



RMLC Responds to GMR Lawsuit

For Immediate Release

Nashville, TN, December 7, 2016. The Radio Music License Committee (RMLC), which represents the vast majority of the nation's commercial radio stations in music licensing matters, has responded to a complaint filed against it yesterday by music rights agency, Global Music Rights (GMR). The GMR complaint alleges that the RMLC represents an unlawful cartel that is intended to stifle competition among radio stations and drive down license fee payments for public performances of songs in radio broadcasts.

The RMLC, through its Executive Director, Bill Velez, has released the following statement in response to the GMR countersuit:

The RMLC will not roll over in the face of the baseless, bullying lawsuit filed yesterday by Global Music Rights. GMR's lawsuit is an obvious ploy designed to pressure the RMLC in response to the antitrust suit the RMLC filed against GMR in federal court in Philadelphia last month. GMR now tries to hide from reality: the fight between the RMLC and GMR stems from GMR's attempt to impose monopoly pricing on the radio industry, and the RMLC's opposition to that plan. Courts have recognized, for many decades, that without regulation of their rates, performing rights organizations (PROs) like GMR are anticompetitive and violate the antitrust laws. That is why all the other PROs (ASCAP, BMI and SESAC) are subject to rate controls. GMR baselessly criticizes the rates agreed to between the RMLC and the other PROs as unreasonably low, but conveniently ignores that the courts have regularly found them to be reasonable and non-discriminatory. GMR's claim that the RMLC is a cartel is frivolous and offensive; GMR apparently seeks to force all PROs to negotiate separately with more than 10,000 radio stations – a ridiculously inefficient proposal. The RMLC looks forward to defeating GMR's claims in court.

About the RMLC

The RMLC's roots go back to the 1930's. It is a non-profit that represents some 10,000 commercial radio stations in the U.S. with regard to music licensing matters. Its Board of Directors is comprised of twenty-five diverse radio operators or management who serve voluntarily and without compensation.

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