

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF
FLORIDA

Aerosonic LLC v. Joby Aero, Inc.

Aerosonic · No. 8:25-cv-554-VMC-AAS · Decided December 1, 2025

SUMMARY

The court grants Joby Aero, Inc.’s motion for leave to file under seal its motion for a protective order and Exhibits 1–4. Applying the common-law right of access and the good-cause standard, the court finds that the materials contain confidential proprietary information and alleged trade secrets, and directs Joby to file them under seal by December 3, 2025.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Amanda Arnold Sansone
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida, Tampa Division
DECIDED	December 1, 2025
DOCKET	8:25-cv-554-VMC-AAS
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant moved for leave to file under seal its motion for a protective order concerning belatedly disclosed alleged trade secrets and four exhibits.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court balanced the common-law right of public access to judicial documents against the asserted interest in confidentiality and applied the good-cause standard, including the factors identified in <i>Romero v. Drummond Co., Inc.</i>
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential district court order

TOPICS

- trade secrets
- discovery dispute
- civil procedure
- commercial litigation

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- trade secrets
- commercial litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Joby established good cause to overcome the common-law right of public access and obtain leave to file its motion and exhibits under seal.
2. Whether redaction, pseudonyms, or another less onerous alternative would adequately protect the confidential information.

HOLDINGS

1. A party may overcome the common-law right of access to judicial documents by showing good cause, which requires balancing the public's right of access against the asserted confidentiality interests; Joby made that showing for the motion and Exhibits 1 through 4.
2. Unless otherwise ordered, the sealed materials remain under seal until ninety days after the case is closed and all appeals are exhausted, subject to a timely motion for relief.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The public has a common-law right to access judicial proceedings, including the right to inspect and copy public records and court documents.” (at 1)

“The common law right of access may be overcome by a showing of good cause, which requires balancing the asserted right of access against the other party’s interest in keeping the information confidential.” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Joby's motion for a protective order addressed allegedly misappropriated trade secrets and other confidential, proprietary information disclosed by Aerosonic. Joby sought to seal the motion and Exhibits 1 through 4 because the materials revealed Aerosonic's proprietary information and provided context for discovery disputes. The court found a high degree and likelihood of injury from public disclosure and determined that the information was not a matter of public concern.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

In this pending trade-secrets action, Joby sought permission to file its motion and exhibits under seal after Aerosonic allegedly refused to confirm whether it opposed sealing. The district court granted the motion and directed Joby to file the materials under seal by December 3, 2025.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- *Brown v. Advantage Eng'g, Inc.*, 960 F.2d 1013, 1016 (11th Cir. 1992)
- *Chicago Trib. Co. v. Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.*, 263 F.3d 1304, 1311 (11th Cir. 2001)
- *Romero v. Drummond Co., Inc.*, 480 F.3d 1234, 1246 (11th Cir. 2007)

- Romero v. Drummond Co., Inc., 480 F.3d 1234, 1246 (11th Cir. 2005)
- Barkley v. Pizza Hut of Am., Inc., No. 6:14-cv-376-Orl-37DAB, 2015 WL 5915817, at *3 (M.D. Fla. Oct. 8, 2015)
- D'Aprile v. Unum Life Ins. Co. of Am., No. 2:09-CV-270-FTM-36SPC, 2010 WL 2509871, at *1 (M.D. Fla. June 18, 2010)
- F.T.C. v. AbbVie Products LLC, 713 F.3d 54, 71 (11th Cir. 2013)

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