



LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Copyright Royalty Board

[Docket No. 16-CRB-0010-SD (2014-17)]

Distribution of Satellite Royalty Funds

AGENCY: Copyright Royalty Board, Library of Congress.

ACTION: Notice requesting comments.

SUMMARY: The Copyright Royalty Judges solicit comments on a motion of Allocation Phase claimants for partial distribution of 2016 and 2017 satellite royalty funds.

DATES: Comments are due on or before [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS FROM DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

ADDRESSES: Interested claimants must submit timely comments, identified by docket number 16-CRB-0010-SD (2014-17), by only **one** of the following means:

CRB's online electronic filing application: Submit comments online in the Copyright

Royalty Board's electronic filing system, eCRB, at <https://app.crb.gov/>; or

U.S. mail or Overnight service (only USPS Express Mail is acceptable): Copyright

Royalty Board, P.O. Box 70977, Washington, DC 20024-0977; or

Commercial courier: Address package to: Copyright Royalty Board, Library of Congress,

James Madison Memorial Building, LM-403, 101 Independence Avenue SE,

Washington, DC 20559-6000. Deliver to: Congressional Courier Acceptance Site, 2nd

Street NE and D Street NE, Washington, DC; or

Hand delivery: Library of Congress, James Madison Memorial Building, LM-401, 101 Independence Avenue SE, Washington, DC 20559-6000.

Instructions: Unless submitting online, commenters must submit an original, two paper copies, and an electronic version on a CD. All submissions must include a reference to the CRB and this docket number. All submissions will be posted without change (including any personal information provided) to eCRB at <https://app.crb.gov/>.

Docket: For access to the docket to read submitted background documents or comments, go to eCRB at <https://app.crb.gov/> and search for docket number 16-CRB-0010-SD (2014-17).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anita Blaine, Program Specialist, by telephone at (202) 707-7658 or e-mail at crb@loc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Each year satellite systems must submit royalty payments to the Register of Copyrights as required by the statutory license set forth in section 119 of the Copyright Act for the retransmission to satellite subscribers of over-the-air television broadcast signals. *See* 17 U.S.C. 119(b). The Copyright Royalty Judges (Judges) oversee distribution of royalties to copyright owners whose works were included in a qualifying transmission and who timely filed a claim for royalties.

Allocation of the royalties collected occurs in one of two ways. In the first instance, the Judges may authorize distribution in accordance with a negotiated settlement among all claiming parties. 17 U.S.C. 119(b)(5)(A), 801(b)(3)(A). If all claimants do not reach an agreement with respect to the royalties, the Judges must conduct a proceeding to determine the distribution of any royalties that remain in

controversy. 17 U.S.C. 119(b)(5)(B), 801(b)(3)(B). Alternatively, the Judges may, on motion of claimants and on notice to all interested parties, authorize a partial distribution of royalties, reserving on deposit sufficient funds to resolve identified disputes. 17 U.S.C. 119(b)(5)(C), 801(b)(3)(C).

On June 28, 2019, representatives of all the Allocation Phase claimant categories (formerly “Phase I”)¹ filed with the Judges a motion requesting a partial distribution amounting to 40% of the 2016 and 2017 satellite royalty funds pursuant to section 801(b)(3)(C) of the Copyright Act. 17 U.S.C. 801(b)(3)(C). That section requires that, before ruling on the motion, the Judges publish a notice in the *Federal Register* seeking responses to the motion for partial distribution to ascertain whether any claimant entitled to receive the subject royalties has a reasonable objection to the requested distribution. Accordingly, this Notice seeks comments from interested claimants on whether any reasonable objection exists that would preclude the distribution of 40% of the 2016 and 2017 satellite royalty funds to the Allocation Phase Claimants. Parties objecting to the proposed partial distribution must advise the Judges of the existence and extent of all their objections by the end of the comment period. The Judges will not consider any objections with respect to the partial distribution motion that come to their attention after the close of the comment period.

The Motion of the Allocation Phase Claimants is available in eCRB at <https://app.crb.gov/case/viewDocument/4397>.

¹ The “Allocation Phase Claimants” are Program Suppliers, Joint Sports Claimants, Broadcaster Claimants Group, Music Claimants (represented by American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, Broadcast Music, Inc., and SESAC, Inc.), and Devotional Claimants.

Dated: July 11, 2019.

Jesse M. Feder,

Chief U.S. Copyright Royalty Judge.

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