

**From:** Ginsburg, Steven <sginsb[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 7, 2019 2:10 PM  
**To:** ATR-LitIII-Information (ATR) <ATR.LitIII.Information@ATR.USDOJ.gov>  
**Subject:** Regarding Review of ASCAP and BMI Consent Decrees

I strongly disagree with the U.S. Department of Justice ending the Antitrust Consent Decrees which have regulated the Performing Rights Organizations (PRO) BMI and ASCAP since 1941.

Ending this decree would severely adversely impact Performing Arts Centers, all other non-profit and educational, community, state and national performance venues, and restaurants, hotels, breweries, wineries, and bars across the entire nation in the following manner:

- it would allow BMI and ASCAP to increase fees, without any judicial or DOJ oversight, to every performance venue, thereby raising tickets prices for consumers; and
- it would endow BMI and ASCAP with the ability to unfairly control the performing artists that venues may hire.

Ending this decree will create significant uncertainty in how arts and concert venues and promoters would license performance rights for events going forward.

Thank you,  
Steven Ginsburg