

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT
PROCEEDINGS BEFORE
THE SUPREME COURT
OF THE
UNITED STATES

CAPTION: LUTHER R. CAMPBELL aka LUKE SKYYWALKER, ET
AL., Petitioners v. ACUFF-ROSE MUSIC, INC.

CASE NO: 92-1292

PLACE: Washington, D.C.

DATE: Tuesday, November 9, 1993

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1 IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

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3 LUTHER R. CAMPBELL aka LUKE :

4 SKYYWALKER, ET AL., :

5 Petitioners :

6 v. : No. 92-1292

7 ACUFF-ROSE MUSIC, INC. :

8 - - - - -X

9 Washington, D.C.

10 Tuesday, November 9, 1993

11 The above-entitled matter came on for oral
12 argument before the Supreme Court of the United States at
13 10:06 a.m.

14 APPEARANCES:

15 BRUCE S. ROGOW, ESQ., Fort Lauderdale, Florida; on behalf
16 of the Petitioners.

17 SIDNEY S. ROSDEITCHER, ESQ., New York, New York; on behalf
18 of the Respondent.

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (10:06 a.m.)

3 CHIEF JUSTICE REHNQUIST: We'll hear argument
4 first this morning in No. 92-1292, Luther R. Campbell v.
5 Acuff-Rose Music, Inc.

6 Mr. Rogow.

7 ORAL ARGUMENT OF BRUCE S. ROGOW

8 ON BEHALF OF THE PETITIONERS

9 MR. ROGOW: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it please
10 the Court:

11 Since the statute of Anne in 1709 through the
12 Copyright Clause of our Constitution, through the
13 copyright statute and until today, the purpose of
14 copyright has been to encourage creativity. Parody is a
15 creative force in our society and has historically been a
16 creative force, and parody should be encouraged.

17 The decision of the Sixth Circuit discouraged
18 parody, and we ask the Court today to reverse the decision
19 of the Sixth Circuit. The rule that we suggest is that
20 parody is a fair use unless it materially impairs the
21 market for the original, and material impairment of the
22 market for the original means supplant the original.

23 QUESTION: How do you define parody?

24 MR. ROGOW: A parody imitates and ridicules. It
25 pokes fun at the original. And there are many definitions

1 of parody --

2 QUESTION: So it has to poke fun at the original
3 work.

4 MR. ROGOW: Not necessarily. It can poke fun at
5 the original, or it can poke fun at something else using
6 the original work. There are two aspects of the
7 criticism. One would be criticism of the original work,
8 the other would be criticism of society using the original
9 work as a means of conveying that criticism.

10 QUESTION: So that any time someone takes a
11 melodic line and substitutes new lyrics, that is permitted
12 so long as it is making fun of something else in society.

13 MR. ROGOW: As long as -- yes, Justice Kennedy,
14 as long as it is making fun of something else in society
15 or the original, because that is the purpose of parody.

16 QUESTION: Well, Mr. Rogow, that's a little
17 broader than it needs to be, isn't it, for this case?

18 MR. ROGOW: For this case --

19 QUESTION: Don't we have a situation here where
20 it's making fun of the original?

21 MR. ROGOW: We do, Justice O'Connor. And for
22 this case --

23 QUESTION: And I would have thought that maybe
24 Harper & Row, the case we had here a few years ago,
25 refused to recognize a fair use exception even for

1 political commentary. So I think your position that a
2 parody, if it's directed at something other than the
3 original work, should have some kind of all-encompassing
4 provision as being a fair use.

5 MR. ROGOW: Justice --

6 QUESTION: I mean that's -- that's a pretty big
7 step to take.

8 MR. ROGOW: Justice O'Connor, for this case it
9 is true that the parody in this case only poked fun at the
10 original. And one could limit this case to just those
11 facts and that would be quite fine. Harper & Row is
12 actually quite helpful to us, because Harper & Row -- it
13 is true, it was the Nation, a news magazine, but it
14 materially impaired the market for the Harper & Row
15 publication. And I think that's the other important
16 factor here, impairment of the market.

17 QUESTION: So it's your position that a parody
18 should be found to be a fair use when it -- when the
19 lyrics poke fun at the original, but the music is the
20 same?

21 MR. ROGOW: One -- yes. One needs to use the
22 music from the original in order to evoke the image of the
23 original, and that is this case. And in parody there must
24 be some taking, some copying of a certain sort, because
25 that is the purpose of parody, to borrow from the original

1 and then to imitate and ridicule the original, which is
2 what happened in this case.

3 So, yes, there does have to be some taking from
4 the original, the music in this case. Some of which was
5 taken, the guitar riffs especially, was necessary in order
6 that the listener would know that what was being made fun
7 of was the original.

8 QUESTION: Mr. Rogow, could you explain to me
9 why -- why criticism either of the original song or, as
10 your position states, of almost anything using the
11 original song, is to be encouraged more than, let's say,
12 patriotism? Why shouldn't be I be able to use any song
13 that anyone's ever written in order to set patriotic
14 lyrics to it? Isn't that something that's to be
15 encouraged?

16 MR. ROGOW: It is, although one can encourage
17 patriotism without necessarily borrowing the music from
18 another tune, although historically we have borrowed from
19 other tunes to have patriotic songs.

20 QUESTION: Well, but one can criticize other
21 things without borrowing the music from a tune. Unless
22 you're willing to limit your proposition as much as
23 Justice O'Connor just suggested, your argument doesn't
24 hold.

25 MR. ROGOW: For this case I can limit it to

1 exactly these facts.

2 QUESTION: And so are -- but let's assume the
3 more general proposition that you were trying to
4 establish. What's your answer to my question for that?

5 MR. ROGOW: That as long as the parody is
6 commenting critically upon society, be it cultural, be it
7 social -- the social aspect of society, be it political,
8 the use of the tune would still fall within the definition
9 of criticism, which has to have some breathing room.

10 QUESTION: But why encourage -- you can
11 criticize society in many ways. You're quite right. You
12 can -- you can -- you can make fun of this particular tune
13 only by using the particular tune. But you can make fun
14 of society. You can criticize society in a lot of
15 different ways; why do you have to take my tune to do it?

16 MR. ROGOW: Because sometimes taking that tune
17 conveys to the listener something extra. This Court has,
18 for example, the Home Box Office video --

19 QUESTION: My tune is very effective. You like
20 my tune. It's catchy. People remember it. But a lot of
21 people would want to use it for that reason, probably.

22 MR. ROGOW: But the tune -- Justice Scalia, the
23 tune can go with the parody. For example, there is a
24 video that the Court has in this case where the Beverly
25 Hillbillies is used, but the parody is called Capitol

1 Hillbillies. Now, using the Beverly Hillbillies evokes a
2 certain image, and then the criticism that is conveyed by
3 Capitol Hillbillies, the parody, is useful.

4 I think that's a threshold issue here. Is
5 parody useful? Is criticism useful? And 107 of the
6 copyright law does say that criticism is useful and should
7 be encouraged.

8 QUESTION: Is patriotism useful?

9 MR. ROGOW: Yes, it is useful, but pure
10 patriotism without making the political comment, critical
11 comment, is not embraced within 107, although I'm not
12 saying it isn't something worthwhile of protection.
13 Obviously, it is. But we're in this narrow copyright area
14 where we have on one side the private interest of the
15 copyright holder, versus the public interest and the
16 historical interest of promoting creativity.

17 And if parody does have a creative force in our
18 society, and we suggest that it does. Historically it
19 does. The Capitol Steps have given this Court --

20 QUESTION: Well, certainly the copyright
21 statutes suggest that there's a strong public interest in
22 protecting the copyright holder. So I -- it seems to me
23 it's very difficult to suggest, as you do, that there's
24 only a private interest on one side, where there's a great
25 public interest on the other.

1 MR. ROGOW: It is a mixed interest, really, on
2 the copyright holder's side. The private interest, the
3 copyright holder, Mr. Chief Justice, takes his or her
4 copyright, subject to the fair use statutory provisions in
5 107. So the statute -- so the statute tells the copyright
6 holder you may have to put up with some use of your work
7 that will be a fair use, for the greater good of society.

8 QUESTION: Yeah, I don't -- I don't doubt for a
9 minute what you say the statute says. But you're
10 suggesting -- that there's only a private interest on one
11 side while there's only a large -- while there's a large
12 public interest on the other, I don't think is accurate.
13 I think the statute itself suggests there's a strong
14 public interest in encouraging works that can be
15 copyrighted.

16 MR. ROGOW: I agree, Mr. Chief Justice. And
17 when I said a private interest, the primary thrust,
18 obviously, in a copyright case is protecting that private
19 interest. The larger thrust is this is good for the
20 public, and I concur with that. But a fair use is also
21 good for the public, and that's the point --

22 QUESTION: Mr. Rogow, you started out by
23 defining parody, and that first step, I think the Sixth
24 Circuit, even if grudgingly, took and said, yes, this
25 falls within parody. But you're not saying that if it's

1 parody, it is necessarily a permissible fair use.

2 MR. ROGOW: I'm not, Justice Ginsburg.

3 QUESTION: So what in the -- since the Fifth
4 Circuit -- the Sixth Circuit agreed with you that we are
5 dealing here with parody, where did the Sixth Circuit go
6 wrong?

7 MR. ROGOW: By applying a presumption that if it
8 is a commercial parody, then it is presumptively harmful
9 to the market. And they drew that from the language in
10 Sony and Harper & Row v. Nation.

11 QUESTION: But there's language in our cases
12 that say exactly that. Is it your position that the
13 commercial nature of the use is a factor to be considered,
14 but it isn't -- even if it is found to be for a commercial
15 purpose, that that isn't the end of the inquiry.

16 MR. ROGOW: That is our position, Justice
17 O'Connor.

18 QUESTION: Now, what is the market that we
19 should look at. Is it the market for parodies, or is it
20 the market -- do we look at whether it would supplant,
21 somehow, the demand for the original work? What is it we
22 look at?

23 MR. ROGOW: You -- that is what you look at,
24 Justice O'Connor; would it supplant the demand for the
25 original work in many or -- or multiple venues, not just a

1 single venue? I recognize that from the cases. And
2 Justice Story in Folsom v. Marsh in 1841 talked about
3 superseding the original, and that goes to supplanting the
4 original.

5 QUESTION: And what were the findings of the
6 district court as to that in this case?

7 MR. ROGOW: That it did not adversely effect the
8 market. It did not supplant the original Orbison-Dees
9 song. It did not impair its market.

10 QUESTION: Did --

11 QUESTION: And did the Sixth Circuit find that
12 that was erroneous?

13 MR. ROGOW: It did not. It applied a
14 presumption. The Sixth Circuit, Justice O'Connor,
15 basically recognized that there were no facts in this case
16 adduced by Acuff-Rowe to show that its market for the
17 original song had been materially impaired. And --

18 QUESTION: So does this mean that parody cannot
19 be too successful?

20 MR. ROGOW: No. Parody can be successful.
21 You -- one does not look, Justice Kennedy, at the success
22 of the parody. One looks at the harm to the market for
23 the original work.

24 QUESTION: But just the market --

25 QUESTION: I think you're making the same point.

1 Go ahead.

2 QUESTION: Shouldn't the market be defined more
3 broadly as the market for the original song in the -- in
4 the fashion in which the original song was sung. I mean,
5 there could be -- there could be, you know, rock adaptations
6 of waltzes and so on, and shouldn't the market be defined
7 broadly enough to include all the possible adaptations
8 that the copyright owner might want to -- to make or to
9 license?

10 MR. ROGOW: Justice Souter, I don't have any
11 difficulty with a broad definition of the market. What's
12 lacking in this case is any proof that any market for the
13 Orbison-Dees song was harmed. All -- all we have is talk
14 about it, but no proof about it.

15 And I think -- and the rule that I'm suggesting
16 puts this case in a trial court in this posture. If the
17 defendant raises the affirmative defense of fair use
18 parody, then the first thing the defendant must show is
19 that it is a parody, and then the four factors are
20 certainly relevant: purpose --

21 QUESTION: May I just interrupt you though,
22 before you get to the four factors? Are you saying that
23 the -- that the district court could not have made any
24 findings because of the total absence of evidence on the
25 effect on the broader market which I described?

1 MR. ROGOW: This case was decided on summary
2 judgment on the affidavits.

3 QUESTION: Oh, that's right, yes.

4 MR. ROGOW: On the affidavits that were
5 submitted.

6 QUESTION: So there was nothing in the
7 affidavits on which that could have been based.

8 MR. ROGOW: There was nothing in the affidavits
9 from Acuff-Rose which created a genuine issue as to
10 material fact --

11 QUESTION: Material fact.

12 MR. ROGOW: -- About impairment of their market.
13 And the rule I'm suggesting, which is A, is this a parody.
14 And that's a matter of proof and that goes to the first
15 factor, because Congress has said consider all the
16 factors, but it doesn't limit them to those factors,
17 purpose and character. Purpose is parody. Parody is
18 important. Parody is a creative force. That's the
19 purpose.

20 The nature of the work -- purpose and character,
21 I'm sorry. Character, commercial. This is commercial, so
22 that would enter into the equation, but it should not be a
23 presumption that completely eviscerating the rest of the
24 factors. And the Sixth Circuit said in the last line of
25 its opinion: "Because this was blatantly commercial, it

1 cannot claim fair use." That simply goes too far and it
2 does not -- Harper & Row and Sony don't carry the weight
3 assigned to it in the context of parody. Those were
4 copying cases.

5 QUESTION: Mr. Rogow, I take it from what you
6 said that you would suspend the commercial aspect of it,
7 if we're going down this list of factors, and kind of fold
8 that into the last factor? Is that -- does commercial
9 have any independent significance for you, or does it
10 really weigh in evaluating the fourth factor, that is the
11 effect of the use on the potential market for the
12 copyrighted work?

13 MR. ROGOW: Justice Ginsburg, it -- it has both.
14 It's -- obviously, the courts have had difficulty with how
15 one uses these four factors. But it is independently, in
16 the first factor, something to look at; is this a
17 commercial use, as opposed to a nonprofit use, an
18 educational use? The American Association of Law Schools
19 does parodies all the time, from the time of Llewellyn
20 through Prosser, but those were not for profit educational
21 kinds of uses.

22 So it would be something to look at, but it's
23 not decisive. The next factor, which is the nature of the
24 work, would, in this case, tend to favor to some extent
25 the Orbison-Dees recording because it is a creative

1 work -- work. On the other hand, of course, the parody is
2 creative itself, but I could give points to Orbison-Dees
3 on the second factor.

4 The third factor is an interesting one in this
5 case, the amount and substantiality of the taking. And,
6 of course, in a parody, in order to evoke the original,
7 one must take a substantial part. So in those situations
8 we are going to have substantial taking, especially if
9 we're talking about, as we are in this case, a parody of
10 the original, a criticism of the original. In this case
11 there was taking and there is no dispute that some of the
12 Orbison-Dees song was taken.

13 But the fourth factor, which this Court has said
14 is the single most important factor, that's the key, and
15 that's the key, I think, Mr. Chief Justice, to protecting
16 the copyright holder's interest. Has he or she been
17 harmed? Has there market been harmed or supplanted?

18 QUESTION: Have we ever said that that's not
19 just the single most important factor, but the absolutely
20 determinative factor?

21 MR. ROGOW: You have not in the two cases, Sony
22 and Harper & Row.

23 QUESTION: Then how can you -- then how can you
24 assert that -- that the summary judgment question was
25 automatically determined if there was not enough evidence

1 on that one factor? If that's just one of many factors, I
2 don't see how -- I don't see how that can be determined.

3 MR. ROGOW: You're right, Justice Scalia. But
4 in this case it was not determined solely on the fourth
5 factor. The court looked at all of the factors and found
6 on amount and copying, for example, that he took what had
7 to be taken.

8 QUESTION: I understand. But you acknowledge
9 that the mere fact that no information was in the record
10 concerning impairment of the potential market, that alone
11 is not determinative of the issue here?

12 MR. ROGOW: No, that alone cannot be. Parody is
13 something that has to be looked at. There was no dispute
14 this was a parody. I mean, the district court did, I
15 think, the proper analysis in this case. What's the
16 purpose of this work? Parody. What was it, the
17 character? Commercial, Yes. And then went through all of
18 the factors and found, using this Court's language, single
19 most important factor that there was --

20 QUESTION: Was there cross-motions for summary
21 judgment?

22 MR. ROGOW: They were not. There was a motion
23 to dismiss which was converted to a motion for summary
24 judgment, Justice Ginsburg, and then Acuff-Rose opposed
25 the motion for summary judgment which an affidavit which

1 the district court found did not address, at all, the
2 market impairment issue or any of the other issues. It
3 didn't address the parody issue.

4 Two -- there are two affidavits --

5 QUESTION: Well, why -- why was it appropriate
6 not to afford an opportunity to have that issue developed
7 at trial?

8 MR. ROGOW: Because Acuff-Rose failed to put
9 forward any evidence in affidavit form that created a
10 genuine issue as to material fact on the important
11 factors: parody, number one. The amount of the taking
12 there was no dispute about. Their affidavit of Mr.
13 Spielman is basically uncontested.

14 QUESTION: Well, let's concentrate on this last
15 factor which, under your analysis, is the most critical.
16 Shouldn't there have been an opportunity to prove that
17 there was a market out there that the copyright holder
18 could have exploited?

19 MR. ROGOW: Only if the party opposing the
20 motion for summary judgment had put in affidavits which
21 were sufficient to create a genuine issue as to material
22 doubt on that fact, but they were not put in. This
23 doesn't mean that in some case where there is a genuine
24 issue of material fact on that issue, that the case will
25 not go to trial. It would go to trial.

1 QUESTION: Wasn't there -- wasn't there a
2 suggestion that the copyright holder might want to
3 exploit -- exploit a rap market?

4 MR. ROGOW: At page 321 of the Joint Appendix
5 there is an affidavit that was filed after the judgment
6 was entered, although the district judge allowed the
7 record to be supplemented, of Mr. Flowers who is a
8 licensing agent for Acuff-Rose. And if one reads that
9 affidavit, there's just general talk in there about what
10 people may like to do and what Acuff-Rose may like to do,
11 but there's nothing that addresses -- even if one gives
12 this late-filed affidavit any credence in this case,
13 nothing that addresses whether or not their market has
14 been materially impaired.

15 QUESTION: Mr. Rogow, my problem is this; I
16 don't see how your -- one is entitled to summary judgment
17 if the legal issue in the case is to be decided by a six
18 factor test, if the other party happens to have produced
19 no evidence on one of the six factors? I mean, so long as
20 you've produced some evidence on some of the factors,
21 isn't it -- isn't it at least a matter that should then
22 proceed to trial?

23 MR. ROGOW: Justice Scalia, this Court has said
24 that fair use is a mixed question of fact and law, and on
25 the record in this case what we have is no evidence on any

1 of the four factors that created genuine issues as to
2 material fact. So it's not that one factor was disputed.
3 If one factor was disputed in a way that created a genuine
4 issue as to material fact and then, in the equation, one
5 couldn't make the fair use finding without litigating that
6 factor, then summary judgment would not be proper. But it
7 was proper.

8 QUESTION: Is fair use an affirmative defense?

9 MR. ROGOW: It is.

10 QUESTION: So the burden of negating fair use in
11 a motion for summary judgment, then, is on the person
12 claiming the fair use?

13 MR. ROGOW: The ultimate burden is to show fair
14 use as the affirmative defense as these factors unfold.
15 And I think this goes to the presumption, Mr. Chief
16 Justice -- when the plaintiff files the lawsuit, all the
17 plaintiff need show is ownership of the copyright and
18 copying, and then the burden shifts to the defendant to
19 raise the fair use affirmative defense.

20 And in this case the defendant did, raising
21 parody as a form of criticism protected by fair use under
22 the statute, and with affidavits saying there was no
23 material impairment of the market. And then it shifts
24 back to the plaintiff to burst the bubble of the
25 presumption, if one exists, and show that there was

1 either, A, not a parody, or, A and B, it was not a parody
2 and it did materially impair the market.

3 QUESTION: And what is the presumption you're
4 talking about, the bubble bursting?

5 MR. ROGOW: The presumption is what the Sixth
6 Circuit relied upon, language drawn from this Court's
7 cases in Harper & Row, that there is a presumption of
8 harm.

9 QUESTION: That's not --

10 MR. ROGOW: That's right. The presumption of
11 economic harm if it is a commercial use. But, of course,
12 that was commercial copying, not commercial parody.
13 There's a difference between parody which performs a
14 critical role in society --

15 QUESTION: Well, it seems to me if your view
16 prevails, the judgment of the Sixth Circuit ought to be
17 reversed. But it doesn't seem to me that we ought to
18 direct judgment here for your client, in view of the
19 burden -- the burden of proof as to fair use being on you.

20 MR. ROGOW: And that burden was met, Mr. Chief
21 Justice, by our affidavits. The district judge found that
22 to be so. The dissenting judge in the Sixth Circuit found
23 that to be so. Indeed, in this case what happened is the
24 summary judgment of the trial court was reversed and
25 summary judgment was entered for Acuff-Rose on the very

1 same record that had been tried below.

2 QUESTION: Mr. Rogow, I'm -- there's something I
3 may not understand. If fair use is an affirmative
4 defense, why wasn't the obligation on your client in the
5 summary judgment motion to plead that there was no market
6 for derivative works to be exploited? So that if the
7 record is bare on that, you lose or you should have lost
8 your summary judgment to the extent that that would
9 influence the Court's determination.

10 MR. ROGOW: My client's duty in raising the
11 affirmative defense was to put on evidence that a
12 reasonable person or jury could listen to and believe and
13 conclude there was no material impairment of the market.
14 That was done. It was not specifically directed to other
15 derivative markets and other derivative pleas.

16 QUESTION: But the market to which you -- you
17 referred, I take it, in your affidavits, was simply the
18 market for the original song in the -- in the fashion, the
19 genre in which it was originally recorded, right?

20 MR. ROGOW: That is correct, Justice Souter.

21 QUESTION: It didn't address the question of a
22 market for derivative works at all, is that correct?

23 MR. ROGOW: It did not. But the opposing
24 affidavit did not create a genuine issue with regard to
25 that. The closest they might try --

1 QUESTION: Well, it may not have created a
2 genuine issue, but it still, on the ultimate legal
3 question, left a relevant point black, didn't it?

4 MR. ROGOW: But if -- but if there is no attempt
5 by the plaintiff, really, to fill in that blank and to
6 make that a disputed issue of fact, then the district
7 court could give summary judgment.

8 QUESTION: The plaintiff opposed summary
9 judgment and I'm not clear now on your position about
10 whose burden this fourth factor is. If you raised the --
11 if you raise it there, you as defense, are you now
12 recognizing that it is -- it would be your burden to show
13 the absence of an effect on the market for the copyrighted
14 work?

15 MR. ROGOW: I am, Justice Ginsburg. Some
16 evidence -- some evidence to make that showing. Then the
17 burden would shift back to the plaintiff, sort of like the
18 St. Mary's v. Honor Center --

19 QUESTION: And what was -- what was your
20 evidence with respect to the derivative market, to rap
21 works?

22 MR. ROGOW: There was nothing that specifically
23 addressed a derivative market for rap works. What was --

24 QUESTION: Suppose there would be another rap
25 version of this composition. Would that be a fair use?

1 MR. ROGOW: Not if it was not a parody. I mean
2 the threshold is is this a parody. Just simply a rap
3 version of Oh, Pretty Woman would not qualify under the
4 fair use doctrine. That would be mere copying for a
5 commercial use, and no --

6 QUESTION: Different lyrics, some variation in
7 the musical presentation, whose copyright -- would that
8 infringe anyone's copyright at this stage, suppose there
9 were another version?

10 MR. ROGOW: It would make out a prima facie case
11 for the plaintiff of copyright infringement. The
12 defendant would then have the burden of --

13 QUESTION: Which plaintiff? Suppose we have a
14 rap version now that has different lyrics than the 2 Live
15 Crew, slightly different presentation of the music, and
16 the claim is made this is a parody of the parody?

17 MR. ROGOW: Of the parody. That would be
18 entitled to a fair use claim. There's nothing the matter
19 with making fun of the people making fun of the original.
20 In fact, that is, if we believe in -- in creativity, if we
21 believe in some humor --

22 QUESTION: Does Campbell have a copyright in the
23 parody?

24 MR. ROGOW: He has a copyright on the album,
25 which would include, presumably, the parody.

1 QUESTION: Is the underlying theory of your case
2 that if there is a market to be exploited, in this case
3 280,000 copies, and it can be exploited best through a
4 parody, that it is essentially fair that the person who
5 creates the parody receives 100 percent of the profit?

6 MR. ROGOW: No. The thrust of my case, Justice
7 Kennedy, is not that. The thrust of my case is that if a
8 parody is a creative, true parodic work, then is it -- it
9 is entitled to be called a fair use unless there is
10 evidence that it has materially impaired or supplanted the
11 market for the original.

12 The original does not hold the absolute right to
13 preclude any other use of that original work. And the
14 fact that 280,000 or 2,000 records were sold is not the
15 decisive fact here. The decisive fact is that the court
16 below applied a presumption that if it's commercial, it
17 cannot be a fair use. That simply is wrong.

18 QUESTION: Thank you, Mr. Rogow.

19 Mr. Rosdeitcher.

20 ORAL ARGUMENT OF SIDNEY S. ROSDEITCHER

21 ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT

22 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Mr. Chief Justice, and may it
23 please the Court:

24 The argument I just heard seems to have omitted
25 three decisions of this Court. And I'd like to talk about

1 those three decisions, and those were Sony, Harper & Row,
2 and Stewart v. Abend. In each of those opinions this
3 Court, presumably looking at the first factor, namely the
4 factor of purpose and character of the use, stated
5 unequivocally that every commercial use of copyrighted
6 material is presumptively unfair.

7 Now, there's been no discussion of that here,
8 and in fact it's overlooked. In the petitioner's view
9 once it's a parody you look to the impairment of the
10 market. And I'm going to come to impairment of the
11 market, because there's substantial evidence of impairment
12 of the derivative market, including the market for rap
13 versions.

14 But I'd like to talk about the significance of
15 that commercial presumption.

16 QUESTION: That was in dictum, wasn't it? That
17 was not a holding.

18 MR. ROSDEITCHER: That was in dictum in -- yes,
19 it was in dictum in each of the cases. But in Harper &
20 Row it was not in dictum. As I recall, in Harper & Row
21 they applied that presumption to the work. And it was in
22 dictum in Sony. And it was not in dictum in Stewart and
23 Abend. Indeed in Stewart v. Abend, it was applied in a
24 very straightforward fashion. The Court said Hitchcock
25 and Stewart made \$12 million on Rear Window and that was

1 enough to meet the presumption.

2 But my view of the presumption is a little
3 subtler than I think petitioners give us credit for, or
4 even give the Sixth Circuit credit for. And the Sixth
5 Circuit could have been clearer on this, I acknowledge,
6 but I believe that the commercial use presumption means
7 something like this. You have to look at the
8 commerciality to see what purpose the so-called parodist
9 or news reporter or critic or comment -- commentator is
10 doing.

11 There's a wonderful article by Judge LaValle in
12 which he modestly reassesses his own opinion on the
13 Salinger letters case, and he acknowledges he made an
14 error. He was ultimately reversed by the Second Circuit,
15 but he acknowledges he made an error. He said the letters
16 were being used for purposes of biography. But he saw
17 something else in reviewing the record, and that was that
18 the letters were also being used to dazzle, to have a good
19 read, just not for the purpose of biography, but to sell
20 the work for the expressive value of the underlying
21 copyrighted material.

22 That's what happened in Harper & Row. The
23 Nation was engaged in news reporting, but the court said
24 that the Nation went further and was expressing -- and was
25 exploiting the 300 words taken verbatim from President

1 Ford's book for their expressive value so that people
2 would know it's Ford speaking.

3 Now, that's what happened here. They took my
4 client's music, partly for parody, let's assume that. I
5 will -- if you want me, I can talk about the definition of
6 parody.

7 QUESTION: Well, we do have -- we do take this
8 case on the assumption on that there was a parody.

9 MR. ROSDEITCHER: And I'm accepting that.

10 QUESTION: You dispute that. But I think as it
11 comes to us, we're not getting into that. Is that right?

12 MR. ROSDEITCHER: I want to leave with that,
13 yes, Your Honor.

14 QUESTION: Yes.

15 MR. ROSDEITCHER: But they took the music not
16 just for parody. When you look at this record -- and the
17 best thing in the record is to listen to the two tapes --
18 you see that they were doing something more. After all,
19 they were selling a rap album. There's no suggestion
20 anywhere in this record that they were selling a parody
21 record. They were selling a rap album to what they
22 acknowledge, according to their expert -- and I'll come to
23 the use -- utility of his affidavits.

24 But according to their expert, and they adopt
25 that view, that the record was being sold to an

1 audience -- what they described as an audience of urban
2 black youth or disaffected black urban youth. We dispute
3 that the parody -- that the rap music is so limited. But
4 that's what they say. Not that it was directed to a
5 parody audience, but directed to a wide audience for rap
6 music.

7 Rap music is danceable music. Rap music needs
8 music. And they took our music. Now how do we know
9 that --

10 QUESTION: Well, now, just let's stop a moment
11 and inquire. Suppose you had somebody who -- who simply
12 writes critical commentary -- very straightforward, not a
13 parody -- about somebody else's work and he wants to sell
14 his critical piece. Can it be a fair use?

15 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Yes.

16 QUESTION: It's perfectly commercial.

17 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Yes, it can be a fair use.

18 QUESTION: They have to rely, in part, on what
19 was said in the original that he's -- he's criticizing and
20 writing about.

21 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Right, but in the -- correct.
22 And I'm not saying that the mere fact that they made a
23 profit is enough to change the equation. What I'm saying
24 is --

25 QUESTION: And the market might be quite

1 different for the critical work. It might be a separate
2 market, in a sense.

3 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Yes. But let me go back to
4 Judge LaValle's example and then we use our example. The
5 author was using the Salinger letters for a biography, but
6 as he pointed out, they went further, they took too much.

7 QUESTION: Wait a minute, I didn't quite get it.
8 The Salinger letters?

9 MR. ROSDEITCHER: The Salinger letters case, the
10 Second Circuit in the Southern District. And we refer to
11 a -- we refer to the case in our brief. Judge LaValle
12 said that his mistake was in not recognizing that they did
13 more than just take enough to serve the interests of
14 biography. They were anxious to sell the beauty and
15 dazzling quality of the letter.

16 And what I'm saying in this case is it's not
17 just that they profited from the parody. They profited
18 here, in addition, because they needed music and they
19 needed dazzling, good music, and they took one of the
20 great rock and roll classics --

21 QUESTION: Well, that sounds like -- that sounds
22 like an argument that it shouldn't have been held to be a
23 parody because too much was taken, and I thought we had
24 gotten over that.

25 MR. ROSDEITCHER: No, we -- well, if that's,

1 Your Honor.

2 QUESTION: I thought we had accepted the fact
3 that this was a parody.

4 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Your Honor, you can have a
5 parody that takes too much. That is, I can write a
6 parody. And, indeed, that's what I'm fearful of. I think
7 that is the great danger. One can write parodic lyrics
8 and take all the music or most of the music, and sell and
9 sell and profit by and exploit and take advantage of the
10 music. And as Justice Kennedy suggested, on their
11 conclusion that it's fair use, they get the profit, they
12 get a copyright on their recording. They presumably will
13 claim a copyright on the derivative work that we can't,
14 because it's allegedly fair use and fair game, so that
15 anybody, any other rap artist --

16 QUESTION: Why isn't -- why isn't a parody of
17 the whole thing more persuasive than just a few phrases?
18 I mean, if you're going to have parody as a fair use at
19 all, it seems to me you might be much more effective using
20 the whole thing than just a phrase.

21 MR. ROSDEITCHER: That's because, Your Honor, I
22 think we have to go back and do some balancing. And this
23 came up earlier in the Chief Justice's remarks which were
24 made so well in Harper & Row. But the copyright
25 protection itself is an engine of free expression and is

1 designed to encourage dissemination of ideas and
2 creativity. In this case, if you allow the taking of as
3 much as they took -- and could I take a moment to give you
4 what I think are the salient facts to tell you what's
5 going on?

6 This -- what's going on in this case is not
7 about parody. I'll accept there's a parody there. This
8 case is about selling rap music by -- in the words of one
9 of the scholars that we refer to, Professor Light or Mr.
10 Light, in an article in the South Atlantic Quarterly which
11 is referred in our brief, much of rap is -- much of rap is
12 sold by fusing a street message, as Mr. Light says, with
13 pop music.

14 And he gives a wonderful example of how this
15 whole phenomenon started, and it gives -- and it throws
16 light on what's happened here. There was a very famous
17 hard rock song called Walk This Way by Aerosmith. Another
18 group, another rap group, Run DMC, decided that they would
19 change that into a rap song. They actually hired the
20 guitarist from the Aerosmith group to do it and they did
21 it. They made a rap song with hard rock music and they
22 sold it -- it was the greatest rap hit, at that time,
23 ever.

24 And I'd like to read you what Mr. Light
25 concludes from this and how he describes what happened

1 thereafter in rap. "Rap was established as a viable pop
2 form, at least as long as its connections to the
3 traditional rock and roll spirit were made explicit."

4 Now, that's what happened here. Let me just
5 review a few of the very simple facts to show you that
6 what happened here was they took our music in order to
7 have a free ride on our good music and make a profit from
8 our good music.

9 QUESTION: They did, of course, offer to pay for
10 it, didn't they?

11 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Yes.

12 QUESTION: So to the -- and why didn't you
13 accept the offer?

14 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Your Honor, we did not think
15 that was the best vehicle for exploiting the market.

16 QUESTION: You really wanted to prevent this --
17 you really wanted to prevent this music from being
18 distributed at all, as I understand the complain.

19 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Your Honor, my client -- as
20 part of the -- as part of the marketability of the
21 copyrighted work, you have to have the right to say no.

22 QUESTION: I understand.

23 MR. ROSDEITCHER: And if it is not a fair use,
24 we had a right to say no, that this wasn't the way to best
25 exploit the rap market.

1 QUESTION: If you prevail -- if you prevail,
2 would it be an adequate remedy to just give you royalties
3 for the amount of their sales?

4 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Your Honor, I think that would
5 be creating a kind of compulsory license which doesn't
6 exist in this case.

7 QUESTION: Mr. Rosdeitcher, you -- you cited
8 Judge LaValle, and you that's an idea that he put forward,
9 that it -- even if this were found to be taking too much
10 and therefore an infringement, it doesn't follow like the
11 night the day that you would be entitled to stop it, does
12 it?

13 MR. ROSDEITCHER: I'm sorry, Your Honor.

14 QUESTION: It doesn't follow from the fact --
15 even if a court held that this parody took too much and
16 that, looking at the four factors, you win and you
17 establish infringement. But you have featured Judge
18 LaValle and you know he has put forth a very interesting
19 idea that there may be infringements that are not properly
20 subject to injunction because you take into account the
21 value of parody. You take into account First Amendment
22 concerns not simply on the liability side, but on the
23 remedy side.

24 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Your Honor, I'd be -- I'd be
25 very reluctant to follow down -- follow Judge LaValle all

1 the way down that path for this reason. Congress gave
2 very careful consideration to --

3 QUESTION: You take the sweet but not the bitter
4 from him.

5 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Yes.

6 (Laughter.)

7 QUESTION: And why is that so?

8 MR. ROSDEITCHER: And that is because --

9 QUESTION: Why do you find his thinking --

10 MR. ROSDEITCHER: The reason -- I'm sorry. The
11 reason why I don't think I would take it to that length
12 is Congress spent an enormous amount of time -- my
13 colleagues here worked on this -- on the question of the
14 compulsory license and the scope of the compulsory
15 license.

16 Congress has fashioned a compulsory license. If
17 Congress feels that there are additional areas for
18 compulsory licenses, I think that's an area that requires
19 testimony from the music industry, that requires testimony
20 from other people, from parodists, from everyone, so that
21 legislative judgment which was made in the case of songs
22 that do not change the fundamental character of the work
23 are subject to a compulsory license.

24 QUESTION: Mr. Rosdeitcher, I assume you would
25 have given a license if they had offered you enough money

1 for it.

2 (Laughter.)

3 QUESTION: I don't consider that a market
4 failure. They just weren't --

5 MR. ROSDEITCHER: That's entirely possible.

6 QUESTION: -- Willing to pay you enough to
7 induce you to give over the song to that use.

8 MR. ROSDEITCHER: That is entirely possible.
9 And, in fact, Judge -- Justice Scalia.

10 QUESTION: Now we're talking money here, and
11 they didn't give you what you thought was enough to make
12 that worthwhile, so --

13 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Yes.

14 QUESTION: I thought the record was otherwise,
15 that you gave them a flat no, you weren't --

16 MR. ROSDEITCHER: We gave them a flat -- we gave
17 them a flat no. But I wanted to say --

18 QUESTION: You weren't willing to negotiate.

19 MR. ROSDEITCHER: -- That the fact that in this
20 case my client gave them a flat no doesn't mean that
21 somebody else won't bargain. And that question of market
22 failure was never really explored in the record.

23 QUESTION: Nothing in the record shows you knew
24 that they were going to sell 248,000 copies.

25 MR. ROSDEITCHER: The record -- what the record

1 shows -- and I think this is helpful to my notion of
2 exploitation of the underlying work. The record shows
3 this background, and it's the letter attached to Mr.
4 Campbell's affidavit which appears at page -- at page 87
5 of the record.

6 The record shows that two -- and this is, I
7 think, wonderful background to this. They started out by
8 saying that they already had released two albums, and that
9 they were now going to release their third. That the two
10 other albums were very successful commercially, that both
11 of them had gone gold, one of them was close to platinum,
12 that they were high up on the rap charts -- not on the
13 parody charts, on the rap music charts.

14 And they told us if you give us a license at the
15 statutory rate -- which, incidentally, was not applicable
16 here because compulsory license doesn't apply -- we will
17 sell this to hundreds of thousands of new homes. Now,
18 they did have a track record. They had a track record of
19 selling lots and lots of records. Now, my client decided
20 that they did not think this was a good way to exploit
21 this market and exercised their right as copyright owners
22 to say no, a right which is absolutely essential if they
23 are to have a marketable copyright.

24 I take that history and I add to that history
25 the fact that they then took this record, they took our

1 song -- now, the amount of song has been underplayed by
2 petitioners, it's been underplayed by the district court.
3 What they took was, if you -- when you listen to these two
4 tapes, the first thing you hear when you hear the Orbison
5 and Dees record is a wonderful, powerful, dynamic, jolting
6 guitar riff that is so famous and begins that work. That
7 guitar riff then is played throughout the Orbison and Dees
8 work, and then you hear the Pretty Woman melody, which is
9 very familiar.

10 They took the guitar riff. Now, in the Orbison
11 and Dees work they play it 10 times. They played it 16
12 times. At one point they play it 8 times. They played it
13 because it's one of the most wonderful, danceable, dynamic
14 musical works of rock and roll -- this record of Orbison
15 and Dees was one of the all-time hits -- and they played
16 it over and over again to dazzle, to have a good hear, to
17 have a good dance. And then they say we can now profit
18 and free ride on the genius of Roy Orbison and Bill Dees.
19 That's what they were about.

20 When they sold the record, they didn't put
21 parody, they didn't give it another name. They called it
22 Pretty Woman, they dropped the word "Oh." If you look at
23 their letter, they think the name of our song is Pretty
24 Woman. They call it Pretty Woman. They're asking for a
25 license on Pretty Woman.

1 They then say -- it's written by Roy Orbison and
2 Bill Dees. It's published by my client. Let's talk about
3 that in terms of market -- let me turn to market, because
4 I think that shows enough what they were trying to do.
5 They were trying to exploit Pretty Woman by Bill
6 Orbison -- Roy Orbison and Bill Dees.

7 QUESTION: It seems to me it would have -- if
8 they'd been deceptive and had not revealed the true
9 author. Maybe I'm wrong on that, but it does seem to me
10 that the fact they offered to pay you royalties and the
11 fact they were candid about the true origin of the work
12 tends to cut in their favor rather than the other way.
13 Maybe I'm --

14 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Except for this, there's -- I
15 won't dwell on this too much, but there is something
16 disingenuous about this letter. Luther Campbell testified
17 that the record, that is this album, was released in June
18 of 1989. The letter comes to us, and if you read the
19 letter it plainly suggests that we're coming to ask your
20 permission.

21 QUESTION: They attached a check, didn't they,
22 in fact?

23 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Pardon?

24 QUESTION: Wasn't there a check?

25 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Later on. As I understand,

1 the check came later on. In the court proceeding a year
2 later they purported to deposit \$13,000, which they said
3 was the statutory rate, which, incidentally, did not
4 apply, and they deposited it in court. And the check
5 wasn't -- the check was not sent with this letter. The
6 check was deposited in court a year later when we sued
7 them. That's when the check was deposited.

8 QUESTION: Wasn't --

9 QUESTION: You say they purported to deposit. I
10 mean, how do you purport to deposit?

11 MR. ROSDEITCHER: I'm sorry. They did deposit,
12 I'm sorry.

13 QUESTION: They did deposit.

14 (Laughter.)

15 MR. ROSDEITCHER: I'm so used to purported and
16 allegedlies, that I'm --

17 QUESTION: Mr. Rosdeitcher, am I wrong in
18 remembering that in one of the cases that you referred to,
19 the Rear Window case.

20 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Yes.

21 QUESTION: Wasn't that a case where there was no
22 injunction, there was damages but no injunction?

23 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Your Honor, I just don't
24 recall. I'd have to look at the case, but I just don't
25 recall. They may -- that may be.

1 And if it please the Court, I'd like to go on to
2 two points before I finish. One is the impairment of the
3 market issue and the other is the procedural posture of
4 this case which is kind of interesting; who gets summary
5 judgment or should anybody get summary judgment.

6 On the impairment of the market, the Court asked
7 earlier was there any evidence in the record of a market
8 for a rap version of our song. Well, of course -- of
9 course there's evidence in the record. There's
10 indisputable evidence in the record. 248,000 albums, as
11 of the date of the motion for summary judgment, containing
12 our song were sold to a rap market. By their letter,
13 that's what they were aimed at and that's what they were
14 selling to.

15 There's other evidence in the record, in Mr.
16 Flowers' affidavit he reports that the Brothers Make 3
17 told us that they had sampled, which means they
18 duplicated, the entire chorus section of our song to use
19 it as a hook, meaning something catchy to attract people,
20 in a rap song that they were doing, and then they asked
21 for a license. And so there's evidence, plain evidence
22 that there's a rap market for our song.

23 The articles that we cite show that there's a
24 vast market for rock and roll music of our kind in --

25 QUESTION: Mr. Rosdeitcher, in the -- I presume

1 there were reviews in various periodicals of the rap
2 version? Does the record show that?

3 MR. ROSDEITCHER: The record -- unfortunately,
4 the record doesn't show any of that, Your Honor.

5 QUESTION: I'd be curious to know whether it was
6 recognized in those reviews as a parody or just another
7 rap or music.

8 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Your Honor, I -- if I can go
9 off the record, I originally bought this record when I was
10 in the running for coming onto this case. I went into Sam
11 Goody and I went to the rap section and I pulled this off
12 the shelf next to 2 Live Crew's other rap songs. That's
13 where the -- that's where it's viewed. That's where it's
14 sold.

15 So there's no question that there's a rap market
16 and that they exploited it and that that injures us. That
17 injures a potential market that we have. The standard --

18 QUESTION: Well, counsel, do we look to the
19 market for the original work and whether that's
20 supplanted?

21 MR. ROSDEITCHER: No.

22 QUESTION: Do you agree that that's what we look
23 to?

24 MR. ROSDEITCHER: No, if you define original
25 work as the original Roy Orbison recording. The

1 original --

2 QUESTION: And all its derivatives.

3 MR. ROSDEITCHER: And all it's -- if you look at
4 all of its derivatives --

5 QUESTION: We don't look at the market for
6 parodies.

7 MR. ROSDEITCHER: You look at the market. In
8 this case you look at the market for rap. And I'm
9 prepared to look at that market for rap because they've
10 made a case. They, themselves, have made the case that
11 there is a rap market for a rap version of our rock and
12 roll classic. We have in the record on page -- on page
13 326(a) and 327(a), evidence of the interest of a rap group
14 called the Brothers Make 3 in making a rap version of our
15 song and fusing our music.

16 And then the literature it replete with evidence
17 that this is a classic way in which rap music is given a
18 mainstream appeal. So there is a rap market. And then --
19 then you have to ask yourself what's the evidence of any
20 potential injury?

21 Now, they had the burden of proof here. They
22 did not carry the burden of proof. They put in two
23 affidavits Rule 56(e) required them to put in an
24 affidavit containing facts, not conclusions. We talk
25 about this in our brief, but I'll briefly state this. You

1 can't put in an expert's affidavit and say that the
2 expert's affidavit amounts to a fact because the expert
3 makes a conclusion.

4 I thought I would read to you very briefly from
5 the statement by -- give me a moment -- well, I have
6 misplaced it. There's a statement by -- ah, here it is.
7 There's a statement by Justice -- Judge Easterbrook
8 talking about the requirements of Rule 56(e) for expert
9 affidavits. And he points out that the affidavit must do
10 more than present something that would be admissible.

11 They shall, quote, set forth facts, and by
12 implication in the case of experts who are not fact
13 witnesses, a process of reasoning beginning from a firm
14 foundation. And he goes on to say that an expert who
15 supplies nothing but a bottom line supplies nothing of
16 value to the judicial process. Now there -- that comes
17 from Mid-State Fertilizer v. Exchange National Bank, 877
18 Fed 2nd, 1333, at page 1339.

19 Now, that -- that is exactly what you'll find
20 when you look at Oscar Brand's and Krasilovsky's
21 affidavit. They talk about this having different
22 audiences. First of all, they're obviously talking about
23 the Roy Orbison recording, which Mr. Brand strangely calls
24 a country music record. Fortunately, petitioners, who are
25 savvy music people, themselves in their brief at page 34

1 and 36 recognize that the Orbison work is a classic rock
2 and roll work.

3 QUESTION: Counsel, the district court, it seems
4 to me, found that the 2 Live Crew version was a parody and
5 that Acuff-Rose could still market a rap version, that it
6 wasn't affecting that.

7 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Well, he applied the wrong
8 standard. He did -- he did two things, Your Honor. One,
9 he mistakenly accepted these conclusory affidavits as
10 56(e) affidavits. They were not. And so he started from
11 the position that there were different audiences and he
12 was wrong.

13 And then he said that 2 Live Crew -- I mean that
14 my client had the burden of showing that they were
15 actually prevented. Now, this Court made it clear in
16 Sony, and it made it clear again -- it made it clear in
17 Sony when it set out the standards of proof. It said in
18 the case -- on economic harm, in a case where you have
19 commercial use -- and here you have commercial use in
20 spades. In a case where you have --

21 QUESTION: Well, do you think that a commercial
22 use can ever be a fair use?

23 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Yes, some commercial uses can
24 be fair uses. But --

25 QUESTION: If we think the Sixth Circuit didn't

1 give enough room at the joints, so to speak, for dealing
2 with the commercial nature so that it's a factor, but it
3 isn't the be all and end all, you still have to weigh it,
4 what should we do here, send it back?

5 MR. ROSDEITCHER: No, you should affirm the
6 judgment. You could affirm the judgment. And if the law
7 and the facts support the judgment of the Sixth Circuit,
8 which we maintain they do, then under United States v. New
9 York Telephone and other cases this Court has decided, you
10 can firm the affirm the judgment.

11 QUESTION: Well, I guess we could also say they
12 were -- they fell off on putting total stress on the
13 commercial use and we think they ought to take another
14 look.

15 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Can I come back to this
16 commercial use now, then. First of all, I think there is
17 a situation where commercial use may actually sweep the
18 boards on all of the factors. In this case, we showed not
19 just that they made a profit from the parody, but that
20 when you take the amount they used it; the way they
21 displayed it; how they played this music not just a
22 background to the singing of the lyrics, but in wonderful
23 virtuosity and displays and dazzling displays in the
24 middle and at the end; that they were selling this music.
25 It reflected also in how they marketed it.

1 Now, in that circumstance, I believe that the --
2 that it is not a fair use. That is the fair use exception
3 was never intended to reward someone --

4 QUESTION: May I ask you one question there
5 about the similarity of the two works and so forth? Do
6 you think their version changed the basic melody or
7 fundamental character of the work, within the meaning of
8 the statute?

9 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Yes.

10 QUESTION: It did change the melody.

11 MR. ROSDEITCHER: It changed it --

12 QUESTION: But it didn't entirely supplant it.

13 MR. ROSDEITCHER: It changed it but it -- it
14 effected -- it created a record which would compete with
15 any rap version we would create. It changed it --

16 QUESTION: What would you say if another group
17 used a rap version but didn't change the words at all, but
18 changed it from rock to rap? Would that be -- could they
19 have gotten a compulsory license or would that have
20 changed the fundamental character?

21 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Probably. I'd have to listen
22 to it. But it could be that another -- that there could
23 be a rap compulsory license version of our song. I'd have
24 to hear the song.

25 QUESTION: But as long as there's a parody

1 element in it, it can't be, is that it?

2 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Well, it could be parody.

3 But, you know, rap has many messages. Rap has -- rap has
4 humor. It has acerbic -- it has an acerbic criticism of
5 society. According to the record, 2 Live Crew has a
6 message --

7 QUESTION: I understand. But the thing that's
8 in the back of my mind is you seem to be categorically
9 confident that there could be no compulsory license here.

10 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Yes.

11 QUESTION: And it seems to me -- I'm not quite
12 clear on where the line between --

13 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Let me tell you -- let me tell
14 you why I think --

15 QUESTION: Does compulsory license include words
16 or just music?

17 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Yes, yes, because the --

18 QUESTION: Just changing the words would --
19 would destroy it, whether you changed it to make it a
20 parody or not. That alone would deny the compulsory
21 license, wouldn't it?

22 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Yes. And the statute talks
23 about an arrangement that changes the fundamental
24 character of the work, and work is defined in the statute
25 under section 101 as the music and the words. So if they

1 change either fundamentally -- they plainly change the
2 words.

3 QUESTION: But it has -- but it has to be
4 fundamental change.

5 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Yes. And changing --

6 QUESTION: But you can't change -- just leave
7 out the "Oh" from "Oh, Pretty Woman," that wouldn't be
8 enough?

9 MR. ROSDEITCHER: No, no.

10 (Laughter.)

11 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Let me -- I have a moment, I
12 see. Let me just quickly run to the procedural issue.
13 They're not entitled to summary judgment. All they do is
14 say it's fair use, that it's a parody. They say it's a
15 parody. We'll accept that it's a parody. They don't get
16 into the commercial issue as we have done, and they don't
17 properly look at the proper market.

18 They put in an affidavit which doesn't meet
19 these standards of rule 56(e). It's irrelevant in any
20 event because it doesn't address derivative works, so it's
21 worthless.

22 And then the question is do we -- are we
23 entitled to summary judgment.

24 QUESTION: You didn't ask for it in the district
25 court, did you?

1 MR. ROSDEITCHER: We didn't ask for it, no. But
2 the -- the judge, relying on the judge in the -- the
3 judges in the Sixth Circuit, relying on Harper & Row, said
4 that they could look at the record, and if the record was
5 such that it was plain that the ultimate question here of
6 fair use was -- could be answered on undisputed facts,
7 then you could grant summary judgment, and on that basis
8 effectively granted summary judgment.

9 And I think you can do that here. And why do I
10 say that? I think this is -- this is probably the first
11 copyright case that can be decided on the doctrine of res
12 ipsa loquitur. Res ipsa loquitur being the record that
13 they sold, the amount of music that they took, the way
14 that they marketed the song, which creates both the notion
15 that they were exploited our copyrighted song on the one
16 hand, and that they were exploiting a market which we had
17 every right to exploit --

18 QUESTION: Trial counsel was far less sure of
19 that that you are, and never asked -- never asked for
20 summary judgment in the district court.

21 QUESTION: Why didn't they ask for summary
22 judge -- I don't know. I wasn't -- I wasn't there at the
23 time. The strategy in the district court, as I saw it
24 from the record, was to establish issues of fact. I,
25 frankly, do not feel there are issues of fact and that the

1 issues here are absolutely clear.

2 But they've exploited our work for a profit,
3 they're freeriding on our music, and that, in addition,
4 they have impaired a market which we are entitled to
5 exploit. And that therefore all of the factors, the first
6 factor being predominantly commercial here because of the
7 exploitation of this music for profit. The second factor,
8 which is basically conceded -- but there's an additional
9 thing to the second factor, the nature of the work.

10 This is music. Music's lifeblood is
11 adaptability. What makes a song in the 1960's a great
12 song may not make it a great song in the 1970's, and as
13 the record shows and one of their briefs shows in the
14 record, we then had the song done in the hard rock style,
15 from the soft rock to the hard rock. And now we're in the
16 eighties and nineties and they've shown that you can now
17 take that rock song and, as many rap artists have done,
18 convert it to --

19 QUESTION: To a rap.

20 MR. ROSDEITCHER: To a rap song.

21 QUESTION: May I ask one last question? At the
22 outset of your argument you acknowledge that you would
23 agree this was a parody. How do you define parody when
24 you make that concession?

25 MR. ROSDEITCHER: I would define parody as

1 the -- some of the limiting cases do, that as a -- I would
2 limit it to parody that is critical of the underlying
3 work, because I think that's a sensible limitation.

4 QUESTION: In your example, I think it was
5 Aerosmith progressed or regressed to rap.

6 MR. ROSDEITCHER: Yes.

7 (Laughter.)

8 QUESTION: What -- under the definition of
9 parody that's been submitted to us, would you not expect
10 that it could be argued that that was a parody?

11 MR. ROSDEITCHER: It could be. In fact, any
12 change in the lyrics that's funny seems to me to be a
13 parody. It makes ridiculous the original situation. It
14 could be read back to criticize the original because if
15 it's funny it's mocking it, poking fun at it, and
16 therefore it would be a parody and it would be fair use
17 and they could profit by it.

18 Thank you, Your Honors.

19 QUESTION: Thank you, Mr. Rosdeitcher.

20 Mr. Rogow, you have 4 minutes remaining.

21 REBUTTAL ARGUMENT OF BRUCE S. ROGOW

22 ON BEHALF OF PETITIONERS

23 MR. ROGOW: Sony and Harper & Row frame this
24 case. Sony says there must be some meaningful likelihood
25 of future harm to the copyright holder, and Harper & Row

1 gives life to that formulation. In Harper & Row the
2 market was supplanted. Time Magazine decided not to pay
3 \$12,500 to Harper & Row because the Nation had taken
4 President Ford's words and published them, copied them
5 without permission.

6 That gives, I think, the framework for deciding
7 this case. Meaningful likelihood of harm, there is none
8 here. I hear this talk about they might want to do a rap
9 version at some point. There's nothing to keep them from
10 licensing a rap version. But this is a parody--

11 QUESTION: No, but Mr. Rosdeitcher is right that
12 the reason people bought this record and the reason the
13 record was sold to them was largely for the music and not
14 for the -- for the subtle parody. Then -- then they have
15 suffered a loss. That money should have been their money
16 rather than your money.

17 MR. ROGOW: Justice Scalia --

18 QUESTION: You're making money from their music,
19 if he's right about that -- about that premise.

20 MR. ROGOW: And there's -- there's no reason to
21 think that he is right. This is 1 cut out of 10 on the
22 record. This album was not named -- the 2 Live Crew album
23 was not named Pretty Woman, it was named As Clean as They
24 Wanna Be. And this was 1 cut out of 10. So this kind of
25 argumentation about what might be, what might have -- what

1 might have occurred, why they sold it, how they sold it,
2 is completely belied by any facts in this record; here's
3 how they could prove their case.

4 QUESTION: You mean it would be a different case
5 if they had packaged this as a separate tape with only the
6 Oh, Pretty Woman on it?

7 MR. ROGOW: Not -- not necessarily. We would
8 still have fair use and we would still argue fair use.
9 But it would look much different in terms of how fair was
10 it, if they were trying to confuse people. But this is
11 not a Lanham Act case. This is a record that's out there.
12 One cut uses Oh, Pretty Woman, and makes fun of Oh, Pretty
13 Woman. Was that fair? We submit it is fair unless they
14 can show that their market was materially impaired,
15 supplanted.

16 And how could they do it? I think this is
17 helpful. They could do it by showing that they had
18 someone to whom they were going to license this. But the
19 truth is they don't want to license this as a parody. And
20 one can understand that. Most authors don't want to give
21 a license to someone to make fun of their work --

22 QUESTION: Don't they simply have to show that
23 there was someone to whom they could license it?

24 MR. ROGOW: And they could --

25 QUESTION: So they don't have to have a license

1 holder nearby. You're talking about market, not a
2 particular market participant.

3 MR. ROGOW: They do need to show, as in Harper &
4 Row v. Nation, that there is some meaningful likelihood
5 that there is someone to whom they would license this.
6 And that is completely --

7 QUESTION: Or you needed to you -- I thought you
8 conceded last time around that there wasn't such a thing,
9 that this is your burden. You have to show that there is
10 no market that they could exploit that you have made an
11 inroad on by virtue of this recording?

12 MR. ROGOW: No, Justice Ginsburg. I won't say
13 that that is our total burden. Our burden is to make some
14 showing that this would not impair their market. The
15 ultimate burden is upon them to show they were injured by
16 the loss of a market, just as Harper & Row showed they
17 were injured by the publication in the Nation.

18 QUESTION: Let me ask just one very brief
19 question. Do you think you were entitled to a compulsory
20 license under the statute?

21 MR. ROGOW: No.

22 QUESTION: You don't.

23 MR. ROGOW: No.

24 CHIEF JUSTICE REHNQUIST: Thank you, Mr. Rogow.
25 The case is submitted.

1 (Whereupon, at 11:06 a.m., the case in the
2 above-entitled matter was submitted.)
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CERTIFICATION

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Luther R. Campbell aka Luke Skywalker, ET AL., Petitioners v. Acuff-Rose

Music, Inc. CASE NO: 92-1292

and that these attached pages constitutes the original transcript of the proceedings for the records of the court.

BY Ann Mari Federico

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