

Name: Howard E (Tres) Melton

Class of works: I am writing in support of Class #3 (Unskippable DVD Advertising): Audiovisual works released on DVD that contain access control measures that interfere with the ability to control private performance, including the ability to skip promotional materials.

Summary:

Disc name: Windtalkers

I recently rented a movie, "Windtalkers," on a DVD that had a wide screen version on one side and the regular 4:3 aspect ratio on the other. Scratches made different short portions on either side unplayable. To see the complete film I had to turn the disc over several times. Each time, I had to sit through the logo of the DVD player's manufacturer as the player started up; then be threatened by the studios with FBI action should I violate the provisions of Federal Copyright Law (something that remains on the screen for much longer than is required to read it, even though I have already seen it on countless other DVD's); then I had to wait for another promotional clip before the menu screen was displayed. My desire simply to restart the movie was frustrated through technology mandated by The DVD Copy Control Association, encoded on the DVD, and enforced through the DVD player. By thus preventing me from using my own electronic device in the perfectly legal manner that I desired, the movie distributor had robbed me of about ten minutes of my time and caused me undue aggravation. To me, the aggravation caused by repeatedly displayed, unskippable promotions, and other unwanted material, is a serious negative consequence of allowing the DVD Copy Control Association free reign in their exploitation of the DMCA.

Howard E (Tres) Melton III
Registered and Active Voter
4141 Palm Ave. Apt. #490
Sacramento, CA 95842-4233
(916) 344-8367
class5@pacbell.net