

**From:** Brian Ridolfo <brid[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 8, 2019 12:33 PM  
**To:** ATR-LitIII-Information (ATR) <ATR.LitIII.Information@ATR.USDOJ.gov>  
**Subject:** ANTITRUST CONSENT DECREE REVIEW - ASCAP AND BMI 2019

Dear Assistant Attorney General Delrahim:

I respectfully submit this comment to urge the U.S. Department of Justice to continue to uphold the ASCAP and BMI consent decrees. The protections these decrees provide against anticompetitive behavior are just as important now as they were when originally entered in 1941. They continue to facilitate fair and equitable music licensing for all live music performances throughout the country by requiring all license requests be granted. This promotes competition in the marketplace and mitigates possible market abuses or manipulation by any one group or entity. The stipulation for judicial oversight of rate disputes provides an additional check on BMI and ASCAP. These protections ensure that even the smallest venues can continue to provide their patrons live music presentations at affordable rates.

The conditions necessitating these consent decrees have not changed since their implementation. BMI and ASCAP continue to monopolize the ownership of performance rights. Without the protections provided by the consent decrees these groups would have the ability to manipulate markets by providing better rates to one venue over its competitors, or simply not allowing the competitor access to a license at all. The results of such manipulation would directly impact the general public by both limiting choices and increasing prices.

I urge the DOJ to continue to follow its precedent in upholding consent decrees.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Brian Ridolfo  
[REDACTED]