

**Sony Corp. of Am. v. Universal City Studios, Inc.,
464 U.S. 417 (1984)**

Year	1984
Court	Supreme Court of the United States
Key Facts	Plaintiff-appellees, Universal City Studios and Walt Disney Productions, were producers of motion pictures and other audiovisual works for television broadcasting. They alleged that defendant-appellants, Sony Corporation and Sony Corp. of America, were contributorily liable for infringing their copyrights by manufacturing and selling Betamax home videotape recorders to home viewers for the allegedly infringing purpose of recording plaintiffs' broadcasts.
Issue	Whether unauthorized home videotaping of television broadcasts for non-commercial "time-shifting" purposes was fair use.
Holding	The Court ruled that noncommercial home recording of television broadcasts for the purpose of "time-shifting" was fair use. It held that, given the nature of televised works and the fact that viewers had been invited to watch the programs in their entirety free of charge, reproduction of the entire work "does not have its ordinary effect of militating against a finding of fair use." The Court further held that the plaintiffs failed to demonstrate any likelihood of more than minimal harm to the potential market for, or the value of, their copyrighted works.
Tags	U.S. Supreme Court; Film/Audiovisual; Format shifting/Space shifting
Outcome	Fair use found

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