall not discuss this agreement. Releasor specifically agrees to not disclose information it may have regarding Releasee, the litigation described herein, or any settlement discussions entered into between the parties unless ordered to do so by a valid court order or by permission of Releasee.

Written and Executed this Monday, October 10, 2011.

"RELEASOR"

John L. Steele, Esq. Representative of Steele | Hansmeier, PLLC. On behalf of AF Holdings LLC

# Steele Hansmeier PLLC

Intellectual Property Law Firm

### PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize Steele | Hansmeier, PLLC to withdraw funds from the bank account or credit card listed below for the settlement amount and legal issue referred to on my Release and herein below.

Firm Partners:

JOHN L. STEELE Licensed only in IL

PAUL R. HANSMEIER Licensed only in MN

ROBERT P. BALZEBRE Licensed only in FL

Case Name and Ref#:		
PAYOR INFORMATION		
Payor's Name:	<del></del>	
Billing Address:	*	
*		
Telephone Number:		
Signature: D	ate:	
PAYMENT INFORMATION		
Payment amount: \$		
Name on Bank Account / Credit Card:		
If paying via bank account:		
Type of Account: Checking / Savings		
Routing Number: Account Nun	nber:	
If paying via credit card:		
Card Number:	Exp. Date:	
Card Type: ☐ Master Card ☐ Visa ☐ AmEx	☐ Discover	
CID Number: (this is the last three digits o digit number in the upper right corner on the front of you		d, Visa, or Discover Card, or the four

#### Fax or mail this authorization to:

Steele Hansmeier 1111 Lincoln Rd., Suite 400 Miami Beach, FL 33139

Fax: (305) 748-2103

Fax: 305.748.2103 | 1111 Lincoln Rd., Suite 400, Miami Beach, FL 33139 | Fax: 312.893.5677 | 161 N Clark St., Suite 3200, Chicago, IL 60601

Tel: 305.748.2102 Tel: 312.880.9160

# Steele Hansmeier PLLC

Intellectual Property Law Firm

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Q: Why did I receive this letter?

A: You received this letter because copyright infringement involving your Internet account was detected by our agents.

#### Q: What are the benefits of settling?

A: The benefits of settling include avoiding the time and expense of litigation and associated risks.

#### Q: Will I remain anonymous if I settle?

A: Yes, you will remain anonymous if you settle.

### Q: Has my privacy been violated?

A: No. A copyright infringement was detected over the public Internet or a Peer-to-Peer (P2P) Network involving your internet connection.

# Q: I haven't infringed on a copyright, why did I receive a notice?

A: If you are unfamiliar with the content, we normally find that the infringement was the result of a spouse, child, roommate, employee, or business associate uploading, downloading or otherwise sharing or displaying the copyright protected material over your internet connection. Infringements can also result from an unsecured wireless network. In any of these scenarios the Internet Service Provider (ISP) account holder may be held legally responsible for the infringement(s) and settlement fees.

#### Q: What if I have an unsecured wireless network/router?

A: The Internet Service Provider (ISP) account holder is responsible for securing the connection and may be legally responsible for any infringement(s) that result from an unsecured wireless network/router. This 'defense' has been raised in many criminal matters regarding such crimes as child pornography, and the courts have generally rejected this defense. As far as we are aware, this defense has never been successfully argued, in multiple contexts, including child pornography and civil copyright infringements actions.

# Q: What if I own a business and an employee infringed on a copyright?

A: The Internet Service Provider (ISP) account holder may be responsible for securing the connection and may be legally responsible for any infringement(s) that occur. We normally find that business owners pass on out-of-pocket costs to the employee that was responsible for the infringement(s).

# Q: Will this go away if I just remove the file(s) from my computer(s)?

A: No. In fact, removing the file(s) associated with your case(s) is a breach of your obligation to preserve electronic evidence.

# Q: How do I know that the IP Address listed in the notice is mine and not a fake?

A: The notice, IP Address, and associated account holder have all been correlated by your Internet Service Provider (ISP) a third party organization that is not associated with us.

### Q: How do I make this go away?

A: Paying the settlement fee will immediately release you from liability and close the case.

# Q: How do I know that you are legally authorized act on behalf of the copyright owner?

A: If you wish to receive additional information proving that we are legally authorized to act on behalf of the copyright owner(s) please contact us.

#### Q: Do I need to hire an attorney?

A: The decision to hire an attorney is completely up to you. We cannot give you legal advice, but speaking with an attorney is generally highly advisable. In some cases the settlement offered by us is significantly lower than the costs associated with hiring an attorney.

# Q: Why are copyright lawsuits normally filed?

A: Copyright owners file lawsuits because they have no other way to recover revenues lost to digital piracy.

Please consider this letter to constitute formal notice that until and unless we are able to settle our client's claim against you, we demand that you not delete any files from your computer or any other computers under your control or in your possession. If forced to proceed against you in a lawsuit, we will have a computer forensic expert inspect these computers in an effort to locate the subject content and to determine if you have deleted any content. If in the course of litigation the forensic computer evidence suggests that you deleted media files, our client will amend its complaint to add a "spoliation of evidence" claim against you. Be advised that if we prevail on this additional claim, the court could award monetary sanctions, evidentiary sanctions and reasonable attorneys' fees. If you are unfamiliar with the nature of this claim in this context, please consult an attorney.

We strongly encourage you to consult with an attorney to review your rights in connection with this matter. Although we have endeavored to provide you with accurate information, our interests are directly adverse to yours and you should not rely on the information provided in this letter for assessing your position in this case. Only an attorney who represents you can be relied upon for a comprehensive analysis of our client's claim against you.

Enclosed, please find a Frequently Asked Questions sheet, a payment authorization form and a sample of the Release that you will receive. We look forward to resolving our client's claim against you in an amicable fashion, through settlement.

Sincerely,

John L. Steele Attorney and Counselor at Law

**Enclosures**