## **United States District Court**

NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

MINDEN PICTURES, INC., a California Corporation

## SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

٧.

CASE NUMBER:

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, a District of Columbia Corp., NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURES, INC., a Delaware Corp., NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC INTERACTIVE, INC., a corp.

21267

IF

TO: (Name and address of defendant)

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, a District of Columbia Corporation, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURES, INC., a Delaware Corporation, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC INTERACTIVE, INC., a corporation, and DOES 1 - 10, inclusive

## YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve upon PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY (name and address)

Samuel S. Shepherd, Esq.
Diane C. Hutnyan, Esq.
QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART OLIVER & HEDGES, LLP
2479 East Bayshore Road, Suite 820
Palo Alto, California 94303

Tel: (650) 494-3900 Fax: (650) 494-3928

an answer to the complaint which is herewith served upon you, within <u>twenty (20)</u> days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You must also file your answer with the Clerk of this Court within a reasonable period of time after service.

RICHARD W. WIEKING

DEC 28 1998

CLERK

DATE

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AO 440 (Rev	. 10/93) Summons in a Civil Action					_
		RETURN	OF SERVICE			
Service	e of the Summons and Complain	nt was made by me <sup>1</sup>	DATE	_		
NAME OF S	ERVER (PRINT)		TITLE		·	
Check one	box below to indicate appropria	te method of service				
	Served personally upon the de-	fendant. Place where se	erved:			
	Left copies thereof at the o discretion then residing therein Name of person with whom the	summons and complain	nt were left:		ble age ar	nd
	Returned unexecuted:					
	Other (specify):				,	
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IRVAVEL,		SERVICES		TOTAL		
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	nation contained in the Retur		laws of the United Stated iment of Service Fees is true		regoing	
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	And the	A	ddress of Server			
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1						
1) As to who	may serve a summons see Rule 4 of th	e Federal Rules of Civil Proce	edure,			
1) As to who	may serve a summons see Rule 4 of th	e Federal Rules of Civil Proce	edure,			<del></del>

**OUINN EMANUEL UROUHART** OLIVER & HEDGES, LLP 2 Samuel B. Shepherd (Bar No. 163564) Diane C. Hutnyan (Bar No. 190081) 2479 East Bayshore Road, Suite 820 DEC 2 9 1999 Palo Alto, California 94303 (650) 494-3900 Northern District of Lathorn 2 5 Attorneys for Plaintiff San சக்கள Minden Pictures, Inc. 6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 8 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 9 SAN JOSE DIVISION 10 11 CASE NO. MINDEN PICTURES, INC., a California-12 corporation, 13 COMPLAINT Plaintiff, 14 DEMAND FOR JURY TRIA NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, a District of Columbia corporation, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURES, INC., a Delaware corporation, and NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 17 INTERACTIVE, INC., a corporation, and DOES 1-10, inclusive, 18 Defendants. 19 20 THE PARTIES 21 22 Plaintiff Minden Pictures, Inc. is a California corporation with its principal place 1. 23 of business at 783 Rio Del Mar Blvd., Ste. 9-11, Aptos, California 95003, in Santa Cruz County. Minden Pictures, Inc. ("Minden Pictures") is an agency which represents and manages the stock 24 photography business of professional photographers. Minden Pictures has developed a 25 reputation as one of the most selective stock photo agencies which represents many of the world's 26 27 leading nature photographers. 28

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COMPLAINT, DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

2.	Defendant National Geographic Society (hereinafter "NGS") is a District	of
Columbia corp	poration with its principal place of business at 1145 17th Street, NW, Was	hingto
DC 20036. N	GS is engaged in the business of publishing magazines, books, calendars,	osters
and other publ	ications. NGS also subsidizes research and exploration. The most well kr	nown
publication of	NGS is its magazine, "National Geographic" (hereinafter, "NGM").	

- 3. Upon information and belief, Defendant National Geographic Ventures (hereinafter "NGV") is a Delaware corporation whose principal place of business is at 1145 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036. Upon information and belief, NGV is engaged in the business of producing and selling maps, television programs, videos, and interactive products and programming, such as CD-Roms.
- 4. Upon information and belief, Defendant National Geographic Interactive, (hereinafter, "NGI") is the electronic publishing division, and a wholly owned subsidiary of NGS. Plaintiff is informed and believes that NGI produces NGS' website and a collection of "edu-tational" CD-Roms which are marketed and sold internationally.

## JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 5. This court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1338 (a) as this case arises under the United States Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § § 101, et seq.
  - 6. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1400 (a)

## **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 7. Minden Pictures is a well-known stock photography agency specializing in high-quality nature photography. Minden Pictures represents several photographers in the production, marketing and sale of high-quality nature images.
- 8. Since 1987, Minden Pictures has been doing business, and has entered into several agreements, with NGS. During that time, NGS has also entered into several agreements with Minden Pictures' photographers involving the commission of photographic works for particular assignments to be published in NGM and/or other NGS products. Other agreements involve the

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COMPLAINT, DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

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license of stock photographs from Minden Pictures for publication in NGM and/or other NGS products and publications.

- Although each of the agreements between the parties place clear restrictions upon 9. NGS' future use, reproduction, distribution, and assignment or transfer of the photographic works - in many cases banning any such uses in the future altogether - Plaintiff is informed and believes that NGS has on several occasions re-used, reproduced, distributed or assigned the photographs anyway, without obtaining Minden Pictures' or the individual photographers' permission or abiding by other of its contractual obligations, such as paying for the use. In at least three cases, Plaintiff is informed and believes that these infringing uses have involved the unauthorized reproduction of Minden Pictures' photographs onto commercially distributed CD-Rom products: "108 Years of National Geographic," "109 Years of National Geographid," and "110 Years of National Geographic."
- Plaintiff is informed and believed that in many instances, NGS has used, 10. distributed or assigned the use of Minden Pictures' photographs which were never licensed to it in the first place.
- These unauthorized uses of photographs by NGS and the other Defendants 11. deprive Minden Pictures of substantial revenue.

#### COUNT 1

## BREACH OF WRITTEN CONTRACT

## (Against NGS)

- 12. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 11, inclusive, and incorporates them herein by this reference.
- Over the past twenty years, NGS has commissioned photographic works from 13. Minden Pictures' photographers for particular uses in NGM and/or other NGS publications ("assignment contracts"). Although there is some variation in the exact terms of the assignment contracts, they all contain restrictions on NGS' future use, reproduction and distribution, of the

photographic works. Each of the operative agreements contain a term providing for additional fee payment for certain uses.

- 14. Over the last several years, NGS and Minden Pictures have entered into several agreements by which NGS has licensed the use of stock photographs from Minden Pictures and Minden Pictures' photographers ("stock licenses").
- 15. Although there is some variation in the exact terms of these agreements, they all contain restrictions on NGS' future use, reproduction and distribution, of the photographic works. One representative term is "No secondary rights whatsoever are granted or implied, unless licensed by Minden Pictures. . . . All other uses will be separately negotiated with Minder Pictures." Each of the stock licenses include a liquidated damages provision specifying that the recipient will pay, for each unauthorized use, two or three times the normal fee for use.
- 16. Plaintiff is informed and believes that the unauthorized use provisions and the payment for unauthorized uses were both agreed to by NGS and were reasonable under the circumstances as they existed at the time of the contract.
- 17. Several of the stock licenses required NGS to "provide copyright protection on all use and assign same to [Minden Pictures photographers] immediately upon request, without charge."
- 18. Plaintiff has performed all conditions, covenants and promises required on its part to be performed in accordance with the stock licenses, except those which it was prevented or legally excused from performing because of the acts or omissions of NGS.
- 19. Plaintiff is informed and believes that NGS has repeatedly breached, and continues to breach the written assignment contracts and stock licenses by using Minden Pictures' photographic works in interactive products (including but not limited to CD-Rom collections), promotional materials, and editorial publications, without authorization from Minden Pictures or Minden Pictures' photographers. In addition, Plaintiff is informed and believes that NGS has repeatedly breached and continues to breach the written assignment contracts and stock licenses by allowing NGV and NGI to reproduce and distribute certain of the Subject Works.

- 20. Although Plaintiff has made demand that NGS comply with the contractual terms, NGS has failed, and refuses, to pay to Plaintiff, the liquidated damages required under the express terms of the contracts between the parties or otherwise to comply with the contracts.
- 21. Plaintiff is informed and believes that NGS has further breached the stock licenses by not obtaining copyright protection for images as required.
  - 22. Plaintiff has been damaged by such breaches of the contracts between the parties.

## **COUNT 2**

## **COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT**

## (Against All Defendants)

- 23. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 22, inclusive, and incorporates them herein by this reference.
- 24. The photographs at issue in this suit ("Subject Works") contain material wholly original with the Plaintiff that is copyrightable subject matter under the laws of the United States.
- 25. For each of the Subject Works, Plaintiff applied to the Register of Copyrights for a Certificate of Registration. Such certificates were issue by the Register of Copyrights, or are pending, as to all Subject Works.
- 26. Plaintiff is the contractual representative of Minden Pictures' photographers who currently are, and at all relevant times have been, the sole proprietors of all right, title and interest in and to the copyright in the Subject Works, with the exception of rights expressly granted to NGS by contract. Plaintiff has produced and distributed the photographs at issue in strict conformity with the provisions of the Copyright Act of 1976 and all other laws governing copyright.
- 27. Use of the subject works by NGS, NGV and NGI (collectively, "Defendants"), by any and all uses which are beyond the scope of the assignment contracts and stock licenses entered into by NGS and Minden Pictures' photographers and Minden Pictures generally, constitute acts of copyright infringement by Defendants under 17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.

  Specifically, Defendants have infringed and will continue to infringe Plaintiff's copyrights in and

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#### **COUNT 4**

## STATUTORY AND COMMON LAW UNFAIR COMPETITION

(Against All Defendants)

34. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 33, inclusive, and incorporates them herein by this reference.

35. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants have been, and are, engaged in "unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business practices" in violation of §§ 17200 et seq. of the California Business and Professions Code and acts of unfair competition in violation of common law.

36. Defendants' acts complained of herein have damaged and will continue to damage Plaintiff irreparably. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law for these wrongs and injuries. The damage to Plaintiff includes harm to its goodwill and reputation in the marketplace that money cannot compensate.

## PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, by and through its attorneys, respectfully pray that this honorable court render a judgment in its favor against the Defendants herein, granting the following relief:

## AS TO COUNT 1

- 1. A determination that the assignment contracts and stock licenses are valid and enforceable;
  - 2. A determination that NGS has breached the written contracts of the parties
  - 3. An award of damages for Defendants' multiple breaches of the contract;

## AS TO COUNT 2

4. A determination that Defendants have improperly and unlawfully infringed upon Plaintiff's copyrights in the Subject Works;

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COMPLAINT, DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

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- 5. The entry of a judgment in favor of Plaintiff against Defendants for actual damages and for any profits attributable to the infringement of Plaintiff's copyrights and proprietary rights and interests;
- 6. An order requiring Defendants to account for all gains, profits, advantages and revenues derived from the infringements of the Subject Works, and to be derived therefrom in the future;
- 7. An order requiring that all gains, profits, advantages and revenues derived from the infringements of the Subject Works be deemed to be held in a constructive trust for the benefit of Plaintiff;
- 8. An order requiring Defendants to disgorge all gains, profits, advantages and revenues derived from the infringements of the Subject Works;

### AS TO COUNT 3

- 9. A preliminary and permanent injunction restraining and enjoining Defendants and their agents, servants, and employees and all persons acting thereunder, in concert with, or on their behalf, from wrongfully using the Subject Works in connection with the promotion, advertisement, production, distribution or sale of NGM or other NGS products.
- 10. An accounting of the profits gained by Defendants through their wrongful uses of the Subject Works;
- 11. The imposition of a constructive trust in favor of Plaintiff on all profits obtained from Defendants' misappropriation of the Subject Works;
- 12. An award of punitive damages in an amount sufficient to punish Defendants and deter such conduct in the future.

## AS TO COUNT 4

13. A preliminary and permanent injunction restraining and enjoining Defendants and their agents, servants, employees, and all persons acting thereunder, in concert with, or on their behalf, from wrongful use of the Subject Works;

An accounting of the profits gained by Defendants through their wrongful uses of 1 14. the Subject Works; ... An award of Defendants' unjust profits and Plaintiff's lost profits. 3 15. 4 AS TO ALL COUNTS 5 An order requiring the award of damages in favor of Plaintiff to include costs, 6 16. interest and attorneys fees to the extent pennissible under applicable law; Such other and further relief as this court deems appropriate and lawful under the 8 17. 9 circumstances. 10 QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART OLIVER 11 DATED: December 29, 1999 & HEDGES, LLP 12 13 14 Attorneys for Plaintiff 15 Minden Pictures, Inc. 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

## **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff Minden Pictures, Inc. demands a jury trial pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

DATED: December 29, 1999

QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART OLIVER & HEDGES, LLP

By: / Diane C. Hutny

Attorneys for Plaintiff Minden Pictures, Inc.

COMPLAINT, DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS	VERGE OF THE FORM,	
MINDEN PICTURES, INC., a California Corporation				NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, a District of Columbia Corp., NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURES, INC., a Delaware Corp., NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC INTERACTIVE, INC., a		
(b) COUNTY OF RESIDENCE OF F.	BOT LISTED BLAINITIEE S	ANTA CRI	JZ	COTP.	POT I ISTEM METENIMANT	
	S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			(IN U.S.	PLAINTIFF CASES ONL	
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(c) ATTORNEYS (FIRM NAME, ADI	DRESS, AND TELEPHONE NUM		כ דדה	ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN)		
2479 East Baysho:			-9 , HHE		1267	
Palo Alto, Califo (650) 494-3900						
II. BASIS OF JURISDICT	"ION (PLACE AN 'X' IN ONE	BOX ONLY)		IZENSHIP OF PRINC! diversity cases only)	•	ACE AN 'X' IN ONE BOX FOR AND ONE BOX FOR DEFENDANT
1 U.S. Government Plainfiff	3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not	a Party)	}	PTF DEF		PTF DEF
2 U.S. Government	4 Diversity	d David	Cilizen of T	his State 1	1 Incorporated or Princips of Business In This S	
Defendant	(Indicate Citizenship o in Item III)	n Panies	Citizen of A	Another State 2	2 incorporated and Princip of Business in Another	
		•	Citizen or S Foreign		3 Foreign Nation	☐ 6
IV.ORIGIN		(PLACE		ONE BOX ONLY)		
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120 Marine	310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product		sonal injury	620 Other Food & Drug	1	410 Antirust
130 Millier Act	Liablilly	365 Per	i Malpractice sonal injury	625 Drug Related Seizure of	423 Withdrawal , 28 USC 157	430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce/ICC Relatists.
140 Negotiable Instrument 150 Recovery of Overpayment	320 Assault Libel & Star		duct Liability estos Persona	Dronasty 24 USC 604	PROPERTY RIGHTS	460 Deportation
& Enforcement of Judgment	330 Federal Employers		Product Liabil	ity 530 Liquor Laws	X 820 Copyrights	470 Racksteer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations
151 Medicare Act 152 Recovery of Defaulted	Liability 340 Marine	PERSONAL	PROPERT	640 RR & Truck	830 Palent	810 Selective Service 850 Securities/Commodities/
Sludent Loans (Excl Veterans)	345 Marine Product Liability	370 Oth	er Fraud	660 Occupational Safety/Health	840 Trademark	Exchange
153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits	350 Motor Vehicle		th in Lending er Personal	690 Other	SOCIAL SECURITY	875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410
150 Stockholders Suits	355 Mater Vehicle Product Liability		er <i>reis</i> onai perty Damage	LABOR	861 HIA (1395ff) 862 Slack Lung (923)	891 Agricultural Acts 892 Economic Stabilization
190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability	360 Other Personal Inju.	•	perty Damage duct Liability		863 DIWC/DIWW	Act
REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER		Standards Act S 720 Labor/Morni Relations	(405(g))	893 Environmental Matters 894 Energy Affocation Act
210 Land Condemnation	441 Voling	510 Motio	n to Vacate	730 Labor/Mgmt	864 \$SID Title XVI B65 RSI (405(p))	895 Freedom of
220 Foreclosure	442 Employment	Sent Habe	ence vas Corpus:	Reporting & Disclosure Act	FEDERAL TAX SUITS	Information Act
230 Rent Lease & Ejectment	443 Housing	530 Gane	eral	740 Railway Labor Act	870 Taxes (US Plaintiff	Determination Under
245 Torts to Land 245 Tort Product Liability	444 Welfare 440 Other Civil Rights	540 Mano	n Penany Iamus & Other	790 Other Labor Litigation	or Defendant)	Equal Access to Justice 950 Constitutionality of
290 All Other Real Property		556 Civil 555 Priso	Rights n Condition	791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	871 IRS - Third Party 25 USC 7609	State Statutes
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION		D14 C1/211 I	;			Į.
17 U.S.C. Section plaintiff's photo		ants en	gaged	in acts of copy	yright infring	gement as to
VII. REQUESTED IN	CHECK IF THIS IS	A CLASS A		DEMAND & Presently	CHECK YES or	nly if demanded in complaint:
COMPLAINT:	UNDER F	.R.C.P. 23	d.	nascertainable, amages & injunct	D(LEI 1 1 . 1 V PA	The state of the s
VIII. RELATED CASE(S)	NOTICE OF RELA	LLED CASE"	3-12 CON	CERNING REQUIREMENT	TO FILE	
IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGN (PLACE AN "X" IN ON	MMENT (CIVIL LR.	3-2)		FRANCISCO/OAKLAND	X SAN JOSE	
DATE December 29,	1999 S	IGNATURE		DRNEY OF RECORD	J. 3/11 303E	
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## MINDEN PICTURES

May 4, 1998

Jerry Greenberg Fax 1-305-667-3572

Dear Jerry:

Thanks for the brief intro to your position with NGS.

Mine is that we represent Frans Lanting, Jim Brandenburg, Mark Moffett, Flip Nicklin, Mitsuaki Iwago, Fred Bavendam, Michio Hoshino and others and between them we probably have 1500 pictures in the CD Rom. Hence, I'm interested in seeing how that goes.

However, what is perhaps even of greater interest are any non-CD unauthorized uses you may be pursuing or may have pursued in the past. Despite repeated warnings to NGS over unauthorized uses they continue to do so. Just since the beginning of the year, we have come across of the infringements which include: 2 images in a NGS TV kid's video brochure, 2 images in an NGS Book Division brochure, 1 image on a peel and stick label which is part of a book promo package, 1 image on a World Magazine bookmark and more as well.....We have had similar situations for years but in the past have always "legitimized" such infringements by granting a license retroactively. I'm now ready to consider litigation and have heard your name mentioned on several occasions in the context of successful litigation against NGS.

I look forward to speaking with you more.

Best regards,

Larry Minden

Subject: Fwd: Geographic Guilty of Copyright Infringement

Date: Mon, 21 Jun 1999 10:23:43 -0600

From: "Howard M. Paul" <a href="https://www.hmpaul@ecentral.com">hmpaul@ecentral.com</a>
To: STOCKPHOTO@PEACH.EASE.LSOFT.COM

Newsgroups: bit.listproc.stockphoto

Forwarded with permission of Jim Pickerell, My thanks to Jim -- on behalf of all subscribers -- for allowing me to forward this, which originally appeared in his Selling Stock newsletter.

#### Howard

>The following is a story I posted last week on my Selling Stock site, >Jerry Greenberg want to be sure that you saw it. The case number is >97-3924-CIV-Lenard/Turnoff if you would like more information and the >decision was filed on June 8th.

>Jim Pickerell

>GEOGRAPHIC GUILTY OF COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

>Judge Joan A. Lenard has found that National Geographic Society infringed >the copyright of underwater publishers Jerry and Idaz Greenberg when they >used the Greenberg's copyrighted images as reference materials for two >projects without permission or compensation. The case was heard in Federal >Court in the Southern District of Florida in Miami.

>The case has been referred to Magistrate Judge William C. Turnoff for the >purposes of holding a settlement conference to determine the amount >National Geographic will be required to pay to the Greenbergs.

>This is the first time National Geographic has been found guilty of >copyright infringement of a photographer's work. The case may open the >door for legal action by other photographers against the Society.

>In a review of the facts of the case it was shown that Walter Cutler, the >work-for-hire illustrator hired by the Society to produce illustrations for >an educational GeoPack project, improperly used books produced by the >Greenbergs as reference for his illustrations.

>On his working drawings Cutler noted the page references referring to the >photographs he had copied so the Society editors could verify that the >illustrations were accurate. This clearly laid the responsibility on the >Society editors because they were fully aware of what had been done and >were responsible to obtain proper permissions and deal with compensation >issues.

>Cutler's illustrations also met the test of "substantial similarity"
>according to Judge Lenard. The Greenbergs had produced overlays from their
>books that clearly showed the illustrations were almost exact matches of
>the Greenberg's photos.

>In challenging the Greenbergs' motion for Summary Judgement on Liability,
>lawyers for National Geographic Society argued that the newly created
>illustration did not violate the Greenbergs' copyright, and "that even if
>these images reflect copyrighted material, this use constitutes "fair use".

>Judge Lenard found that the illustrations "improperly infringed the

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Saturday, June 26, 1989

#### Fwd: Geographic Guilty of Copyright Infringament

>photographs at issue, and that the doctrine of fair use is not applicable

>The court took into consideration the four nonexclusive factors to be >considered when determining whether the fair use doctrine applies and >concluded, "that neither the GeoPack product nor the Jason Project poster >qualify as fair use."

>The four factors are:

>1 · the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of >a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;

>2 - the nature of the copyrighted work;

>3 - the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the >copyrighted work as a whole; and

>4 - the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the

>The courts detailed presentation of the facts related to each of these >points should be useful to others faced with a "fair use" claim by any >organization, and particularly National Geographic.

>Counts three and four in the Greenberg's case are not a part of this >decision and dealt with the use of the Greenbergs copyrighted images in the >"108 Years of National Geographic on CD-ROM". Earlier in the proceedings >lawyers for National Geographic argued that the "Tasini" cecision in the >Southern District of New York confirmed their right to make uses in the >"108 Years" project without compensating photographers in any way. The >Greenberg's argued that "Tasini" should have no bearing on their case >bacause that decision was being appealed.

>On this point the judge agreed with National Geographic and issued a >partial summary judgment on the two counts. Thus, the arguments relating >to the use of the Greenberg's images in the "108 Years" project were never >heard. The Greenbergs have the option to appeal that decision of the judge.

>Oral arguments for the appeal of the "Tasini" decision have been heard in >the New York Appeals court and all parties are presently waiting for the >judge's ruling in that case. The results of that case could affect the >Greenberg's ultimate decision.

>Jim Pickerell >Selling Stock >www.pickphoto.com/sso >jim@chd.com

For Information on Market Lead E-mail & Fax Services Visit The STOCKPHOTO Network Web Site => http://www.stockphoto.net 

> mallbox:/Power%20HD/ System%20Folder/Preferences/

# 305-667-3572 MINDEN PICTURES

Gerry+ DAZ

For closed is our filing, Incholed are concerns over images by!

Jim Brandenburg
Frans Lanting
Mark Mysett
Flip Nicklin
Michie Hashine
Michie Hashine
Mitsualin Iwago.

Best regards, Larry Mude

QUINN EMANUEL UROUHART OLIVER & HEDGES, LLP Samuel B. Shepherd (Bar No. 163564) Diane C. Hutnyan (Bar No. 190081) 2479 East Bayshore Road, Suite 820 Palo Alto, California 94303 (650) 494-3900 5 Attorneys for Plaintiff Minden Pictures, Inc. 10 11 MINDEN PICTURES, INC., a California. 12 corporation, 13 Plaintiff. 14 ٧.

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Clock, U.S. District Of California San Jose

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

#### NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

#### SAN JOSE DIVISION

CASE NO.

COMPLAINT

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, a District of Columbia corporation, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURES, INC., a Delaware corporation, and NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC INTERACTIVE, INC., a corporation, and DOES 1-10, inclusive.

Defendants.

### THE PARTIES

Plaintiff Minden Pictures, Inc. is a California corporation with its principal place 1. of business at 783 Rio Del Mar Blvd., Ste. 9-11, Aptos, California 95003, in Santa Cruz County. Minden Pictures, Inc. ("Minden Pictures") is an agency which represents and manages the stock photography business of professional photographers. Minden Pictures has developed a reputation as one of the most selective stock photo agencies which represents many of the world's leading nature photographers.

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COMPLAINT, DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

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- 3. Upon information and belief, Defendant National Geographic Ventures (hereinafter "NGV") is a Delaware corporation whose principal place of business is at 1145 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036. Upon information and belief, NGV is engaged in the business of producing and selling maps, television programs, videos, and interactive products and programming, such as CD-Roms.
- 4. Upon information and belief, Defendant National Geographic Interactive, (hereinafter, "NGI") is the electronic publishing division, and a wholly owned subsidiary, of NGS. Plaintiff is informed and believes that NGI produces NGS' website and a collection of "edu-tational" CD-Roms which are marketed and sold internationally.

## **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

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  - 6. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1400 (a)

## GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- 7. Minden Pictures is a well-known stock photography agency specializing in high-quality nature photography. Minden Pictures represents several photographers in the production, marketing and sale of high-quality nature images.
- 8. Since 1987, Minden Pictures has been doing business, and has entered into several agreements, with NGS. During that time, NGS has also entered into several agreements with Minden Pictures' photographers involving the commission of photographic works for particular assignments to be published in NGM and/or other NGS products. Other agreements involve the

license of stock photographs from Minden Pictures for publication in NGM and/or other NGS products and publications.

- 9. Although each of the agreements between the parties place clear restrictions upon NGS' future use, reproduction, distribution, and assignment or transfer of the photographic works in many cases banning any such uses in the future altogether Plaintiff is informed and believes that NGS has on several occasions re-used, reproduced, distributed or assigned the photographs anyway, without obtaining Minden Pictures' or the individual photographers' permission or abiding by other of its contractual obligations, such as paying for the use. In at least three cases, Plaintiff is informed and believes that these infringing uses have involved the unauthorized reproduction of Minden Pictures' photographs onto commercially distributed CD-Rom products: "108 Years of National Geographic," "109 Years of National Geographic," and "110 Years of National Geographic."
- 10. Plaintiff is informed and believed that in many instances, NGS has used, distributed or assigned the use of Minden Pictures' photographs which were never licensed to it in the first place.
- 11. These unauthorized uses of photographs by NGS and the other Defendants deprive Minden Pictures of substantial revenue.

#### COUNT 1

## **BREACH OF WRITTEN CONTRACT**

#### (Against NGS)

- 12. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 11, inclusive, and incorporates them herein by this reference.
- 13. Over the past twenty years, NGS has commissioned photographic works from Minden Pictures' photographers for particular uses in NGM and/or other NGS publications ("assignment contracts"). Although there is some variation in the exact terms of the assignment contracts, they all contain restrictions on NGS' future use, reproduction and distribution, of the

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photographic works. Each of the operative agreements contain a term providing for additional fee payment for certain uses.

- 14. Over the last several years, NGS and Minden Pictures have entered into several agreements by which NGS has licensed the use of stock photographs from Minden Pictures and Minden Pictures' photographers ("stock licenses").
- 15. Although there is some variation in the exact terms of these agreements, they all contain restrictions on NGS' future use, reproduction and distribution, of the photographic works. One representative term is "No secondary rights whatsoever are granted or implied, unless licensed by Minden Pictures. . . . All other uses will be separately negotiated with Minden Pictures." Each of the stock licenses include a liquidated damages provision specifying that the recipient will pay, for each unauthorized use, two or three times the normal fee for use.
- 16. Plaintiff is informed and believes that the unauthorized use provisions and the payment for unauthorized uses were both agreed to by NGS and were reasonable under the circumstances as they existed at the time of the contract.
- 17. Several of the stock licenses required NGS to "provide copyright protection on all use and assign same to [Minden Pictures photographers] immediately upon request, without charge."
- 18. Plaintiff has performed all conditions, covenants and promises required on its part to be performed in accordance with the stock licenses, except those which it was prevented or legally excused from performing because of the acts or omissions of NGS.
- 19. Plaintiff is informed and believes that NGS has repeatedly breached, and continues to breach the written assignment contracts and stock licenses by using Minden Pictures' photographic works in interactive products (including but not limited to CD-Rom collections), promotional materials, and editorial publications, without authorization from Minden Pictures or Minden Pictures' photographers. In addition, Plaintiff is informed and believes that NGS has repeatedly breached and continues to breach the written assignment contracts and stock licenses by allowing NGV and NGI to reproduce and distribute certain of the Subject Works.

- 20. Although Plaintiff has made demand that NGS comply with the contractual terms, NGS has failed, and refuses, to pay to Plaintiff, the liquidated damages required under the express terms of the contracts between the parties or otherwise to comply with the contracts.
- 21. Plaintiff is informed and believes that NGS has further breached the stock licenses by not obtaining copyright protection for images as required.
  - 22. Plaintiff has been damaged by such breaches of the contracts between the parties.

## COUNT 1

## COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

## (Against Ali Defendants)

- 23. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 22, inclusive, and incorporates them herein by this reference.
- 24. The photographs at issue in this suit ("Subject Works") contain material wholly original with the Plaintiff that is copyrightable subject matter under the laws of the United States.
- 25. For each of the Subject Works, Plaintiff applied to the Register of Copyrights for a Certificate of Registration. Such certificates were issue by the Register of Copyrights, or are pending, as to all Subject Works,
- 26. Plaintiff is the contractual representative of Minden Pictures' photographers who currently are, and at all relevant times have been, the sole proprietors of all right, title and interest in and to the copyright in the Subject Works, with the exception of rights expressly granted to NGS by contract. Plaintiff has produced and distributed the photographs at issue in strict conformity with the provisions of the Copyright Act of 1976 and all other laws governing copyright.
- 27. Use of the subject works by NGS, NGV and NGI (collectively, "Defendants"), by any and all uses which are beyond the scope of the assignment contracts and stock licenses entered into by NGS and Minden Pictures' photographers and Minden Pictures generally, constitute acts of copyright infringement by Defendants under 17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.

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relating to the Subject Works by producing, distributing, and placing upon the market products which are direct copies, as well as allowing NGV and NGI to produce, distribute and place on the market products which are direct copies, of Plaintiff's copyrighted Subject Works.

- 28. Plaintiff is entitled to an injunction restraining Defendants, their officers, agents and employees, and all persons acting in concert with them, from engaging in any further such acts in violation of the copyright laws.
- 29. Plaintiff is further entitled to recover from Defendants the damages, including attorneys' fees, it has sustained and will sustain, and any profits and revenues obtained by Defendants as a result of Defendants' acts of infringement alleged above. At present, the amount of such damages, gains, profits and advantages cannot be fully ascertained by Plaintiff.

## **COUNT 3**

## **COMMON LAW MISAPPROPRIATION**

## (Against All Defendants)

- 30. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 29, inclusive, and incorporates them herein by this reference.
- 31. Plaintiff has made a substantial investment of time, effort and money over many years in creating the goodwill associated with, and public recognition of, its photographs.
- 32. By utilizing the Subject Works without authorization, payment and/or proper credit, Defendants have appropriated Plaintiff's goodwill and reputation without any payment, consideration, or consent and are unjustly reaping the benefit of Plaintiff's copyrighted works.
- 33. Defendants' conduct has caused great and irreparable damage to Minden Pictures and Defendants' continued misappropriation will cause Plaintiff further damage unless Defendants are restrained and enjoined from any further unauthorized use of the Subject Works.

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relating to the Subject Works by producing, distributing, and placing upon the market products which are direct copies, as well as allowing NGV and NGI to produce, distribute and place on the market products which are direct copies, of Plaintiff's copyrighted Subject Works.

- 28. Plaintiff is entitled to an injunction restraining Defendants, their officers, agents and employees, and all persons acting in concert with them, from engaging in any further such acts in violation of the copyright laws.
- 29. Plaintiff is further entitled to recover from Defendants the damages, including attorneys' fees, it has sustained and will sustain, and any profits and revenues obtained by Defendants as a result of Defendants' acts of infringement alleged above. At present, the amount of such damages, gains, profits and advantages cannot be fully ascertained by Plaintiff.

#### COUNT 3

## **COMMON LAW MISAPPROPRIATION**

## (Against All Defendants)

- 30. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 29, inclusive, and incorporates them herein by this reference.
- 31. Plaintiff has made a substantial investment of time, effort and money over many years in creating the goodwill associated with, and public recognition of, its photographs.
- 32. By utilizing the Subject Works without authorization, payment and/or proper credit, Defendants have appropriated Plaintiff's goodwill and reputation without any payment, consideration, or consent and are unjustly reaping the benefit of Plaintiff's copyrighted works.
- 33. Defendants' conduct has caused great and irreparable damage to Minden Pictures and Defendants' continued misappropriation will cause Plaintiff further damage unless Defendants are restrained and enjoined from any further unauthorized use of the Subject Works.

#### **COUNT 4**

## STATUTORY AND COMMON LAW UNFAIR COMPETITION

## (Against All Defendants)

- 34. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 33, inclusive, and incorporates them herein by this reference.
- 35. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants have been, and are, engaged in "unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business practices" in violation of §§ 17200 et seq. of the California Business and Professions Code and acts of unfair competition in violation of common law.
- 36. Defendants' acts complained of herein have damaged and will continue to damage Plaintiff irreparably. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law for these wrongs and injuries. The damage to Plaintiff includes harm to its goodwill and reputation in the marketplace that money cannot compensate.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, by and through its attorneys, respectfully pray that this honorable court render a judgment in its favor against the Defendants herein, granting the following relief:

## AS TO COUNT 1

- 1. A determination that the assignment contracts and stock licenses are valid and enforceable;
  - 2. A determination that NGS has breached the written contracts of the parties;
  - 3. An award of damages for Defendants' multiple breaches of the contract;

## AS TO COUNT 2

4. A determination that Defendants have improperly and unlawfully infringed upon

The entry of a judgment in favor of Plaintiff against Defendants for actual damages and for any profits attributable to the infringement of Plaintiff's copyrights and

- An order requiring Defendants to account for all gains, profits, advantages and revenues derived from the infringements of the Subject Works, and to be derived therefrom in
- An order requiring that all gains, profits, advantages and revenues derived from the infringements of the Subject Works be deemed to be held in a constructive trust for the
- An order requiring Defendants to disgorge all gains, profits, advantages and revenues derived from the infringements of the Subject Works;

#### AS TO COUNT 3

- A preliminary and permanent injunction restraining and enjoining Defendants and their agents, servants, and employees and all persons acting thereunder, in concert with, or on their behalf, from wrongfully using the Subject Works in connection with the promotion, advertisement, production, distribution or sale of NGM or other NGS products.
- An accounting of the profits gained by Defendants through their wrongful uses of
- The imposition of a constructive trust in favor of Plaintiff on all profits obtained from Defendants' misappropriation of the Subject Works;
  - An award of punitive damages in an amount sufficient to punish Defendants and

#### AS TO COUNT 4

ermanent injunction restraining and enjoining Defendants and

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## AS TO COUNT 4

13 A preliminary and permanent injunction restraining and enjoining Defendants and

1 An accounting of the profits gained by Defendants through their wrongful uses of 14. the Subject Works; 2 3 15. An award of Defendants' unjust profits and Plaintiff's lost profits. AS TO ALL COUNTS 6 An order requiring the award of damages in favor of Plaintiff to include costs, 16. 7 interest and attorneys fees to the extent permissible under applicable law; 8 Such other and further relief as this court deems appropriate and lawful under the 17. 9 circumstances. 10 DATED: December 29, 1999 QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART OLIVER & HEDGES, LLP 12 13 14 15 Attorneys for Plaintiff Minden Pictures, Inc. 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

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## **United States District Court**

VORTHERN	DISTRICT	OF	CALIFORNIA

MINDEN PICTURES, INC., a California Corporation

## SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

v

CASE NUMBER:

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, a District of Columbia Corp., NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURES, INC., a Delaware Corp., NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC INTERACTIVE, INC., a corp.

99 21264 J

(Name and address of defendant)

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, a District of Columbia Corporation, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURES, INC., a Delaware Corporation, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC INTERACTIVE, INC., a corporation, and DOES 1 - 10, inclusive

## YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve upon PLANTEF'S ATTORNEY (name and address)

Samuel S. Shepherd, Esq.
Diane C. Hutnyan, Esq.
QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART OLIVER & HEDGES, LLP
2479 East Bayshore Road, Suite 820
Palo Alto, California 94303
Tel; (650) 494-3900
Fax; (650) 494-3928

an answer to the complaint which is herewith served upon you, within <u>twenty (20)</u> days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. You must also file your answer with the Clerk of this Court within a reasonable period of time after service.

RICHARD W. WIEKING

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(BY) DEPUTY CLERK

## MINDEN PICTURES

May 4, 1998

Jerry Greenberg Fax 1-305-667-3572

Dear Jerry:

Thanks for the brief intro to your position with NGS.

Mine is that we represent Frans Lanting, Jim Brandenburg, Mark Moffett, Flip Nicklin, Mitsuaki Iwago, Fred Bavendam, Michio Hoshino and others and between them we probably have 1500 pictures in the CD Rom. Hence, I'm interested in seeing how that goes.

However, what is perhaps even of greater interest are any non-CD unauthorized uses you may be pursuing or may have pursued in the past. Despite repeated warnings to NGS over unauthorized uses they continue to do so. Just since the beginning of the year, we have come across-chart infringements which include: 2 images in a NGS TV kid's video brochure, 2 images in an NGS Book Division brochure, 1 image on a peel and stick label which is part of a book promo package, 1 image on a World Magazine bookmark and more as well.....We have had similar situations for years but in the past have always "legitimized" such infringements by granting a license retroactively. I'm now ready to consider litigation and have heard your name mentioned on several occasions in the context of successful litigation against NGS.

I look forward to speaking with you more.

Best regards,

Larry Minden

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When Chris here in the office sent it to me, I thought for sure it was spoof. But no - it's for real. NGS' educational products now include swimsuit issue. Where is the world going....
For those I haven't yet notified, please note the new address and contact numbers below.

Best,

Larry Minden
Minden Pictures
558 Main Street
Watsonville, CA 95076 USA

larry@mindenpictures.com www.mindenpictures.com

tel. 831.761-3600 fax 831.761-3233

# NORMAN DAVIS

Subi:

NGS

Date:

Tuesday, June 4, 2002 7:14:06 PM

From:

larry@mindenpictures.com

To:

lulukiku@aol.com

## Hi Jerry & Idaz:

I've been tracking your progress from afar and have my fingers crossed in the hopes that all turns out well. You've certaainly prepared yourselves properly and fought a hard, well thought out battle. Recent news even sounds like the judge is tired of NGS' antics. Hoping for and wishing you the best. Sincerely.

Larry Minden Minden Pictures 783 Rio del Mar Blvd. #9-11 Aptos, CA 95003 USA

larry@mindenpictures.com www.mindenpictures.com

tel. 831.685.1911 fax 831.685.1913

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Message-ID: <3CFD49D5.E74D5124@mindenpictures.com>

Date: Tue, 04 Jun 2002 16:14:29 -0700

From: Larry Minden < larry@mindenpictures.com>

6/5/02

America Online: Lulukiku

Page 1

#### Fwd: Geographic Gulliy of Copyright Infringament

>photographs at issue, and that the doctrine of fair use is not applicable >to these facts."

>The court took into consideration the four nonexclusive factors to be >considered when determining whether the fair use doctrine applies and >concluded, "that neither the GeoPack product nor the Jason Project poster >qualify as fair use."

>The four factors are:

- >1 the purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of >a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;
- >2 the nature of the copyrighted work;
- >3 the amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the >copyrighted work as a whole; and
- >4 the effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the >copyrighted work.

>The courts detailed presentation of the facts related to each of these >points should be useful to others faced with a "fair use" claim by any >organization, and particularly National Geographic.

>Counts three and four in the Greenberg's case are not a part of this >decision and dealt with the use of the Greenbergs copyrighted images in the >"108 Years of National Geographic on CD-ROM". Earlier in the proceedings >lawyers for National Geographic argued that the "Tasini" cecision in the >Southern District of New York confirmed their right to make uses in the >"108 Years" project without compensating photographers in any way. The >Greenberg's argued that "Tasini" should have no bearing on their case >bacause that decision was being appealed.

>On this point the judge agreed with National Geographic and issued a >partial summary judgment on the two counts. Thus, the arguments relating >to the use of the Greenberg's images in the "108 Years" project were never >heard. The Greenbergs have the option to appeal that decision of the judge.

>Oral arguments for the appeal of the "Tasini" decision have been heard in >the New York Appeals court and all parties are presently waiting for the >judge's ruling in that case. The results of that case could affect the >Greenberg's ultimate decision.

>Jim Pickerell >Selling Stock >www.pickphoto.com/sso >jim@chd.com

For Information on Market Lead E-mail & Fax Services Visit The STOCKPHOTO Network Web Site => http://www.stockphoto.net Pα

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JS 44 - No. CALIF. (Rev. 4/97) The JS-44 civil cover sheet and to by law, except as provided by loca of the Clerk of Court for the purpo	ne information contained al rules of court. This for use of initiating the civil of	herein neither repla	ace nor supplement the filing a	and service of pleadings ed States in September VERSE OF THE FORM.	or other papers as required 1974, is required for the use )
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(c) ATTORNEYS FIRM NAME, ADD Quinn Emanuel Urc 2479 East Bayshor Palo Alto, Califo (650) 494-3900	uhart Oliver e Road, Suite	& Hedges, LI	ATTORNEYS (IF KNOWN)	1267	
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VI. CAUSE OF ACTION DO NOT CITE JURISDICTION 17 U.S.C. Section plaintiff's photo VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	AL STATUTES UNLESS 501; Defend graphs.  CHECK IF THIS IS	DIVERSITY)	ed in acts of cop	yright infring	gement as to
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY IX. DIVISIONAL ASSIGN	"NOTICE OF RELA	ATED CASE".	ONCERNING REQUIREMEN	T TO FILE	
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# 305-667-3572 MINDEN PICTURES

Gerry+ DAZ

Fer closed is our filerj. Inchaled are ancems over mages by:

Jim Brandenburg Frans Lanting Mark Mojjett Flip Nieklin Michie Hoshine Michie Hoshine Mitsualin Iwago.

> Best regards, Larry Mude

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1 **OUINN EMANUEL UROUHART** OLIVER & HEDGES, LLP 2 Samuel B. Shepherd (Bar No. 163564) Diane C. Hutnyan (Bar No. 190081) 2479 East Bayshore Road, Suite 820 DEC 2 9 1999 Palo Alto, California 94303 (650) 494-3900 Richard W. Wisking Clerk, U.S. District Court Northern District of California San Jose 5 Attorneys for Plaintiff Minden Pictures, Inc. 6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 4 SAN JOSE DIVISION 10 11 MINDEN PICTURES, INC., a California-CASE NO. 12 corporation. 13 Plaintiff. COMPLAINT 14 DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, a District of Columbia corporation, NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC VENTURES, INC., a Delaware corporation, and NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 17 INTERACTIVE, INC., a corporation, and DOES 1-10. inclusive. 18 Defendants. 19 20 THE PARTIES 21 22 Plaintiff Minden Pictures, Inc. is a California corporation with its principal place 1. of business at 783 Rio Del Mar Blvd., Ste. 9-11, Aptos, California 95003, in Santa Cruz County. 24 Minden Pictures, Inc. ("Minden Pictures") is an agency which represents and manages the stock 25 photography business of professional photographers. Minden Pictures has developed a reputation as one of the most selective stock photo agencies which represents many of the world's leading nature photographers.

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2.	Defendant National Geographic Society (hereinafter "NGS") is a District of
Columbia cor	poration with its principal place of business at 1145 17th Street, NW, Washington,
DC 20036. N	IGS is engaged in the business of publishing magazines, books, calendars, posters
and other pub	lications. NGS also subsidizes research and exploration. The most well known
publication of	f NGS is its magazine, "National Geographic" (hereinafter, "NGM").

- 3. Upon information and belief, Defendant National Geographic Ventures (hereinafter "NGV") is a Delaware corporation whose principal place of business is at 1145 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036. Upon information and belief, NGV is engaged in the business of producing and selling maps, television programs, videos, and interactive products and programming, such as CD-Roms.
- 4. Upon information and belief, Defendant National Geographic Interactive, (hereinafter, "NGI") is the electronic publishing division, and a wholly owned subsidiary, of NGS. Plaintiff is informed and believes that NGI produces NGS' website and a collection of "edu-tational" CD-Roms which are marketed and sold internationally.

### **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 5. This court has subject matter jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1338 (a) as this case arises under the United States Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § § 101, et seq.
  - 6. Venue is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1400 (a)

#### **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 7. Minden Pictures is a well-known stock photography agency specializing in high-quality nature photography. Minden Pictures represents several photographers in the production, marketing and sale of high-quality nature images.
- 8. Since 1987, Minden Pictures has been doing business, and has entered into several agreements, with NGS. During that time, NGS has also entered into several agreements with Minden Pictures' photographers involving the commission of photographic works for particular assignments to be published in NGM and/or other NGS products. Other agreements involve the

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license of stock photographs from Minden Pictures for publication in NGM and/or other NGS products and publications.

- 9. Although each of the agreements between the parties place clear restrictions upon NGS' future use, reproduction, distribution, and assignment or transfer of the photographic works in many cases banning any such uses in the future altogether Plaintiff is informed and believes that NGS has on several occasions re-used, reproduced, distributed or assigned the photographs anyway, without obtaining Minden Pictures' or the individual photographers' permission or abiding by other of its contractual obligations, such as paying for the use. In at least three cases, Plaintiff is informed and believes that these infringing uses have involved the unauthorized reproduction of Minden Pictures' photographs onto commercially distributed CD-Rom products: "108 Years of National Geographic," "109 Years of National Geographic," and "110 Years of National Geographic."
- 10. Plaintiff is informed and believed that in many instances, NGS has used, distributed or assigned the use of Minden Pictures' photographs which were never licensed to it in the first place.
- 11. These unauthorized uses of photographs by NGS and the other Defendants deprive Minden Pictures of substantial revenue.

#### COUNT 1

## BREACH OF WRITTEN CONTRACT

#### (Against NGS)

- 12. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 11, inclusive, and incorporates them herein by this reference.
- 13. Over the past twenty years, NGS has commissioned photographic works from Minden Pictures' photographers for particular uses in NGM and/or other NGS publications ("assignment contracts"). Although there is some variation in the exact terms of the assignment contracts, they all contain restrictions on NGS' future use, reproduction and distribution, of the

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27 28 photographic works. Each of the operative agreements contain a term providing for additional fee payment for certain uses.

- Over the last several years, NGS and Minden Pictures have entered into several agreements by which NGS has licensed the use of stock photographs from Minden Pictures and Minden Pictures' photographers ("stock licenses").
- Although there is some variation in the exact terms of these agreements, they all 15. contain restrictions on NGS' future use, reproduction and distribution, of the photographic works. One representative term is "No secondary rights whatsoever are granted or implied, unless licensed by Minden Pictures. . . . All other uses will be separately negotiated with Minden Pictures." Each of the stock licenses include a liquidated damages provision specifying that the recipient will pay, for each unauthorized use, two or three times the normal fee for use.
- Plaintiff is informed and believes that the unauthorized use provisions and the 16. payment for unauthorized uses were both agreed to by NGS and were reasonable under the circumstances as they existed at the time of the contract.
- Several of the stock licenses required NGS to "provide copyright protection on all 17. use and assign same to [Minden Pictures photographers] immediately upon request, without charge."
- 18. Plaintiff has performed all conditions, covenants and promises required on its part to be performed in accordance with the stock licenses, except those which it was prevented or legally excused from performing because of the acts or omissions of NGS.
- 19. Plaintiff is informed and believes that NGS has repeatedly breached, and continues to breach the written assignment contracts and stock licenses by using Minden Pictures' photographic works in interactive products (including but not limited to CD-Rom collections), promotional materials, and editorial publications, without authorization from Minden Pictures or Minden Pictures' photographers. In addition, Plaintiff is informed and believes that NGS has repeatedly breached and continues to breach the written assignment contracts and stock licenses by allowing NGV and NGI to reproduce and distribute certain of the Subject Works.

- 20. Although Plaintiff has made demand that NGS comply with the contractual terms, NGS has failed, and refuses, to pay to Plaintiff, the liquidated damages required under the express terms of the contracts between the parties or otherwise to comply with the contracts.
- 21. Plaintiff is informed and believes that NGS has further breached the stock licenses by not obtaining copyright protection for images as required.
  - 22. Plaintiff has been damaged by such breaches of the contracts between the parties.

#### COUNT 2

## COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

## (Against All Defendants)

- 23. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 22, inclusive, and incorporates them herein by this reference.
- 24. The photographs at issue in this suit ("Subject Works") contain material wholly original with the Plaintiff that is copyrightable subject matter under the laws of the United States.
- 25. For each of the Subject Works, Plaintiff applied to the Register of Copyrights for a Certificate of Registration. Such certificates were issue by the Register of Copyrights, or are pending, as to all Subject Works,
- 26. Plaintiff is the contractual representative of Minden Pictures' photographers who currently are, and at all relevant times have been, the sole proprietors of all right, title and interest in and to the copyright in the Subject Works, with the exception of rights expressly granted to NGS by contract. Plaintiff has produced and distributed the photographs at issue in strict conformity with the provisions of the Copyright Act of 1976 and all other laws governing copyright.
- 27. Use of the subject works by NGS, NGV and NGI (collectively, "Defendants"), by any and all uses which are beyond the scope of the assignment contracts and stock licenses entered into by NGS and Minden Pictures' photographers and Minden Pictures generally, constitute acts of copyright infringement by Defendants under 17 U.S.C. § 101 et seq.

relating to the Subject Works by producing, distributing, and placing upon the market products which are direct copies, as well as allowing NGV and NGI to produce, distribute and place on the market products which are direct copies, of Plaintiff's copyrighted Subject Works.

- 28. Plaintiff is entitled to an injunction restraining Defendants, their officers, agents and employees, and all persons acting in concert with them, from engaging in any further such acts in violation of the copyright laws.
- 29. Plaintiff is further entitled to recover from Defendants the damages, including attorneys' fees, it has sustained and will sustain, and any profits and revenues obtained by Defendants as a result of Defendants' acts of infringement alleged above. At present, the amount of such damages, gains, profits and advantages cannot be fully ascertained by Plaintiff.

#### COUNT 3

## **COMMON LAW MISAPPROPRIATION**

#### (Against All Defendants)

- 30. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 29. inclusive, and incorporates them herein by this reference.
- 31. Plaintiff has made a substantial investment of time, effort and money over many years in creating the goodwill associated with, and public recognition of, its photographs.
- 32. By utilizing the Subject Works without authorization, payment and/or proper credit, Defendants have appropriated Plaintiff's goodwill and reputation without any payment, consideration, or consent and are unjustly reaping the benefit of Plaintiff's copyrighted works.
- 33. Defendants' conduct has caused great and irreparable damage to Minden Pictures and Defendants' continued misappropriation will cause Plaintiff further damage unless Defendants are restrained and enjoined from any further unauthorized use of the Subject Works.

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#### COUNT 4

## STATUTORY AND COMMON LAW UNFAIR COMPETITION

### (Against All Defendants)

- 34. Plaintiff realleges each and every allegation set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 33, inclusive, and incorporates them herein by this reference.
- 35. By reason of the foregoing, Defendants have been, and are, engaged in "unlawful, unfair or fraudulent business practices" in violation of §§ 17200 et seq. of the California Business and Professions Code and acts of unfair competition in violation of common law.
- Defendants' acts complained of herein have damaged and will continue to damage Plaintiff irreparably. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law for these wrongs and injuries. The damage to Plaintiff includes harm to its goodwill and reputation in the marketplace that money cannot compensate.

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, by and through its attorneys, respectfully pray that this honorable court render a judgment in its favor against the Defendants herein, granting the following relief:

#### **AS TO COUNT 1**

- 1. A determination that the assignment contracts and stock licenses are valid and enforceable:
  - 2. A determination that NGS has breached the written contracts of the parties;
  - 3. An award of damages for Defendants' multiple breaches of the contract;

#### **AS TO COUNT 2**

4. A determination that Defendants have improperly and unlawfully infringed upon Plaintiff's copyrights in the Subject Works;

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5.	The entry of a judgment in favor of Plaintiff against Defendants for actual
damages a	nd for any profits attributable to the infringement of Plaintiff's copyrights and
proprietary	rights and interests;

- 6. An order requiring Defendants to account for all gains, profits, advantages and revenues derived from the infringements of the Subject Works, and to be derived therefrom in the future;
- 7. An order requiring that all gains, profits, advantages and revenues derived from the infringements of the Subject Works be deemed to be held in a constructive trust for the benefit of Plaintiff;
- 8. An order requiring Defendants to disgorge all gains, profits, advantages and revenues derived from the infringements of the Subject Works;

#### **AS TO COUNT 3**

- 9. A preliminary and permanent injunction restraining and enjoining Defendants and their agents, servants, and employees and all persons acting thereunder, in concert with, or on their behalf, from wrongfully using the Subject Works in connection with the promotion, advertisement, production, distribution or sale of NGM or other NGS products.
- 10. An accounting of the profits gained by Defendants through their wrongful uses of the Subject Works;
- 11. The imposition of a constructive trust in favor of Plaintiff on all profits obtained from Defendants' misappropriation of the Subject Works;
- 12. An award of punitive damages in an amount sufficient to punish Defendants and deter such conduct in the future.

#### **AS TO COUNT 4**

13. A preliminary and permanent injunction restraining and enjoining Defendants and their agents, servants, employees, and all persons acting thereunder, in concert with, or on their behalf, from wrongful use of the Subject Works;

## **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

Plaintiff Minden Pictures, Inc. demands a jury trial pursuant to Rule 38(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

DATED: December 29, 1999

QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART OLIVER & HEDGES, LLP

Diane C. Hutnyan

Attorneys for Plaintiff Minden Pictures, Inc.