

From: jrmi [REDACTED] <jrmi [REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, June 7, 2019 8:35 AM
To: ATR-LitIII-Information (ATR) <ATR.LitIII.Information@ATR.USDOJ.gov>
Subject: ASCAP and BMI consent decrees

Hello,

My name is Seth Glassman. I am a composer and ASCAP member.

I believe the ASCAP and BMI consent decrees should be left in place as they are.

I am extremely concerned about any effort to substantially modify, or indeed terminate those consent decrees. They do not restrain trade in any way, rather they serve to protect the royalties of composers and songwriters in the marketplace. Our earnings have been dangerously eroded in recent years by developments in streaming that have had the effect of lowering royalty payments almost to a point where songwriting has ceased to be a viable way to earn a middle-class living. Those consent decrees have been under attack by the broadcast industry for many years, and I see any effort to modify or terminate them as another attack on the royalties we have left.

We who survive by the creation of intellectual property are a largely unorganized group and we rely heavily on the Department of Justice to help protect our rights, particularly now - a time when those rights are under attack from all sides. I urge you not to reconsider the ASCAP and BMI consent decrees, to leave them in place, and to seek out other ways to keep America's place as a friend to the arts secure by protecting royalties.

Thank you,

Seth Glassman

Seth Glassman
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