

MAR 01 2012

JS 44C/SDNY
REV. 5/2010

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet.

PLAINTIFFS

DEFENDANTS

WNET, THIRTEEN, et al.

AEREO, INC. f/k/a BAMBOO LABS, INC.

ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, ADDRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUMBER)

ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN)

Jenner & Block LLP, 1099 New York Avenue N.W.,
Washington, DC 20001

CAUSE OF ACTION (CITE THE U.S. CIVIL STATUTE UNDER WHICH YOU ARE FILING AND WRITE A BRIEF STATEMENT OF CAUSE)
(DO NOT CITE JURISDICTIONAL STATUTES UNLESS DIVERSITY)

17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq., for copyright infringement

Has this or a similar case been previously filed in SDNY at any time? No? Yes? Judge Previously Assigned

If yes, was this case Vol Invol. Dismissed. No Yes If yes, give date _____ & Case No. _____

(PLACE AN [x] IN ONE BOX ONLY)

NATURE OF SUIT

	ACTIONS UNDER STATUTES			
	CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	OTHER STATUTES
	PERSONAL INJURY	PERSONAL INJURY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 INSURANCE	<input type="checkbox"/> 310 AIRPLANE	<input type="checkbox"/> 362 PERSONAL INJURY -	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 APPEAL	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 STATE
<input type="checkbox"/> 120 MARINE	<input type="checkbox"/> 315 AIRPLANE PRODUCT	<input type="checkbox"/> 365 PERSONAL INJURY	28 USC 158	REAPPORTIONMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> 130 MILLER ACT	<input type="checkbox"/> 320 ASSAULT, LIBEL &	PRODUCT LIABILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> 423 WITHDRAWAL	<input type="checkbox"/> 410 ANTITRUST
<input type="checkbox"/> 140 NEGOTIABLE	SLANDER	<input type="checkbox"/> 368 ASBESTOS PERSONAL	28 USC 157	<input type="checkbox"/> 430 BANKS & BANKING
<input type="checkbox"/> 150 RECOVERY OF	<input type="checkbox"/> 330 FEDERAL	INJURY PRODUCT		<input type="checkbox"/> 450 COMMERCE
OVERPAYMENT &	EMPLOYERS'	LIABILITY	PROPERTY RIGHTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 460 DEPORTATION
ENFORCEMENT OF	LIABILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> 630 LIQUOR LAWS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 820 COPYRIGHTS	<input type="checkbox"/> 470 RACKETEER INFLU-
JUDGMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> 340 MARINE	<input type="checkbox"/> 640 RR & TRUCK	<input type="checkbox"/> 830 PATENT	ENCED & CORRUPT
<input type="checkbox"/> 151 MEDICARE ACT	<input type="checkbox"/> 345 MARINE PRODUCT	<input type="checkbox"/> 650 AIRLINE REGS	<input type="checkbox"/> 840 TRADEMARK	ORGANIZATION ACT
<input type="checkbox"/> 152 RECOVERY OF	LIABILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> 660 OCCUPATIONAL		(RICO)
DEFAULTED	<input type="checkbox"/> 350 MOTOR VEHICLE	SAFETY/HEALTH	SOCIAL SECURITY	<input type="checkbox"/> 480 CONSUMER CREDIT
STUDENT LOANS	<input type="checkbox"/> 355 MOTOR VEHICLE	<input type="checkbox"/> 690 OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff)	<input type="checkbox"/> 490 CABLE/SATELLITE TV
(EXCL VETERANS)	<input type="checkbox"/> 360 OTHER PERSONAL	LABOR	<input type="checkbox"/> 862 BLACK LUNG (923)	<input type="checkbox"/> 810 SELECTIVE SERVICE
<input type="checkbox"/> 153 RECOVERY OF	INJURY	<input type="checkbox"/> 710 FAIR LABOR	<input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g))	<input type="checkbox"/> 850 SECURITIES/
OVERPAYMENT OF		STANDARDS ACT	<input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID TITLE XV	COMMODITIES/
VETERANS BENEFITS	ACTIONS UNDER STATUTES	LABOR/MGMT	<input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g))	EXCHANGE
<input type="checkbox"/> 160 STOCKHOLDERS SUITS	CIVIL RIGHTS	RELATIONS		<input type="checkbox"/> 875 CUSTOMER
<input type="checkbox"/> 190 OTHER CONTRACT	<input type="checkbox"/> 441 VOTING	REPORTING &	FEDERAL TAX SUITS	CHALLENGE
<input type="checkbox"/> 195 CONTRACT PRODUCT	<input type="checkbox"/> 442 EMPLOYMENT	DISCLOSURE ACT	<input type="checkbox"/> 870 TAXES (U.S. Plaintiff or	12 USC 3410
LIABILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> 443 HOUSING/	RAILWAY LABOR ACT	Defendant)	<input type="checkbox"/> 890 OTHER STATUTORY
<input type="checkbox"/> 198 FRANCHISE	ACCOMMODATIONS	LITIGATION	<input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS-THIRD PARTY	ACTIONS
	<input type="checkbox"/> 444 WELFARE	<input type="checkbox"/> 790 OTHER LABOR	26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 891 AGRICULTURAL ACTS
REAL PROPERTY	<input type="checkbox"/> 445 AMERICANS WITH	SECURITY ACT		<input type="checkbox"/> 892 ECONOMIC
<input type="checkbox"/> 210 LAND CONDEMNATION	DISABILITIES -	IMMIGRATION		STABILIZATION ACT
<input type="checkbox"/> 220 FORECLOSURE	EMPLOYMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> 462 NATURALIZATION		<input type="checkbox"/> 893 ENVIRONMENTAL
<input type="checkbox"/> 230 RENT LEASE &	<input type="checkbox"/> 446 AMERICANS WITH	APPLICATION		MATTERS
EJECTMENT	DISABILITIES -OTHER	<input type="checkbox"/> 463 HABEAS CORPUS-		<input type="checkbox"/> 894 ENERGY
<input type="checkbox"/> 240 TORTS TO LAND	<input type="checkbox"/> 440 OTHER CIVIL RIGHTS	ALIEN DETAINEE		ALLOCATION ACT
<input type="checkbox"/> 245 TORT PRODUCT		OTHER IMMIGRATION		FREEDOM OF
LIABILITY		ACTIONS		INFORMATION ACT
<input type="checkbox"/> 290 ALL OTHER				APPEAL OF FEE
REAL PROPERTY				DETERMINATION
				UNDER EQUAL ACCESS
				TO JUSTICE
				<input type="checkbox"/> 900 CONSTITUTIONALITY
				OF STATE STATUTES

Check if demanded in complaint:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

DO YOU CLAIM THIS CASE IS RELATED TO A CIVIL CASE NOW PENDING IN S.D.N.Y.? IF SO, STATE:

DEMAND \$ _____ OTHER _____ JUDGE _____ DOCKET NUMBER _____

Check YES only if demanded in complaint
JURY DEMAND: YES NO

NOTE: Please submit at the time of filing an explanation of why cases are deemed related.

(PLACE AN x IN ONE BOX ONLY)

ORIGIN

- 1 Original Proceeding
- 2a. Removed from State Court
- 2b. Removed from State Court AND at least one party is pro se.
- 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
- 4 Reinstated or Reopened
- 5 Transferred from (Specify District)
- 6 Multidistrict Litigation
- 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judge Judgment

(PLACE AN x IN ONE BOX ONLY)

BASIS OF JURISDICTION

- 1 U.S. PLAINTIFF
- 2 U.S. DEFENDANT
- 3 FEDERAL QUESTION (U.S. NOT A PARTY)
- 4 DIVERSITY

IF DIVERSITY, INDICATE CITIZENSHIP BELOW. (28 USC 1322, 1441)

CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (FOR DIVERSITY CASES ONLY)

(Place an [X] in one box for Plaintiff and one box for Defendant)

CITIZEN OF THIS STATE	PTF DEF [] []	CITIZEN OR SUBJECT OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY	PTF DEF [] []	INCORPORATED and PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IN ANOTHER STATE	PTF DEF [] []
CITIZEN OF ANOTHER STATE	[] []	INCORPORATED or PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS IN THIS STATE	[] []	FOREIGN NATION	[] []

PLAINTIFF(S) ADDRESS(ES) AND COUNTY(IES)

WNET ~~ABC~~, 450 West 33rd St., New York, NY 10001 (County: New York)
 Fox Television Stations, Inc., 1211 Avenue of the Americas, 21st Floor, New York, NY 10036 (County: New York)
 Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation, 10201 West Pico Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90035 (County: Los Angeles)
 WPIX, Inc., 220 East 42nd Street, New York, NY 20017 (County: New York)
 Univision Television Group, Inc., Glenpointe Centre West, 500 Frank W. Burr Blvd., Teaneck, NJ 07666 (County: Bergen)
 The Univision Network Limited Partnership, 9405 N.W. 41st St., Miami, FL 33178 (County: Miami-Dade)
 Public Broadcasting Service, 2100 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA 22202 (County: Arlington)
 THIRTEEN, 450 West 33rd St., New York, NY 10001 (County: New York)

DEFENDANT(S) ADDRESS(ES) AND COUNTY(IES)

Aereo, Inc., 37-18 Northern Boulevard, Suite 512, Long Island City, NY 11101 (County: Queens)

DEFENDANT(S) ADDRESS UNKNOWN

REPRESENTATION IS HEREBY MADE THAT, AT THIS TIME, I HAVE BEEN UNABLE, WITH REASONABLE DILIGENCE, TO ASCERTAIN THE RESIDENCE ADDRESSES OF THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANTS:

Check one: THIS ACTION SHOULD BE ASSIGNED TO: WHITE PLAINS MANHATTAN
(DO NOT check either box if this a PRISONER PETITION.)

DATE 3/1/2012 SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE IN THIS DISTRICT

RECEIPT #

[] NO
[X] YES (DATE ADMITTED Mo. 2 Yr. 1991)
Attorney Bar Code #SF-8639

Magistrate Judge is to be designated by the Clerk of the Court.

Magistrate Judge _____ is so Designated.

Ruby J. Krajick, Clerk of Court by _____ Deputy Clerk, DATED _____

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT (NEW YORK SOUTHERN)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

WNET, THIRTEEN, FOX TELEVISION)
STATIONS, INC., TWENTIETH CENTURY)
FOX FILM CORPORATION, WPIX, INC.,)
UNIVISION TELEVISION GROUP, INC., THE)
UNIVISION NETWORK LIMITED)
PARTNERSHIP, and PUBLIC)
BROADCASTING SERVICE,)
)
Plaintiffs,)

Civil Action No. _____

**COMPLAINT FOR
INJUNCTIVE RELIEF AND
DAMAGES**

v.

AEREO, INC. f/k/a BAMBOOM LABS, INC.,)
)
Defendant.)
)

FILED
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
12 MAR -1 PM 4:12
S.D. OF N.Y.

Plaintiffs WNET, THIRTEEN, Fox Television Stations, Inc., Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation, WPIX, Inc., Univision Television Group, Inc., The Univision Television Network Limited Partnership, and Public Broadcasting Service (collectively, "Plaintiffs"), by and for their Complaint against Defendant Aereo, Inc. f/k/a Bamboom Labs, Inc. ("Aereo"), aver as follows:

NATURE OF THE CASE

1. On March 14, 2012, in New York City, Aereo will publicly launch an unlicensed service that streams television programming over the Internet to paying subscribers' computers, mobile phones and tablets. Aereo's new service will take broadcast television signals for the New York-area television stations – as Aereo touts "All the broadcasts - NBC, ABC, CBS, PBS, FOX, CW" – and retransmit them over the Internet to Aereo subscribers. Aereo has not licensed this television programming from those who own it. Nor has it sought or received consent from

the television signal owners. Thus, for \$12 a month, Aereo will provide unlimited streams of Plaintiffs' television broadcasts over the Internet in direct competition with Plaintiffs. According to Aereo: "With Aereo you can now watch live, broadcast television online. ... No cable required. ... Watch the Big Game from Anywhere. ... Follow it live from your mobile or tablet."

2. To accomplish this, Aereo claims to have deployed multiple antennas at its facilities in New York to receive over-the-air broadcasts of Plaintiffs' television programming. Aereo converts those broadcasts to a digital format that can be transmitted over the Internet, and then "streams" the broadcasts from Aereo's computer servers, over the Internet, to Aereo's paying subscribers. Aereo's subscribers can receive those unlicensed Internet transmissions and thus watch broadcasts of Plaintiffs' television programming on any Internet-enabled device. Aereo's announced plan is to launch first in New York City, expand nationwide, and eventually worldwide.

3. Copyright law, however, does not permit Aereo to appropriate to itself the value of Plaintiffs' television programming by retransmitting it over the Internet without proper licenses. It simply does not matter whether Aereo uses one big antenna to receive Plaintiffs' broadcasts and retransmit them to subscribers, or "tons" of "tiny" antennas, as Aereo claims it does. No amount of technological gimmickry by Aereo – or claims that it is simply providing a set of sophisticated "rabbit ears" – changes the fundamental principle of copyright law that those who wish to retransmit Plaintiffs' broadcasts may do so only with Plaintiffs' authority. Simply put, Aereo is an unauthorized Internet delivery service that is receiving, converting and retransmitting broadcast signals to its subscribers for a fee.

4. Aereo's conduct constitutes infringement of Plaintiffs' exclusive rights of public performance and reproduction granted under the United States Copyright Act. Aereo's conduct further constitutes unfair competition under the common law of the State of New York.

5. The rights to transmit Plaintiffs' programming over the Internet and to portable devices are extremely valuable. Plaintiffs ask that the Court enjoin Aereo's unauthorized Internet television service and award damages arising out of Aereo's unlawful conduct.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

6. This is a civil action seeking injunctive relief and damages for copyright infringement under the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*, and unfair competition under New York common law.

7. This Court has original subject matter jurisdiction over the Copyright Act claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1338(a), and has pendent jurisdiction over the state law unfair competition claim under 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

8. This Court has personal jurisdiction over Aereo because Aereo does continuous and systematic business in New York and this District, N.Y. C.P.L.R. § 301. Personal jurisdiction over Aereo is also proper under N.Y. C.P.L.R. § 302(a)(1)-(3).

9. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391 and 1400(a) because, among other things, a substantial part of the acts of infringement and unfair competition complained of herein occurs in this District.

PLAINTIFFS AND PLAINTIFFS' BUSINESSES

10. Plaintiffs include a broad array of parties injured by Aereo's unlawful conduct. They include owners of both commercial and non-commercial educational stations whose programming Aereo is illegally streaming over the Internet, as well as owners and distributors of the live programming, television series, movies, and non-commercial and educational programs that are broadcast by the affected stations.

11. Plaintiff WNET ("WNET") is a New York non-profit educational corporation chartered by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York. WNET is the licensee of non-commercial, educational television stations WNET(TV) and WLIW(TV), both of which transmit programming over-the-air in the New York market. Cable and satellite services also make WNET(TV) and WLIW(TV) programming available to their subscribers at the request of WNET under Sections 338 and 615 of the Communications Act.

12. Plaintiff THIRTEEN (formerly known as Educational Broadcasting Corporation) is a New York non-profit educational corporation chartered by the Board of Regents of the State of New York. THIRTEEN is a wholly-owned subsidiary of plaintiff WNET. THIRTEEN is actively engaged in the production and distribution of television programs, including the award-winning productions American Masters, Cyberchase, Great Performances, and Nature, and holds or shares copyrights with respect to these productions. THIRTEEN produces or co-produces approximately one-third of the programming distributed in the United States by PBS to its member stations.

13. Plaintiff Fox Television Stations, Inc. ("Fox Stations") owns and operates many local broadcast television stations that are actively engaged in the production and distribution of television programs and other copyrighted works in the United States and elsewhere. Among the

stations owned and operated by Fox Stations are the television stations WNYW and WWOR-TV, the signals of which are received over-the-air by viewers in the New York market. The FCC has licensed Fox Stations to operate WNYW and WWOR-TV. Cable systems, satellite services and other multichannel video programming distributors also make WNYW and WWOR-TV transmissions available to their subscribers upon negotiating the right to do so under Section 325(b) of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 325(b).

14. Plaintiff Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation (“Fox”), together with its affiliates, is actively engaged in the worldwide production and distribution of copyrighted entertainment products, including programs that television broadcast stations and other media outlets transmit or retransmit to the public.

15. Plaintiff WPIX, Inc. (“WPIX”) is the licensee of television station WPIX, New York, New York. WPIX is the CW Network affiliate in the New York market and transmits programming over-the-air in that market. Cable systems, satellite services and other multichannel video programming distributors also make WPIX transmissions available to their subscribers upon negotiating for the right to do so under Section 325(b) of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 325(b).

16. Plaintiff Univision Television Group, Inc. (“UTG”) owns and operates many local broadcast television stations, which are actively engaged in the production and distribution of television programs and other copyrighted works in the United States and elsewhere. Among the UTG stations is the television station WXTV-DT (“WXTV”), the signal of which is received by viewers over-the-air in the New York market. The FCC has authorized a subsidiary of UTG to operate WXTV. Cable systems, satellite services and other multichannel video programming

distributors also make WXTV transmissions available to their subscribers upon negotiating for the right to do so under Section 325(b) of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 325(b).

17. Plaintiff The Univision Network Limited Partnership (“UNLP”), together with its affiliates, is actively engaged in the worldwide production and distribution of copyrighted entertainment products, including programs that television broadcast stations and other media outlets transmit or retransmit to the public. UNLP’s copyrighted programming is aired on UTG stations, including WXTV.

18. Plaintiff Public Broadcasting Service (“PBS”) is a District of Columbia non-profit corporation. PBS’s mission is to promote the advancement of education, culture and citizenship, and in furtherance of its mission, PBS uses television, the Internet and other media. PBS acquires and distributes a wide range of non-commercial television and video programming on behalf of its member stations featuring educational, cultural and entertainment topics. PBS’s members include virtually all of the public television stations in the United States, including WNET and WLIW in the New York market.

19. Plaintiffs are the legal or beneficial owners of the copyrights in numerous programs that have been, or will be, exhibited over broadcast television stations in the New York market. A non-exhaustive list identifying representative samples of such television programs is set forth in Exhibit A (“TV Programs”).

20. Each such TV Program is an original audiovisual work that has been or will be fixed in a tangible medium of expression and constitutes copyrightable subject matter within the meaning of Section 102 of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 102. Each such TV Program has been or will be registered with the United States Copyright Office, or is or will be the subject of an application for registration filed with the Copyright Office.

21. Under Section 106 of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 106, Plaintiffs have the exclusive rights, among other things, to “reproduce the copyrighted work,” to “perform the copyrighted work publicly,” and to authorize any such activities. 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(1), (4).

22. Plaintiffs perform or authorize the performance of the TV Programs and other copyrighted works in the United States and elsewhere via broadcast, cable and satellite television. Plaintiffs also perform or authorize the performance of their audiovisual works via the Internet, mobile networks and otherwise.

23. Plaintiffs have invested and continue to invest substantial sums of money, as well as time, effort and creative talent, to create, manufacture, advertise, promote, sell, distribute, perform, and authorize others to distribute and perform Plaintiffs’ copyrighted audiovisual works. Plaintiffs additionally have invested substantially in the broadcasting infrastructure through which Plaintiffs deliver their copyrighted works to licensees and the public. Plaintiffs are compensated for their creative efforts and monetary investments largely from advertising, carriage on cable and satellite systems, and from the licensing, sale, distribution and performance of their audiovisual works, including authorized online distribution and performance.

DEFENDANT AND DEFENDANT’S BUSINESS

24. Defendant Aereo operates an Internet television service that (a) captures live broadcast television programming, including programming of stations broadcasting Plaintiffs’ works, (b) processes the programming of those captured signals in its data center for retransmission to the public via Internet streaming, and (c) streams that programming over the Internet to members of the public for viewing on web-enabled devices. These devices include personal computers, mobile phones such as the iPhone and Android phones, and tablet computers including the iPad.

NATURE OF DEFENDANT'S UNLAWFUL CONDUCT

25. On information and belief, Aereo began testing its online television business in April 2011, when it began offering an “invitation-only beta” test of the Aereo service to residents of New York and Connecticut.

26. On February 14, 2012, Aereo announced that it would open its service to the public on March 14, 2012. That same day, Aereo began offering subscriptions to New York City residents through its website www.aereo.com. The subscriptions will become active on March 14 and will cost \$12 per month after an initial 30-day free trial.

27. In press conferences and media interviews, Aereo has stated its intent to expand to other television markets across the United States.

28. Aereo has designed, developed and operates specialized systems as part of its online television business, and has full knowledge of, and control over, how those systems work. Aereo has described the systems used in its online television business as “incredibly complex,” and has not permitted Plaintiffs the opportunity to see its systems in action or learn details of how they actually work.

29. Based on information and belief, Aereo has established one or more facilities in the New York metropolitan area at which Aereo receives programming broadcast on local television stations, including but not limited to WPIX, WNET, WLIW, WNYW, WWOR, WXTV, and WFUT. Aereo then transmits those broadcasts to its data center(s), where it encodes the programming for Internet transmission and then streams the programming over the Internet to its subscribers. Aereo makes these Internet streams, including retransmissions of the TV Programs, available to Aereo subscribers 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Indeed, Aereo’s website confirms that the Aereo service streams to Aereo users “[a]ll the broadcasts - NBC, ABC, CBS, PBS, FOX, CW & over 20 local channels,” including “Your Favorite Shows.”

30. When Aereo retransmits the images and accompanying sounds of Plaintiffs' copyrighted audiovisual works to subscribers of the Aereo service, it performs Plaintiffs' copyrighted works publicly in violation of Plaintiffs' exclusive rights under Section 106(4) of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 106(4).

31. The public performance right provides the economic foundation upon which the television production and distribution industries rest. Program suppliers such as PBS, Fox, and UNLP license their works for public performance through various distributors, including broadcast networks and broadcast stations. Program suppliers and broadcasters produce and license works for public performance on cable and satellite television, as well as over the Internet and through other media.

32. The Copyright Act's right of public performance applies broadly to television distribution. Congress described the public performance right as extending to "not only the initial rendition or showing, but also any further act by which that rendition or showing is transmitted or communicated to the public." H.R. Rep. No. 94-1476, at 63 (1976). As examples Congress indicated that "a broadcasting network is performing when it transmits [a] performance; a local broadcaster is performing when it transmits the network broadcast; [and] a cable television system is performing when it retransmits the broadcast to its subscribers" *Id.* Congress emphasized that a performance may be accomplished by "all kinds of equipment for reproducing or amplifying sounds or visual images, and . . . systems not yet in use or even invented." *Id.*

33. Congress described the concept of "public" performance in similarly broad terms. In particular, a public performance includes "acts that transmit or otherwise communicate a performance . . . of the work to the public by means of any device or process." *Id.* at 64.

Congress explained that such transmission “include[s] all conceivable forms and combinations of wired or wireless communications media, including but by no means limited to radio and television broadcasting as we know them.” *Id.* It added that “[e]ach and every method by which the images or sounds comprising a performance ... are picked up and conveyed is a ‘transmission,’ and *if the transmission reaches the public in any form*, the case comes within the scope of” the public performance right. *Id.* (emphasis added). Indeed, the Copyright Act explicitly provides that a transmission of a performance is public even if members of the public receive the transmission in separate places and at different times. 17 U.S.C. § 101.

34. Plaintiffs have never authorized Aereo to make public performances of their copyrighted works, and Aereo has expressly and rightly disclaimed entitlement to any statutory performance license.

35. Accordingly, whenever Aereo captures and retransmits a broadcast of Plaintiffs’ copyrighted works, it infringes Plaintiffs’ exclusive right of public performance.

36. As part of Aereo’s process of encoding live television broadcasts for Internet retransmission and making such retransmissions, Aereo also reproduces Plaintiffs’ copyrighted works in violation of Plaintiffs’ exclusive rights under Section 106(1) of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 106(1).

37. To perform such encoding and retransmission, Aereo must reproduce programming transmitted by broadcasters, including the TV Programs, on computers at its facilities. On information and belief, these copies persist for a period of more than transitory duration.

38. Plaintiffs have never authorized Aereo or its subscribers to make reproductions of their copyrighted works.

39. Accordingly, whenever Aereo or its subscribers reproduce any of Plaintiffs' copyrighted works in connection with Aereo's retransmission of live broadcasts of those works over the Internet, Aereo infringes Plaintiffs' exclusive reproduction rights.

40. By commercially exploiting Plaintiffs' programming without authorization, Aereo seeks to compete directly with Plaintiffs and their lawful licensees and authorized retransmitters, and further take advantage of and undermine Plaintiffs' substantial creative and financial investment in the creation and broadcast of their programming and broadcasts. Aereo further free rides on Plaintiffs' substantial investment in their broadcasting infrastructures. Aereo is willfully, wantonly and unfairly exploiting Plaintiffs' programming and broadcasts for its own commercial benefit.

41. Aereo's infringing and unlawful conduct is causing and will cause Plaintiffs substantial and irreparable injury by, among other things, undermining their business relationships with, and Plaintiffs' ability to license their content to, both traditional transmitters of television programming and new services that deliver television programming and motion pictures to portable devices via the Internet. These services include Internet-only services such as iTunes and Hulu, and authorized offerings by cable, satellite, broadband, and mobile telecommunications providers. Aereo's conduct thus interferes with Plaintiffs' current relationships with these companies and with Plaintiffs' ability to license these and other companies going forward. Aereo's conduct also interferes with Plaintiffs' own websites, from which Plaintiffs stream their content. In addition, Aereo's conduct prevents Plaintiffs from enforcing their standards for high quality and security that are an integral part of Plaintiffs' decision-making concerning any licensing or distribution of their works. Furthermore, Plaintiffs will lose the ability to measure viewership of their programming by Aereo subscribers, which

will adversely affect Plaintiffs' ability to sell advertising, obtain sponsorships, and otherwise derive value from their programming. In short, Aereo's unlawful conduct injures Plaintiffs' ability to use their programming for their own benefit.

COUNT I

(Copyright Infringement – Infringement of the Public Performance Right In Violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(4), 501)

42. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 - 41 as if set forth herein.

43. Aereo, without the permission or consent of Plaintiffs, has publicly performed and will publicly perform Plaintiffs' copyrighted audiovisual works, including but not limited to the works listed in Exhibit A hereto, by transmitting live television broadcast programming over the Internet to Aereo's subscribers.

44. Aereo is directly liable for these acts of infringement under the Copyright Act. Aereo causes and carries out the unauthorized public performance of Plaintiffs' audiovisual works. Aereo publicly performs the works by retransmitting them from the point of reception to Aereo's data center and from Aereo's data center to subscribers of Aereo's service over the Internet.

45. Such public performance of audiovisual works constitutes infringement of Plaintiffs' exclusive rights under copyright in violation of 17 U.S.C. § 106(4).

46. The infringement of Plaintiffs' rights in each of their copyrighted audiovisual works constitutes a separate and distinct act of infringement.

47. Aereo's acts of infringement are willful, intentional and purposeful, in disregard of and with indifference to the rights of Plaintiffs.

48. Aereo's conduct is causing and, unless enjoined by this Court, will continue to cause Plaintiffs great and irreparable injury that cannot fully be compensated or measured in money. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law. Pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 502, Plaintiffs are entitled to a permanent injunction prohibiting infringement of Plaintiffs' copyrights and exclusive rights under copyright.

COUNT II

(Copyright Infringement – Infringement of the Reproduction Right In Violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(1), 501)

49. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1 - 48 and as if set forth herein.

50. Aereo, without the permission or consent of Plaintiffs, has reproduced and will reproduce Plaintiffs' copyrighted audiovisual works, including but not limited to the works listed in Exhibit A hereto, by making copies of such works when Aereo encodes live broadcast programming for Internet transmission and makes such transmissions.

51. Aereo is directly liable for these acts of infringement under the Copyright Act. Aereo causes and carries out the unauthorized copying of Plaintiffs' audiovisual works by reproducing those works onto Aereo's computer servers as part of the process of retransmitting live broadcasts of performances of Plaintiffs' programming.

52. Such reproduction of audiovisual works constitutes infringement of Plaintiffs' exclusive rights under copyright in violation of 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(1) and 501.

53. Alternatively, Aereo is secondarily liable for each such act of infringement under Sections 106(1) and 501 of the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. §§ 106(1), 501, including but not limited to infringement of the works listed in Exhibit A hereto.

54. Aereo purposefully and intentionally induces and encourages such infringement by providing the Aereo service with the object of promoting its use to reproduce copies of

broadcast television programming, virtually all of which is copyrighted. Aereo operates the Aereo service with the object that its subscribers will infringe the copyrights in such programming by making reproductions of broadcast programming in the ordinary operation of the Aereo service.

55. Aereo is additionally liable for contributory infringement as to such reproductions because (a) Aereo has knowledge of the programming reproduced, that such programming is copyrighted, and that such programming is reproduced in the systems Aereo has created, and (b) Aereo causes or materially contributes to such infringement by providing the site and facilities for the infringing reproductions in connection with the operation of the Aereo service.

56. The infringement of Plaintiffs' rights in each of their copyrighted audiovisual works constitutes a separate and distinct act of infringement.

57. Aereo's acts of infringement are willful, intentional and purposeful, in disregard of and with indifference to the rights of Plaintiffs.

58. Aereo's conduct is causing and, unless enjoined by this Court, will continue to cause Plaintiffs great and irreparable injury that cannot fully be compensated or measured in money. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law. Pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 502, Plaintiffs are entitled to a permanent injunction prohibiting infringement of Plaintiffs' copyrights and exclusive rights under copyright.

COUNT III

(Unfair Competition)

59. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference paragraphs 1-58 as if set forth herein.

60. In the alternative to Count I, Aereo is guilty of unfair competition under the common law of the State of New York.

61. By commercially exploiting Plaintiffs' programming and broadcasting infrastructure without authorization, Aereo seeks to compete directly and unfairly with Plaintiffs and their lawful licensees and authorized retransmitters, who pay Plaintiffs for the right to retransmit their broadcasts, including cable and satellite services and other services for delivery of television programming and motion pictures over the Internet and to portable devices. Aereo further takes advantage of and undermines Plaintiffs' substantial creative and financial investment in their audiovisual works, and Plaintiff's efforts and labor. Aereo is willfully, wantonly and unfairly exploiting Plaintiffs' property interests in their audiovisual works for Aereo's own commercial benefit and in bad faith.

62. As a direct and proximate result of Aereo's unlawful conduct, Plaintiffs are entitled to compensatory damages in such amounts as will be proven at trial, as well as punitive damages.

63. Aereo's conduct is causing and, unless enjoined by this Court, will continue to cause Plaintiffs great and irreparable injury that cannot fully be compensated or measured in money damages. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law and are entitled to injunctive relief prohibiting Aereo from further violating Plaintiffs' rights.

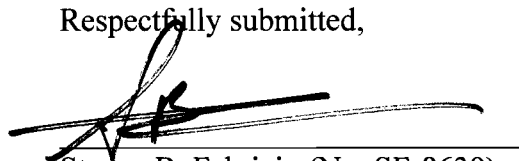
PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against Aereo as follows:

1. For a permanent injunction requiring that Aereo and Aereo's officers, agents, servants, employees, and attorneys, and all persons acting in concert or participation with each or any of them, cease any and all Internet retransmission of Plaintiffs' programming.
2. As to each of Counts I and II:
 - a. For statutory damages pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(c), in the maximum amount provided by law, as may be found or established at trial, arising from Aereo's violations of Plaintiffs' rights under the Copyright Act. Alternatively, at Plaintiffs' election, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(b), for Plaintiffs' actual damages, including Aereo's profits from infringement, as will be proven at trial.
 - b. For Plaintiffs' costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505.
 - c. For impounding and disposition of infringing articles under 17 U.S.C. § 503.
3. As to Count III, for compensatory damages in such amounts as will be proven at trial, as well as punitive damages;
4. For pre- and post-judgment interest on any monetary award made part of the judgment against Aereo.
5. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: March 1, 2012

Respectfully submitted,



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General Information

Case Name	WNET et al v. AEREO, Inc.
Docket Number	1:12-cv-01543
Court	United States District Court for the Southern District of New York
Nature of Suit	Property Rights: Copyright
Related Opinion(s)	102 U.S.P.Q.2d 1853 2012 BL 173494