

Music Industry Ditches Company It Used to Gather Evidence on Students
by Sara Lipka, Chronicle of Higher Education: Wired Campus, January 5, 2009

<http://tinyurl.com/atmysa>

"The Recording Industry Association of America, which announced last month that it would stop suing groups of students for alleged illegal file sharing, has ditched the company it had hired to seek out such pirates."

Ad Exec Threatens to Sue over Copyright on Hitler's Globe in Tom Cruise Movie
by Mike Masnick, Techdirt, January 5, 2009

<http://www.techdirt.com/articles/20090104/1822593279.shtml>

"A bunch of folks have been submitting the story that ad exec Robert Pritikin is claiming that Tom Cruise's new movie, Valkyrie, about the plotted (and failed) assassination of Adolf Hitler, abuses his copyright on Hitler's globe."

RI Judge Hears Arguments in Music Downloading Case
by Associated Press, Boston Herald, January 6, 2009

<http://tinyurl.com/8v5h6d>

"A Rhode Island couple whose son is accused of illegally sharing songs online should not be forced to surrender their home computer for inspection because it would violate their privacy, their lawyer argued at a federal court hearing Tuesday."

Want to Copy iTunes Music? Go Ahead, Apple Says
by Brad Stone, The New York Times, January 6, 2009

<http://tinyurl.com/966wxr>

"In moves that will help shape the online future of the music business, Apple said Tuesday that it would remove anticopying restrictions on all of the songs in its popular iTunes Store and allow record companies to set a range of prices for them."

Obama picks RIAA's favorite lawyer for a top Justice post
by Declan McCullagh, cnet news, January 6, 2009

http://news.cnet.com/8301-13578_3-10133425-38.html?tag=nl.e703

"One of Obama's first tech-related decisions has been to select the Recording Industry Association of America's favorite lawyer to be the third in command at the Justice Department. And Obama's pick as deputy attorney general, the second most senior position, is the lawyer who oversaw the defense of the Copyright Term Extension Act--the same law that Lessig and his allies unsuccessfully sued to overturn."

Blog: Wired Blog Network: Felton, Fellow Tinkerers Predict \$900 iPhone, Piracy Prosecutions
posted by David Kravets, January 7, 2009

<http://blog.wired.com/27bstroke6/2009/01/felton-fellow-t.html>

IPR—In the News

Compiled by Jen Green, Massachusetts College of Art + Design

"DRM technology will still fail to prevent widespread infringement.' Another obvious prediction from the Tinkerers is that the Recording Industry Association will continue to sue individuals for file sharing copyrighted works, despite its pledge not to."

Blog: Wired Blog Network: Court: Inmate Cannot Sue U.S. for Copyright Infringement
posted by David Kravets, January 8, 2009

<http://blog.wired.com/27bstroke6/2009/01/court-inmate-ca.html>

"A federal inmate who copyrighted a calendar he produced while performing graphic-art labor as part of his 17-year-bank robbery sentence cannot collect the \$500,000 he says his product is worth, a federal appeals court ruled Wednesday."

Harvard Law Prof Seeks Live Webcast of RIAA P2P Trial
by Mark Hefflinger, Ars Technica, January 8, 2009

<http://tinyurl.com/8ms29b>

"Harvard Law professor Charles Nesson has asked the judge hearing the copyright infringement trial of an alleged music file-swapper that he and his students are defending to allow the proceedings to be webcast live on the Internet."

Mashups Changing the Face of Copyright Laws
by Victoria Ho, ZDNet Asia, January 8, 2009

<http://www.zdnetasia.com/news/internet/0,39044908,62049904,00.htm>

"User-generated mashups are changing the face of copyright laws, which have to evolve to catch up with the Internet generation, said Mary Wong, an expert on intellectual property (IP)."

EFF Proposing DMCA Exemption for iPhone Jailbreaking
by Justin Berka, Ars Technica, January 9, 2009

<http://tinyurl.com/9uphm9>

"A number of iPhone owners out there have chosen to jailbreak their devices, and although Apple hasn't done much to stop the practice, it's unclear what the legal situation related to jailbreaking looks like."

Singapore: Make Online Content Free

by Chua Hian Hou, Asia Media News Daily, January 9, 2009

<http://www.asiamedia.ucla.edu/article-southeastasia.asp?parentid=103148>

"Intellectual property forum attendees remain ambivalent about how to simultaneously protect their work and make money in YouTube age."

Copyright Reformer Lands Key Legislative Post

by Wendy Davis, Online Media Daily, January 9, 2009

<http://tinyurl.com/77kwa4>

IPR—In the News

Compiled by Jen Green, Massachusetts College of Art + Design

"Some digital rights advocates cheered the appointment of longtime copyright-reform champion Rep. Rick Boucher (D-Va.) as chair of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet."

New video-on-demand service may hinge on Supreme Court ruling
by David G. Savage, L.A. Times, January 9, 2009

<http://tinyurl.com/7n62t5>

"Networks and studios oppose Cablevision's plan to offer rebroadcasts of programs without commercials and without a fee paid to producers."

A Talk with Lawrence Lessig

by Samuel P. Jacobs, The Boston Globe, January 11, 2009

<http://tinyurl.com/87zgk3>

"A cutting-edge legal mind turns to an age-old problem: corruption."

Court Hearing in Music-Industry Lawsuit Can Be Broadcast Online

by Sara Lipka, Chronicle of Higher Education: Wired Campus, January 15, 2009

<http://tinyurl.com/cdvz15>

"A federal judge ruled today that Harvard University's Berkman Center for Internet & Society can broadcast online a hearing in a recording-industry lawsuit scheduled for January 22."

Internet Piracy Regulations Planned for UK

by Ben Fenton & Tim Bradshaw, Financial Times, January 16, 2009

<http://tinyurl.com/97x7sl>

"Ministers intend to pass regulations on internet piracy requiring service providers to tell customers they suspect of illegally downloading films and music that they are breaking the law, says the draft report by Lord Carter."

Australia: Australian Trade Opts to Keep Territorial Copyright

by Catherine Neilan, The Bookseller.com, January 21, 2009

<http://tinyurl.com/bg4auh>

"The Australian book trade has rejected its government's proposal to end territorial copyright restrictions, which would allow international publishers to sell overseas editions into the country."

YouTube to Allow Big Media to Bring on own Adds, Take on Hulu

by David Chartier, Ars Technica, January 22, 2009

<http://tinyurl.com/btfasr>

"Google is expected to allow more big media partners to sell their own ads against their content posted on YouTube. This could go a long way towards mending rocky copyright relations, but it could go even farther for helping YouTube to gain a reputation for premium content."

New Zealand: Copyright Law Dust-up Turns into a War of Words

by Pat Pilcher, The New Zealand Herald, January 22, 2009

<http://tinyurl.com/8gt73p>

"It's official, the recording industry has thrown its toys out of the cot after critics have roundly condemned the controversial Section 92A of the Copyright Amendment (New Technologies) Act."

Google Calls for UK Copyright Reforms

by Vicky Frost, The Guardian, January 22, 2009

<http://tinyurl.com/c793xp>

"Google today called for UK copyright reforms that allow individuals limited use of copyrighted work in order to create new content."

Swedish Police Want Personal Info of P2P Users

by Jacqui Cheng, Ars Technica, January 22, 2009

<http://tinyurl.com/b86zsh>

"Swedish law enforcement would like to be able to get personal information on P2P users who are suspected of lesser copyright crimes, and plan to send a report to the Ministry of Justice in support of a new file sharing bill."

New Zealand: Ignorance is No Excuse over New Copyright Law

by Jenny Keown, Business Day, January 23, 2009

<http://www.businessday.co.nz/industries/4826750>

"Thousands of New Zealand businesses are unaware they could be in breach of a copyright internet law to come into force next month, says Business New Zealand."

GateHouse Media Case against NYTimes goes to Trial

by Denise Lavoie, The Associated Press, January 25, 2009

<http://tinyurl.com/b6q6w7>

"The two publishers will square off in federal court this week in a case that is being closely watched by journalists, bloggers and Internet users."

The Problem with Extending Copyright on Music

by Ben Jones, TorrentFreak, January 24, 2009

<http://tinyurl.com/b8eg6d>

"Several studies have shown that an extension of copyright on sound recordings is a bad idea. It will lead to less competition and higher prices while only the record labels benefit from it. Next Tuesday, the Open Rights Group will be hosting a round-table event to discuss performance copyright extension in the EU."

IPR—In the News

Compiled by Jen Green, Massachusetts College of Art + Design

Why the Recording Industry Stopped Suing Students

by Tracy Mitrano, Chronicle of Higher Education: Wired Campus, January 27, 2009

<http://tinyurl.com/ccu3lm>

"When the Recording Industry Association of America decided in December to stop filing bulk lawsuits against college students, several students in my "Culture, Law, and Politics of the Internet" course asked me to comment on the strategy."

Sources: AT&T, Comcast May Help RIAA Foil Piracy

by Greg Sandoval, cnet News, January 28, 2009

http://news.cnet.com/8301-1023_3-10151389-93.html?tag=nl.e703

"AT&T and Comcast, two of the nation's largest Internet service providers, are expected to be among a group of ISPs that will cooperate with the music industry in battling illegal file sharing, three sources close to the companies told CNET News."

Obama wants to know: Why open source?

by Matt Asay, cnet News, January 28, 2009

http://news.cnet.com/8301-13505_3-10147920-16.html?tag=nl.e703

"Obama's been asking around about the benefits of open source, according to Sun Chairman Scott McNealy, who has been asked by Obama to author a white paper on the benefits the U.S. government can derive from open source."

Press Release: Call for Open Access to Digital Images

<http://www.mpiwg-berlin.mpg.de/en/news/features/feature4/>

"The Max Planck Institute for the History of Science (MPIWG), a co-initiator of the OpenAccess movement, has drawn up a set of best-practice recommendations concerning the scholarly use of visual media."

New tool: From the Copyright Advisory Network: The Section 108 Spinner

<http://librarycopyright.net/108spinner/>

"Section 108 of the U.S. Copyright Code allows libraries and archives, under certain circumstances, to make reproductions of copyrighted material without the permission of the copyright holder. This tool can help you determine whether or not a particular reproduction is covered by this exemption."

Many thanks to all of our VRA-IPR members who are monitoring multiple listservs to make this IPR news posting possible. Please submit any comments, questions, or suggestions to Jen Green at jen.green@massart.edu

2/2/09