

For Immediate Release

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SIIA Settles Multiple Copyright Infringement Cases Involving Clip Art

Four cases of online clip art distribution resolved on behalf of Imageline, Inc.

WASHINGTON, DC (May 4, 2010) – The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA), the principal trade association for the software and digital content industries, today announced settlements of several cases against companies accused of selling or distributing digital “clip art” illegally, resulting in substantial fines and significant corrective actions. The defendants used various web sites and online auctions to distribute their products, mostly on CDs or similar media. The defendants or accused included:

- Rudolph Goetze, of New York, doing business on iOffer as “Rudysoft”
- Bob Pardue, of South Carolina, doing business as “webmastercourse.com”
- Dave Hendricks, of Washington, doing business as “Freedom Vending”

The settlements included cash payments, as well as other considerations such as access to customer lists, undertakings to assist in pursuing the original sources of the infringing products, assisting in educational efforts, and/or promises to license future content.

Scott Bain, Litigation Counsel at SIIA, said, “The settlements represent a significant step in our efforts to educate the public about the importance of copyright compliance when using digital content such as books, newspaper and magazine articles and, as was the case here, graphical art. These defendants, in most cases, wrongly or naively assumed that the material they found on the Internet was free for their copying, use and resale. That is a reckless assumption in this day and age, and they paid the price for not seeking out authorization before including this material in their products.”

“This has been an enormously stressful ordeal for me,” said Dave Hendricks, President of Freedom Vending. “I have a legitimate and successful business that I am trying to build, and I relied upon the promise of a third party (an Internet supplier) that I could use these images in my CDs. As a copyright owner myself, I understand Imageline’s critical need to protect its works and be paid for them.”

“We are pleased that these businesses have decided to cooperate with Imageline and SIIA,” said George P. Riddick, III, Chairman and CEO of Imageline. “By taking aggressive legal action, we are addressing what we view as critically damaging activity – the rampant, unauthorized distribution of our valuable, copyrighted images.”

Imageline encourages customers of Rudysoft, Webmastercourse.com, and Freedom Vending to contact customer support at Imageline (info@imageline2.com) to replace infringing color clipart illustrations and designs as quickly as possible.

SIIA runs the industry's most aggressive Internet anti-piracy program for the software and digital content industries. Reporters interested in speaking with SIIA or receiving court documents from the cases should contact Beth Dozier at 202-429-1833 or bethdozier@rational360.com.

About SIIA

The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) is the principal trade association for the software and digital content industry. SIIA provides global services in government relations, business development, corporate education and intellectual property protection to more than 500 leading software and information companies. For further information, visit: www.siia.net.

About SIIA Anti-Piracy

The Software & Information Industry Association's Anti-Piracy Division conducts a comprehensive, industry-wide campaign to fight software and content piracy. The pro-active campaign is premised on the notion that one must balance enforcement with education in order to be effective.

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