UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

G&G Closed Circuit Events, LLC v. Hugo Alejandro Navarro-Gonzalez

Navarro-Gonzalez · No. 2:21-cv-00355-TLN-CKD · Decided November 12, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California partially grants and partially denies Plaintiff G&G Closed Circuit Events, LLC’s motion for summary judgment on damages. The court awards $5,000 in statutory damages under 47 U.S.C. § 605 and $2,860 in compensatory damages for conversion, while declining to award enhanced statutory damages because willfulness for commercial advantage or private financial gain was not established. The total damages award is $7,860.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	November 12, 2025
DOCKET	2:21-cv-00355-TLN-CKD
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff moved for summary judgment on damages after obtaining a liability finding against Defendant under 47 U.S.C. § 605.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Summary judgment is appropriate when no genuine dispute of material fact exists and the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. The moving party bears the initial burden; if satisfied, the burden shifts to the opposing party to produce evidence establishing a genuine dispute concerning a material fact. The Court must believe the opposing party's evidence and draw reasonable inferences in its favor, but the opposing party may not rely solely on pleading denials.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unknown
PARTIES	G&G Closed Circuit Events, LLC v. Hugo Alejandro Navarro-Gonzalez, individually and d/b/a Taqueria La Bamba Bar & Grill

TOPICS

summary judgment · damages · compensatory damages · intellectual property · commercial litigation

PRACTICE AREAS

intellectual property · commercial litigation · civil procedure · remedies

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. What amount of statutory damages should be awarded for Defendant's violation of 47 U.S.C. § 605?
2. Whether Plaintiff was entitled to enhanced statutory damages under 47 U.S.C. § 605(e)(3)(C)(ii) based on a willful violation for commercial advantage or private financial gain.
3. Whether Plaintiff was entitled to $2,860 in conversion damages based on the value of the unlawfully broadcast program.
4. Whether summary judgment was appropriate on the damages issues.

HOLDINGS

1. Plaintiff was entitled to $5,000 in statutory damages for Defendant's violation of 47 U.S.C. § 605.
2. Plaintiff was not entitled to enhanced statutory damages because it did not establish that Defendant willfully committed the violation for commercial advantage or private financial gain.
3. Plaintiff was entitled to $2,860 in compensatory damages for conversion.
4. Summary judgment was appropriate in part because Defendant failed to identify a genuine dispute of material fact concerning the damages issues, but it was denied as to enhanced statutory damages because Plaintiff failed to establish willfulness for commercial advantage or private financial gain.

KEY QUOTATIONS

> *"Balancing the relatively small impact of Defendant's misconduct with the deterrent purpose of the statute, the Court finds that an award of just under twice the price Defendant would have had to pay to lawfully purchase the Program is appropriate."* (at 5)

> *"Here, Plaintiff has not met its burden of demonstrating that Defendant acted willfully for commercial or private financial gain."* (at 6)

> *"In sum, the Court awards Plaintiff damages in the amount of $7,860, comprising of statutory damages of $5,000 under 47 U.S.C. § 605(e)(3)(C)(i)(II) and $2,860 for Plaintiff's conversion claim."* (at 7)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff held exclusive commercial distribution and nationwide anti-piracy enforcement rights for the Mikey Garcia v. Jessie Vargas Championship Fight. The program was shown at Defendant's commercial establishment on its sole approximately forty- to fifty-inch television after a customer streamed it on a personal phone and connected the phone to the television. The establishment had an approximately 100-person capacity, seven patrons were present, and the commercial licensing fee was $2,860. There was no advertising, cover charge, or evidence that Defendant was a repeat offender.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Court previously found Defendant liable under 47 U.S.C. § 605 for unlawfully broadcasting a sports program at his commercial establishment. The parties agreed that damages would be decided on written submissions. Plaintiff moved for summary judgment seeking statutory, enhanced statutory, and conversion damages. The Court granted the motion in part and denied it in part, awarding $5,000 in statutory damages and $2,860 in conversion damages, while denying enhanced statutory damages.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Adickes v. S.H. Kress & Co., 398 U.S. 144, 157 (1970)
- Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 323-24 (1986)
- Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp., 475 U.S. 574, 585-87 (1986)
- First Nat'l Bank of Ariz. v. Cities Serv. Co., 391 U.S. 253, 288-89 (1968)
- Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 248, 251-52, 255 (1986)
- SEC v. Seaboard Corp., 677 F.2d 1301, 1305-06 (9th Cir. 1982)
- Richards v. Nielsen Freight Lines, 602 F. Supp. 1224, 1244-45 (E.D. Cal. 1985), aff'd, 810 F.2d 898 (9th Cir. 1987)
- J & J Sports Prods., Inc. v. Marcaida, No. 10-5125 SC, 2011 WL 2149923, at *3 (N.D. Cal. May 31, 2011)
- J & J Sports Prods., Inc. v. Ferreyra, No. CIVS08128LKKKJM, 2008 WL 4104315, at *1 (E.D. Cal. Aug. 28, 2008)
- Cablevision Sys. New York City Corp. v. Faschitti, No. 94 Civ. 6830(DC), 1996 WL 48689, at *2 (S.D.N.Y. Feb. 7, 1996)
- Int'l Cablevision, Inc. v. Sykes, 75 F.3d 123, 132 (2d Cir. 1996)
- Krueger v. Bank of America, 145 Cal. App. 3d 204, 215 (1983)