

New Filing – Zorro TV Series

L.A. Superior Court BC370759
 Howdywood, Inc. dba Espectaculo

v.

William Morris Agency LLC; John Gertz; Does

Espectaculo owner Richard Goldsmith claims William Morris Agency froze him out of deal to produce a Zorro television series.

Goldsmith says he proposed the concept of a Spanish-language Zorro show in 2004 to Zorro Productions, the company that owns the rights to the Zorro character.

He claims William Morris helped him package an exclusive development agreement between Zorro Productions' principal John Gertz and Espectaculo.

Under the terms of the agreement, Goldsmith claims he was entitled to one-third of Zorro Productions' share of revenues if Sony, which held the live-action television rights, decided to finance the Zorro series.

Goldsmith and Gertz allegedly met with the executive vice president of Sony, who matched an offer Telemundo had made to produce and finance 200 episodes of the show.

Goldsmith claims William Morris then set up a meeting with Gertz and Sony without notifying him, after which Gertz severed its business relationship with Goldsmith and denied that Espectaculo had "any interest in the project or any right to compensation."

In May 2006, Sony announced it would produce the Spanish-language Zorro television shows in association with Telemundo. Goldsmith claims William Morris did nothing to protect his rights as the show's originator.

He demands compensatory damages.

Causes of action: Breach of fiduciary duty; aiding and abetting breach of fiduciary duty; intentional interference with contract; interference with prospective economic advantage

Filing counsel: Alan Kornfeld and Harry Hochman of Pachulski, Stang, Ziehl, Young, Jones, Weinbraub (L.A.)

—M.R.

New Filing – War Royalties

L.A. Superior Court BC371227

Harold Brown; Morris Dickerson;
 Lee Levitin; Howard Scott

v.

Far Out Records, Inc.; Far Out Productions, Inc.; Far Out Management; Jerry Goldstein; Jerry Goldstein Music, Inc.; T.M.C.

Music, Inc.; Glenn Stone; Audio Visual Entertainment Inc. dba Avenue Records Inc., individually and as successor in interest to Audio Video, Inc.; Far Out Holdings, Inc.

Four of the original members of the 1970s funk-rock band War have accused their former producer and his companies of cheating them out of millions of dollars in royalties and licensing fees.

Harold Brown, Morris Dickerson, Lee Levitin and Howard Scott claim they have held numerous contracts with producer and manager Jerry Goldstein over the years. The musicians recorded several hits, including "Why Can't We Be Friends?" and "Low Rider." They claim Goldstein and his companies, including Far Out Records and T.M.C. Music, failed to pay their percentage, either by paying less than agreed upon or by sending falsified documents claiming the defendants owed nothing. The plaintiffs say Goldstein and his companies tried to keep the musicians from finding out the amount of royalties due.

Though the plaintiffs are founding members of War, they lost the right to tour under that name and now play in a group called the Lowrider Band. One founding member is in the group currently touring as War.

The plaintiffs claim to have suffered at least \$10 million in damages.

Causes of action: Breach of contract; unjust enrichment; conversion; rescission and restitution; accounting; fraud; breach of fiduciary duty; constructive fraud

Filing counsel: Hayes Michel, Ferdie Franklin and Lisa Hill of Walsworth, Franklin, Bevins & McCall (L.A.)

—K.B.