

Music and Media

30 August 2004

I. Introduction/Attendance

II. Syllabus

Return your signed syllabus acknowledgement by the next class meeting.

III. Lab Information

Lab usage guidelines, overview of available equipment.

IV. Lecture One – Issues in Digital Music

19 August 2004

EFF (Electronic Frontier Foundation) Scores Landmark Win for P2P

California - Today the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals made a crucial decision in support of technology innovators by declaring that distributors of the peer-to-peer software Grokster and Morpheus cannot be held liable for the infringing activities of their users. The Electronic Frontier Foundation argued on behalf of Streamcast, the creator of the Morpheus software, in a case that pitted dozens of entertainment conglomerates against two small software companies. The Ninth Circuit decision is based in part on the fact that P2P networks have significant non-infringing uses, and that they can help artists earn money. The ruling is similar to the Supreme Court's decision in the 1984 Betamax case, which determined that Sony was not liable for copyright violations by users of the Betamax VCR...

V. Discussion

1. What is peer-to-peer (P2P) software?
2. What “infringing activities” is this news excerpt referring to?
3. How does this ruling affect you as a consumer of music products?