



TOPIC 3:
**THE MOST FAMOUS COPYRIGHT
INFRINGEMENT CASES**

**ENGLISH DEBATE CLUB
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Disciplines**

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Biggest Music Copyright Infringement Judgments

Marvin Gaye Estate v. Robin Thicke, Pharrell, and T.I. (2015)

Because parts of the popular song **Blurred Lines** by Thicke, Pharrell, and T.I. sound identical to Gaye's Gotta **Give It Up** from 1977, they had to pay \$7.3 million in damages to Gaye's estate. The initial ruling went down in history as the biggest payout for copyright infringement in music, but the court later reduced it to \$5.3 million

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yyDUC1LUXSU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qhFNY9zW2F4>

Biggest Music Copyright Infringement Judgments

Vanilla Ice v. Queen and David Bowie (1990).

The problem doesn't have to be a full or partial melody, but infringement can also rise from bass lines if they're as famous as that one from **Ice Ice Baby** and **Under Pressure**. The case was settled out of court for an undisclosed sum, and it entered popular culture because of Vanilla Ice's unsuccessful defense from plagiarism

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rog8ou-ZepE>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0lQQZyl-_I

Famous Cinema Copyright Infringement Judgments



Movie	Copyright Infringement Accusations	Status
The Fifth Element	Alejandro Jodorowsky, a Chilean-French filmmaker, took the director Luc Besson to court because he found The Fifth Element a bit too similar to his comic book The Incal	Dismissed
Avatar	William Roger Dean sued James Cameron for plagiarizing his artwork to create the planet Pandora landscapes in his record-breaking movie for \$50 million in damages	Dismissed
The Hangover Part II	S. Victor Whitmill, a tattoo artist, sued Warner Bros for the use of his design that was made for Mike Tyson	Settled at undisclosed terms

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Famous Business Copyright Infringement Judgments

Apple vs. Microsoft

These two biggest rivals got into a six-year-long lawsuit in 1988 over the graphical user interface (GUI) and related licenses. Microsoft came out on top, but the animosity remained and became popular around the world.



Famous Business Copyright Infringement Judgments

Apple vs. Google

The world of cell phones and related technology went on fire in the early 2010s when Apple sued Samsung and Google while simultaneously being sued by Motorola over several patent infringements. The fighting came to a halt when Google bought Motorola, and in 2014, Apple and Google decided to settle patent disputes outside of court.



Famous Business Copyright Infringement Judgments



Gucci vs. Guess

Gucci sued Guess in 2009 for using a similar logo and several other trademarks. The high-fashion brand initially asked for \$221 million in damages, but they received only \$4.7 million after winning the case.

Famous Business Copyright Infringement Judgments

Starbucks vs. Freddoccino

In 2016, Starbucks filed a lawsuit against Obsidian Group for marketing a drink called the Freddoccino stating similarities to its trademarked term frappuccino. Even though the name of the drink was changed to Freddo, Starbucks is not giving up, and the verdict is pending at the moment.





thanks

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