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RICHARD W. WIEMAN  
CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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8 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE  
9 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JSC

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11 AF HOLDINGS LLC,  
12 Plaintiff,  
13 v.  
14 DOES 1-96  
15 Defendants.

CV 11 3335

Judge:

COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

18 COMPLAINT

19 NOW COMES Plaintiff AF Holdings LLC, by and through its undersigned counsel, and complains  
20 and alleges as follows:

21 JURISDICTION AND VENUE

22 1. This action is reactionary. Plaintiff brings this civil action under the United States  
23 Copyright Act and its related conspiracy claim to combat the Doe Defendants' intentional  
24 infringement of Plaintiff's copyrighted creative works. The Doe Defendants, whose names Plaintiff  
25 expects to ascertain during expedited discovery, illegally reproduced and distributed the Work over  
26 an Internet computer network peer-to-peer "sharing" network and, upon information and belief,  
27 continue to do so as of the filing of this suit.  
28

1           2.       Per N.D. Cal. Local Rule 3-5, this Court has federal subject matter jurisdiction over  
2 the copyright infringement claim under 17 U.S.C. §§ 101, *et seq.*, (commonly referred to as “the  
3 Copyright Act”), 28 U.S.C. § 1331 (granting federal courts federal question jurisdiction over civil  
4 actions arising under the laws of the United States), and 28 U.S.C. § 1338(a) (granting federal courts  
5 original jurisdiction over any Congressional acts relating to copyrights). This Court has  
6 supplemental jurisdiction over the civil conspiracy claim under 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a) because it is  
7 directly related to Plaintiff’s copyright infringement claim, which is within this Court’s original  
8 jurisdiction, such that the two claims form part of the same case and controversy under Article III of  
9 the United States Constitution.  
10

11           3.       This Court has personal jurisdiction over all of the parties because, upon credible  
12 information and belief, all of the Doe Defendants either reside or committed copyright infringement  
13 in the State of California. Plaintiff used geolocation technology to trace the IP addresses of each  
14 Doe Defendant to a point of origin within the State of California. This Court also has personal  
15 jurisdiction over non-resident Defendants, if any, under the California long-arm statute, California  
16 Code of Civil Procedure § 410.10, because they downloaded copyrighted content from, or uploaded  
17 it to, California residents, and thus committed copyright infringement in and through this State, and  
18 engaged in a civil conspiracy to commit copyright infringement with California residents. (*See also*  
19 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure (“FRCP”) 4(k)(1)(A)).  
20  
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22           4.       Venue is properly founded in this judicial district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)  
23 and 1400(a) because, on information and belief, Doe Defendants reside in this District, may be found  
24 in this District, and/or committed acts in this District giving rise to Plaintiff’s claims. Per N.D. Cal.  
25 Local Rule 3-2(c), this intellectual property action is exempt from these requirements.  
26

27           5.       Joinder of Defendants is proper for just adjudication because all Defendants  
28 participated in a civil conspiracy to commit copyright infringement, which comprised of a series of

1 transactions that ultimately ended in the Doe Defendants' illicit distribution of Plaintiff's unique  
2 copyrighted work amongst one another. The series of transactions in this case involved exchanging  
3 pieces of the Work's file over the Internet amongst Doe Defendants with each Doe Defendant  
4 sharing pieces of Plaintiff's copyrighted file with each other (otherwise known as "torrent  
5 swarming") to obtain a complete copy of Plaintiff's Work. The nature of the BitTorrent distribution  
6 protocol necessitates a concerted action by many people in order to disseminate files, such as  
7 Plaintiff's Work. Due to BitTorrent's setup and this concerted action, it is impossible for individuals  
8 to the simply download files on BitTorrent without the active participation of others. Doe  
9 Defendants in this case, in order to download Plaintiff's Work, intentionally engaged in this  
10 concerted action with other Doe Defendants and other yet unnamed individuals on BitTorrent by  
11 entering the torrent swarm. The Doe Defendants are properly joined even if they were not engaged  
12 in a contemporaneous swarm because they have contributed to the chain of data distribution due to  
13 their prior involvement in like swarms. Doe Defendants also share the same questions of law with  
14 respect to their copyright infringement, including, but not limited to:

- 17 (A) Whether Plaintiff is the rights holder of the copyrighted works at issue;  
18 (B) Whether "copying" has occurred within the meaning of the Copyright Act;  
19 (C) Whether entering a "torrent swarm" constitutes a willful act of infringement;  
20 (D) Whether entering a "torrent swarm" constitutes a civil conspiracy; and  
21 (E) Whether, and to what extent, Plaintiff has been damaged by the Doe Defendants'  
22 conduct.  
23

24 All of these questions should be answered as part of a single suit for all of the reasons outlined by  
25 FRCP 19(a). Such joinder is mandated if "feasible." Such joinder is entirely "feasible" in this case.

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**PARTIES**

1  
2 6. Plaintiff AF Holdings, LLC, is a limited liability company organized and existing  
3 under the laws of the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis.

4  
5 7. The unique copyrighted work at issue in this case is an adult video entitled "Sexual  
6 Obsession" (hereinafter "Work"). The Work was available for download from well-known  
7 BitTorrent piracy sites within days of its publication and was among the most popular adult video  
8 downloads on a highly popular BitTorrent site—the appropriately named "Pirate Bay".

9 8. The Doe Defendants' actual names are unknown and unascertainable to Plaintiff.  
10 Instead, Plaintiff knows each Doe Defendant only by an Internet Protocol address (hereinafter "IP  
11 address"), which is a number assigned to devices, such as computers, connected to the Internet by an  
12 Internet Service Provider (hereinafter "ISP"). In the course of monitoring Internet-based  
13 infringement of its copyrighted content, Plaintiff's agents observed unlawful reproduction and  
14 distribution occurring among IP addresses listed on Exhibit A, attached hereto, via the BitTorrent  
15 Internet protocol, an Internet website allowing for "peer-to-peer" (hereinafter "P2P") data  
16 exchanging. Plaintiff believes that the Defendants' identities will be revealed through expedited  
17 discovery, at which time Plaintiff will seek leave of the Court to amend this Complaint to identify  
18 Defendants by name.  
19

**BACKGROUND**

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21  
22 9. BitTorrent is a modern file sharing method (hereinafter "protocol") used for  
23 distributing data via the Internet.

24 10. Traditional file transfer protocols involve a central server, which distributes data  
25 directly to individual users. This method is prone to collapse when large numbers of users request  
26 data from the central server, in which case the server can become overburdened and the rate of data  
27 transmission can slow considerably or cease altogether. In addition, the reliability of access to the  
28

1 data stored on a server is largely dependent on the server's ability to continue functioning for  
2 prolonged periods of time under high resource demands.

3       11. In contrast, the BitTorrent protocol is a decentralized method of distributing data.  
4 Instead of relying on a central server to distribute data directly to individual users, the BitTorrent  
5 protocol allows individual users to distribute data among themselves by exchanging pieces of the file  
6 with each other to eventually obtain a whole copy of the file. When using the BitTorrent protocol,  
7 every user simultaneously receives information from and transfers information to one another.  
8

9       12. In BitTorrent vernacular, individual downloaders/distributors of a particular file are  
10 called peers. The group of peers involved in downloading/distributing a particular file is called a  
11 swarm. A server which stores a list of peers in a swarm is called a tracker. A computer program  
12 that implements the BitTorrent protocol is called a BitTorrent client. Each swarm is unique to a  
13 particular file.  
14

15       13. The BitTorrent protocol operates as follows. First, a user locates a small "torrent"  
16 file. This file contains information about the files to be shared and about the tracker, the computer  
17 that coordinates the file distribution. Second, the user loads the torrent file into a BitTorrent client,  
18 which automatically attempts to connect to the tracker listed in the torrent file. Third, the tracker  
19 responds with a list of peers and the BitTorrent client connects to those peers to begin downloading  
20 data from and distributing data to the other peers in the swarm. When the download is complete, the  
21 BitTorrent client continues distributing data to other peers in the swarm until the user manually  
22 disconnects from the swarm or the BitTorrent client otherwise does the same.  
23

24       14. The degree of anonymity provided by the BitTorrent protocol is extremely low.  
25 Because the protocol is based on peers connecting to one another, a peer must broadcast identifying  
26 information (i.e. an IP address) before it can receive data. Nevertheless, the actual names of peers in  
27  
28



1 a swarm are unknown, as the users are allowed to download and distribute under the cover of their  
2 IP addresses.

3 15. The BitTorrent protocol is an extremely popular method for transferring data. The  
4 size of swarms for popular files can reach into the tens of thousands of unique peers. A swarm will  
5 commonly have peers from many, if not every, state in the United States and several countries  
6 around the world. And every peer in the swarm participates in distributing the file to dozens,  
7 hundreds, or even thousands of other peers.

9 16. The BitTorrent protocol is also an extremely popular method for unlawfully copying,  
10 reproducing, and distributing files in violation of the copyright laws of the United States. A broad  
11 range of copyrighted albums, audiovisual files, photographs, software, and other forms of media are  
12 available for illegal reproduction and distribution via the BitTorrent protocol.

14 17. Efforts at combating BitTorrent-based copyright infringement have been stymied by  
15 BitTorrent's decentralized nature. Because there are no central servers to enjoin from unlawfully  
16 distributing copyrighted content, there is no primary target on which to focus anti-piracy efforts.  
17 Indeed, the same decentralization that makes the BitTorrent protocol an extremely robust and  
18 efficient means of transferring enormous quantities of data also acts to insulate it from anti-piracy  
19 measures.

#### 20 **ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL COUNTS**

21 18. Plaintiff is the assignee and owner of all right, title and interest worldwide in the  
22 Work and all proprietary rights therein including, without limitation, all copyrights and all past and  
23 future causes of action with respect to the same.

25 19. Upon information and belief, Plaintiff received this assignment from the Work's  
26 author and/or assignees of the Work's author.



1 28. Doe Defendants' conduct was willful within the meaning of the Copyright Act:  
2 intentional, and with indifference to the Plaintiff's rights. Doe Defendants' active participation on  
3 BitTorrent swarms relating to Plaintiff's Work make this fact abundently clear.

4 29. Plaintiff has been damaged by Doe Defendants' conduct including, but not limited to,  
5 economic and reputation losses. Plaintiff continues to be damaged by such conduct, and has no  
6 adequate remedy at law to compensate Plaintiff for all of the past, and possibly future, damages  
7 stemming from the Doe Defendants' conduct. In fact, further irreparable harm to Plaintiff's  
8 copyrights and exclusive rights is imminent without Court intervention. Without restrictions, these  
9 infringers will run rampant.

10 30. Plaintiff hereby reserves the right, pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(c), to elect to recover  
11 statutory damages for each infringement, in lieu of seeking recovery of actual damages.

12 31. As Defendants' infringement was intentional and willful, the Plaintiff is entitled to an  
13 award of statutory damages, exemplary damages, attorneys' fees, and the costs of the suit.

14 **COUNT II – CIVIL CONSPIRACY**

15 **(California Common Law Tort)**

16 32. Plaintiff hereby incorporates by this reference each and every allegation contained in  
17 the preceding paragraphs as though fully set forth herein.

18 33. In using the P2P BitTorrent file distribution method, each Doe Defendant participated  
19 in, aided in, attempted to aid in, or at least knew of the formation and operation of a common-plan  
20 conspiracy to unlawfully reproduce and distribute Plaintiff's Work by exchanging pieces of the  
21 Work file in a torrent swarm on BitTorrent.

22 34. Doe Defendants, in participating in said conspiratorial file exchanging network,  
23 agreed to engage in a concerted tortious action with other (currently discovered and undiscovered)  
24 Doe Defendants on the network to reproduce and distribute Plaintiff's Work.



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35. Each of the Doe Defendants was an active participant in downloading a torrent file, opening it using a BitTorrent client, and then entering a torrent swarm comprised of other individuals improperly distributing and reproducing Plaintiff's Work without Plaintiff's permission, causing infringement damage to Plaintiff.

36. Participants in the torrent swarm, including Doe Defendants, have conspired to provide other individuals with pieces of Plaintiff's Work in exchange for receiving other pieces of the same Work, eventually obtaining a complete copy of the file.

37. In furtherance of this civil conspiracy, Doe Defendants committed overt tortious and unlawful acts by using BitTorrent software to download the Work from, and distribute it to, others, and were willful participants in this joint activity.

38. Doe Defendants were fully aware of their participation in this conspiracy by taking part of these swarms on BitTorrent, and, in downloading Plaintiff's Works, demonstrate their understanding of their role in this conspiracy.

39. As a proximate result of this conspiracy, Plaintiff has been damaged as alleged above, and seeks just compensation for Doe Defendants' unjust acts.

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**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff hereby respectfully prays this Court for Judgment and relief as follows:

1) That the Court enter a written judgment declaring that the Doe Defendants have infringed Plaintiff's rights in federally registered copyrights under 17 U.S.C. § 501, and that such infringement was willful;

2) That the Court enter a written judgment declaring that the Doe Defendants have injured the business reputation and business of Plaintiff by Defendants' acts and conduct set forth in this Complaint;

3) That the Court issue injunctive relief against Doe Defendants, enjoinng and restrianing the Doe Defendants and all others in active concert with them from further violating Plaintiff's copyrighted Works, and further issue an order impounding or requiring Doe Defendants to destroy all copies of those unlawfully copyrighted files in Doe Defendants' possession, custody, and/or control pursuant to 17 U.S.C. §§ 503 & 509(a);

4) That the Court enter a written judgment in favor of the Plaintiff against Defendants for actual damages pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(a) or statutory damages up to one-hundred and fifty-thousand dollars (\$150,000) pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(b), at the election of Plaintiff, in an amount to be ascertained at trial;

5) As to Count II, that the Court order Doe Defendants jointly and severally liable to Plaintiff in the full amount of the Judgment on the basis of a common law claim for civil conspiracy to commit copyright infringement; and for an award of compensatory damages based on the civil conspiracy count in favor of the Plaintiff and against Defendants, jointly and severally, in an amount to be determined at trial;



# EXHIBIT A

<b>Host</b>	<b>ISP</b>	<b>Date/Time (UTC)</b>
108.13.53.242	Verizon Online	2011-04-10: 10:04:11 AM
132.249.65.174	San Diego Supercomputer Center	2011-04-19: 05:25:44 AM
173.195.9.236	Black Oak Computers	2011-04-12: 08:07:42 PM
173.55.244.109	Verizon Online	2011-04-11: 02:55:49 PM
173.55.81.25	Verizon Online	2011-04-12: 05:46:31 PM
173.58.165.47	Verizon Online	2011-04-11: 08:32:50 AM
173.60.152.15	Verizon Online	2011-04-11: 10:54:42 PM
173.85.205.68	Frontier Communications of America	2011-04-23: 08:20:38 AM
174.66.152.171	Cox Communications	2011-04-12: 01:16:13 AM
174.77.55.15	Cox Communications	2011-04-11: 03:38:43 AM
24.130.110.168	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-12: 05:04:09 AM
24.130.205.204	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-13: 09:08:28 PM
24.143.225.168	San Bruno Cable	2011-04-13: 07:58:39 PM
24.165.90.71	Road Runner	2011-04-12: 04:11:32 PM
24.23.36.107	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-15: 07:38:31 PM
24.5.131.94	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-23: 10:47:34 PM
24.7.50.217	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-12: 09:37:54 AM
66.215.114.61	Charter Communications	2011-04-19: 11:18:14 PM
66.234.204.180	Wave Broadband	2011-04-21: 08:56:35 PM
66.74.222.207	Road Runner	2011-04-16: 02:01:27 PM
67.161.179.244	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-12: 04:32:44 PM
67.164.102.235	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-24: 12:06:57 PM
67.169.33.66	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-20: 03:47:22 PM
67.174.219.91	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-12: 10:44:48 AM
67.180.105.243	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-10: 12:06:55 AM
67.180.16.163	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-11: 03:06:36 PM
67.182.41.77	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-19: 11:55:25 PM
67.187.188.105	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-21: 03:39:48 PM
68.109.70.249	Cox Communications	2011-04-13: 02:27:38 PM
68.122.7.177	AT&T Internet Services	2011-04-15: 12:04:24 AM
68.4.101.115	Cox Communications	2011-04-24: 06:02:40 PM
68.4.123.192	Cox Communications	2011-04-17: 10:10:10 PM
69.181.229.207	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-22: 04:20:11 PM
69.227.170.91	AT&T Internet Services	2011-04-20: 09:44:16 PM
69.234.114.97	AT&T Internet Services	2011-04-21: 05:18:07 AM
69.235.88.70	AT&T Internet Services	2011-04-12: 06:29:26 AM
70.231.244.234	AT&T Internet Services	2011-04-12: 02:44:49 AM
71.130.203.90	AT&T Internet Services	2011-04-22: 09:37:23 AM
71.146.14.147	AT&T Internet Services	2011-04-13: 04:08:11 PM
71.146.26.36	AT&T Internet Services	2011-04-12: 04:46:24 AM
71.177.237.199	Verizon Online	2011-04-10: 11:45:14 AM
71.189.237.52	Verizon Online	2011-04-21: 07:47:03 AM
71.195.109.188	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-15: 01:52:59 AM
71.195.112.15	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-11: 11:44:28 PM
71.198.48.13	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-19: 12:35:59 PM
71.202.22.104	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-16: 04:44:51 AM



71.202.233.116	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-22: 05:19:52 AM
71.95.195.4	Charter Communications	2011-04-11: 04:34:08 PM
72.207.67.7	Cox Communications	2011-04-11: 10:58:57 PM
72.220.228.48	Cox Communications	2011-04-17: 01:30:37 PM
72.220.245.22	Cox Communications	2011-04-19: 02:55:17 AM
74.100.198.111	Verizon Online	2011-04-11: 06:13:27 PM
74.100.21.215	Verizon Online	2011-04-10: 12:09:53 AM
74.100.41.245	Verizon Online	2011-04-17: 11:21:53 PM
74.60.254.165	Clearwire US	2011-04-15: 10:07:32 PM
75.139.232.75	Charter Communications	2011-04-10: 01:44:57 AM
75.18.161.15	AT&T Internet Services	2011-04-18: 03:45:50 PM
75.80.24.87	Road Runner	2011-04-14: 02:31:15 AM
75.83.94.124	Road Runner	2011-04-24: 12:30:11 AM
76.102.249.223	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-12: 09:04:17 AM
76.103.106.194	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-20: 10:57:04 AM
76.103.209.213	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-12: 07:58:00 AM
76.105.14.179	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-16: 05:04:52 AM
76.14.155.5	Wave Broadband	2011-04-16: 03:57:30 PM
76.166.145.216	Road Runner	2011-04-10: 08:40:59 PM
76.169.12.152	Road Runner	2011-04-12: 08:45:16 AM
76.170.188.163	Road Runner	2011-04-22: 01:23:13 AM
76.173.82.98	Road Runner	2011-04-12: 03:16:20 AM
76.174.83.160	Road Runner	2011-04-15: 05:10:25 AM
76.178.21.104	Road Runner	2011-04-21: 08:56:35 PM
76.193.156.117	AT&T Internet Services	2011-04-21: 04:46:54 PM
76.215.151.35	AT&T Internet Services	2011-04-16: 05:44:27 AM
76.83.254.66	Road Runner	2011-04-11: 04:47:50 PM
76.87.43.32	Road Runner	2011-04-20: 09:21:01 AM
76.90.113.72	Road Runner	2011-04-22: 06:01:24 AM
76.94.233.120	Road Runner	2011-04-11: 02:55:49 PM
96.229.209.74	Verizon Online	2011-04-14: 01:42:45 AM
96.251.110.169	Verizon Online	2011-04-10: 12:05:55 AM
96.251.18.205	Verizon Online	2011-04-24: 03:57:36 PM
96.39.241.150	Charter Communications	2011-04-10: 11:57:05 PM
98.119.139.107	Verizon Online	2011-04-16: 04:39:58 PM
98.154.200.159	Road Runner	2011-04-12: 07:57:32 PM
98.176.15.20	Cox Communications	2011-04-12: 04:20:06 PM
98.207.186.79	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-14: 05:22:15 AM
98.207.225.119	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-15: 05:07:59 AM
98.208.104.200	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-15: 11:33:10 AM
98.210.139.170	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-11: 07:52:49 PM
98.210.22.240	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-13: 11:36:41 AM
98.234.18.55	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-18: 06:43:05 PM
98.234.25.56	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-14: 03:58:40 PM
98.234.254.175	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-13: 01:03:34 AM
98.238.138.195	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-13: 12:16:06 AM
98.248.229.197	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-14: 10:54:53 AM

98.255.70.100	Comcast Cable Communications	2011-04-21: 12:48:28 AM
99.157.210.197	AT&T Internet Services	2011-04-15: 03:49:51 AM
99.62.77.112	AT&T Internet Services	2011-04-22: 06:49:21 AM