

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

Pandvil LLC v. Jean Paul Chavez Pino

No. CV-24-03216-PHX-MTL (D. Ariz. Mar. 25, 2026) · No. No. CV-24-03216-PHX-MTL · Decided March 25, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the District of Arizona granted Pandvil LLC’s amended motion for default judgment against Jean Paul Chavez Pino. The court found that Pino knowingly and materially misrepresented copyright infringement in a DMCA takedown notice, causing harm to Pandvil, and awarded \$501,000 in damages, \$6,000 in attorneys’ fees, \$3,977.54 in costs, and post-judgment interest. The court ordered the Clerk to enter final judgment and close the case.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the District of Arizona
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Michael T. Liburdi
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the District of Arizona
DECIDED	March 25, 2026
DOCKET	No. CV-24-03216-PHX-MTL
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff moved for default judgment under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 55(b)(2) and for attorneys' fees and costs after the defendant failed to appear. The court had previously denied the initial default-judgment motion without prejudice for lack of a sufficient explanation of personal jurisdiction.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	For default judgment, the court considered the Eitel factors, including prejudice, the merits and sufficiency of the claims, the amount at stake, the possibility of factual disputes, excusable neglect, and the policy favoring decisions on the merits. Well-pleaded factual allegations were taken as true after entry of default, except allegations concerning damages.
PARTIES	Pandvil LLC v. Jean Paul Chavez Pino

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Plaintiff satisfied the requirements for default judgment under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 55 and the Eitel factors.
2. Whether the complaint adequately alleged a claim under 17 U.S.C. § 512(f) based on a knowingly material misrepresentation of copyright infringement.
3. Whether Plaintiff was entitled to recover attorneys' fees and costs and, if so, whether the requested lodestar amount was reasonable.
4. Whether Plaintiff was entitled to the requested damages and postjudgment interest.

HOLDINGS

1. Default judgment was appropriate because Plaintiff satisfied the service, notice, default-entry, and Rule 55 requirements, and the Eitel factors weighed in favor of judgment.
2. The complaint adequately alleged entitlement to relief under 17 U.S.C. § 512(f) because Defendant knowingly and materially misrepresented that copyright infringement had occurred, the service provider relied on the misrepresentation, and Plaintiff was injured as a result.
3. Plaintiff was entitled to a default judgment awarding \$501,000 in damages, and the court found the amount reasonable in light of Defendant's conduct.
4. Plaintiff was entitled to \$6,000 in attorneys' fees and \$3,977.54 in costs.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“(1) the possibility of prejudice to the plaintiff, (2) the merits of plaintiff’s substantive claim, (3) the sufficiency of the complaint, (4) the sum of money at stake in the action[,] (5) the possibility of a dispute concerning material” (at 3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Pandvil LLC created a Fortnite digital location known as the 4824 Map, which generated approximately \$52,000 in revenue during August 2024. Defendant, another Fortnite Island creator, submitted a DMCA takedown notice alleging that the map infringed his copyright. Fortnite removed the map from October 1 through October 17, 2024, after which the map received approximately one-sixth of its prior player volume. Pandvil alleged that the notice was incomplete, inaccurate, knowingly false, and caused lost revenue.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Pandvil LLC filed claims under 17 U.S.C. § 512(f) and for tortious interference based on an allegedly false DMCA takedown notice. Defendant was served but did not respond, and the Clerk entered default. After the court denied the initial default-judgment motion without prejudice, Plaintiff filed an amended motion. The court granted the amended motion and the motion for attorneys' fees and costs, awarded damages, fees, costs, and postjudgment interest, and directed the Clerk to enter final judgment and close the case.

DISPOSITION

other

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