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8 *Christopher J. Cordova*

9 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
10 **NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
11 **SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION**

12 CHRISTOPHER J. CORDOVA,

13 Plaintiff,

14 vs.

15 JONATHAN HUNEALT A/K/A

16 “FRAUDITOR TROLL”,

17 Defendant.

Case No.

COMPLAINT

FOR:

- 18 **1. Copyright Infringement, 17 U.S.C. §§ 101 et seq.**
- 19 **2. Declaration of Copyright Infringement**

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

1 Plaintiff, Christopher J. Cordova a/k/a Denver Metro Audits (“Plaintiff”), sues
2 Defendant Jonathan Huneault a/k/a “Frauditor Troll” (“Defendant”) and alleges as follows:

3 **INTRODUCTION**

4 1. This case arises from the unauthorized use of a copyrighted video titled
5 “*Another Chad Exposed!!! Worthless Denver Cops...ASSAULTED!!!*” created and
6 published by Plaintiff on his YouTube channel “Denver Metro Audits”
7 (@DenverMetroAudits). The video captures a real-time confrontation between Plaintiff,
8 members of the Denver Police Department, and a third-party bystander. It was filmed and
9 released to expose potential police misconduct and promote public accountability.

10 2. Defendant, a YouTube content creator operating under the alias “Frauditor
11 Troll,” republished more than half of Plaintiff’s original video—over 27 minutes of
12 expressive footage—under the guise of “critique,” while contributing only a few minutes
13 of sarcastic narration. The result is not commentary. It is theft, dressed in mockery and
14 monetized through ad revenue.

15 3. This kind of deliberate, parasitic infringement is exactly what the Copyright
16 Act was meant to prevent. The Infringing Video buries the original under ridicule,
17 substitutes it in the market, and turns Plaintiff’s message of accountability into a punchline.
18 Plaintiff brings this action to stop the misuse, restore control over his work, and recover
19 damages, costs, and attorneys’ fees as permitted by law.

20 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

21 4. This action arises under the Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 101 *et seq.*, and
22 includes a claim for Declaratory Relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2201.

23 5. This Court has subject matter jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and
24 1338(a).

25 6. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1400(a) and § 1391(b),
26 as the infringing content was published and distributed via YouTube, a platform
27 headquartered in this District.

1 7. Defendant submitted a counter-notification under 17 U.S.C. § 512(g), thereby
2 consenting to jurisdiction in this judicial district.

3 **PARTIES**

4 8. Plaintiff Christopher J. Cordova is a resident of Colorado and the creator and
5 operator of the YouTube channel “Denver Metro Audits” (@DenverMetroAudits).

6 9. Based upon information and belief, Defendant is an individual named
7 Jonathan Huneault, who operates a YouTube channel under the alias “Frauditor Troll.”

8 10. Plaintiff does not presently know Defendant’s residence or place of business,
9 but believes that Defendant resides in Canada. Defendant has taken steps to conceal his
10 identity and location in order to evade service of process. For example, when submitting
11 DMCA counter-notifications to YouTube, Defendant lists “99 Wall Street” as his address
12 without providing a suite number or any other identifying information. 99 Wall Street is a
13 commercial building in New York City known for hosting virtual offices and mail drop
14 services, and the omission of a suite number renders the address unusable for personal
15 service.

16 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

17 11. YouTube is the largest video-sharing platform in the world and operates under
18 the framework established by the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (“DMCA”), 17 U.S.C.
19 § 512.

20 12. The DMCA provides a process by which copyright owners may request the
21 removal of infringing content through a notice-and-takedown mechanism. If the platform
22 receives a valid takedown notice, it typically disables access to the allegedly infringing
23 material.

24 13. However, the DMCA also allows the alleged infringer to submit a counter-
25 notification claiming that the use is authorized, lawful, or otherwise non-infringing. If the
26 copyright owner does not initiate a federal lawsuit within 14 days of receiving a counter-
27 notice, YouTube is required by law to restore access to the disputed content pursuant to 17
28 U.S.C. § 512(g).

1 14. This statutory framework places the burden on copyright owners—
2 particularly independent creators and small publishers—to enforce their rights through
3 litigation.

4 15. Critically, under 17 U.S.C. § 411(a), a copyright registration (or refusal
5 thereof) is a prerequisite to filing a lawsuit. As a result, creators who publish content
6 regularly, such as daily or weekly videos, face substantial logistical and financial obstacles
7 in registering each work. The process is time-consuming, costly, and impractical for many
8 small creators, who are left with no legal recourse even when their work is stolen
9 wholesale.

10 16. Infringers like Defendant exploit this imbalance by targeting content that is
11 unlikely to be registered at the time of infringement, knowing that most creators lack the
12 time or resources to pursue federal litigation.

13 17. In practice, it allows monetized YouTube channels to exploit copyrighted
14 material by filing counter-notifications under the guise of “Fair Use,” often requiring the
15 original creator to choose between expensive federal litigation or allowing the infringement
16 to continue unchecked.

17 18. In recent years, “Fair Use” has become a catchall defense on YouTube—
18 frequently invoked not to support genuine commentary or critique, but to excuse the
19 wholesale appropriation of others’ creative works. Defendant’s video is emblematic of that
20 misuse. It offers no new message, no additional insight, and no transformation of purpose.
21 Instead, it repackages Plaintiff’s footage with sporadic ridicule, relying on the original’s
22 expressive content to attract viewers and monetize attention.

23 **The First Amendment Auditor Community on YouTube**

24 19. The First Amendment auditor community on YouTube consists of
25 independent content creators who film interactions with government officials in public
26 spaces to promote transparency and assert constitutional rights—primarily the First
27 Amendment. These creators act as citizen journalists, watchdogs, and public advocates,
28

1 documenting real-time government conduct and holding public officials accountable
2 through video.

3 20. The movement has grown into a powerful and controversial force on social
4 media. First Amendment auditors regularly publish their videos to YouTube channels,
5 where they have collectively attracted millions of subscribers and billions of views. These
6 creators often operate under channel names or aliases and have become recognizable
7 figures in the digital civil rights ecosystem.

8 21. Plaintiff is one such creator. He operates the YouTube channel “Denver Metro
9 Audits” (@DenverMetroAudits), which has over 231,000 subscribers and more than 600
10 videos. Plaintiff’s work has generated millions of views and frequent engagement from the
11 public on issues of constitutional importance.

12 22. Other prominent First Amendment auditors on YouTube include:

13 -Long Island Audit @LongIslandAudit (922k subscribers);

14 -Amagansett Press @AmagansettPress (583k subscribers);

15 -Delete Lawz @deletelawz1984 (646k subscribers);

16 -James Freeman @JamesFreeman1 (581k subscribers);

17 -Accountability For All @AccountabilityForAll (238k subscribers);

18 -Bay Area Transparency @bayareatransparency1722 (334k subscribers);

19 -Nasty Nathaniel @NastyNathaniel69 (69.3k subscribers);

20 -Auditing Erie County @AuditingErieCounty (159k subscribers).

21 23. These creators have developed passionate communities and brought increased
22 attention to issues of public transparency, police accountability, and constitutional rights.
23 They also attract vocal critics, including content creators who republish auditor footage for
24 the purpose of mockery or monetized ridicule.

25 **The Anti-Auditor or “Frauditor” Community on YouTube.**

26 24. The so-called “anti-auditor” or “frauditor” community is a genre of YouTube
27 content creators who produce reaction-style videos targeting First Amendment auditors.
28 While these channels purport to offer criticism or commentary, their actual content

1 typically consists of mockery, personal insults, and superficial narration designed to
2 provoke laughter—not to engage with the substance of the original videos. The emphasis
3 is not on analysis or critique, but on ridicule, with little to no transformative insight.

4 25. Rather than analyzing the substance of auditor videos, anti-auditor creators
5 download the original work, embed it wholesale or in large portions, and insert snide
6 commentary, exaggerated voiceovers, memes, sound effects, and sarcastic narration.

7 26. These additions rarely engage with the message or journalistic value of the
8 underlying footage. Instead, they focus on the auditors themselves—mocking their voices,
9 mannerisms, appearance, perceived emotional state, and personal lives.

10 27. Prominent anti-auditor channels include “Frauditor Troll”, “Team Skeptic,”
11 “Degeneration Nation,” “Lucid’s Lair,” “Unclean Hands,” “KFARR Reacts,” “First
12 Amendment Shenanigans,” “Black Hart Knight,” and others. Many of these channels
13 feature monetization through YouTube ads, memberships, merchandise, and affiliate links.

14 28. Their business model is simple: republish auditor videos, add minimal
15 ridicule, and generate revenue. Originality is neither required nor provided. The underlying
16 auditor footage does the heavy lifting in terms of content and audience engagement.

17 29. Defendant’s channel, “Frauditor Troll,” is emblematic of this practice. With
18 nearly 1,900 uploads, the channel systematically mines the auditor community for content,
19 providing only brief sarcastic commentary in return. These are not transformative works.
20 They are derivative broadcasts riding on the back of other creators’ labor.

21 30. This exploitative model thrives because most auditor videos are not registered
22 with the U.S. Copyright Office at the time of publication. Without a registration, the
23 original creator cannot sue, and anti-auditor channels know this. They use the DMCA
24 counter-notice process to delay enforcement and bet that creators won’t be able to respond
25 within the 14-day window.

26 31. In this case, Defendant uploaded the Infringing Video long before Plaintiff
27 had an opportunity to register the original work. This delay is not unique—it is baked into
28 the Defendant’s business model. By targeting creators who publish frequently, and

1 uploading unauthorized copies before they can register their content, Defendant exploits a
2 known gap in the enforcement system. This action is part of a broader effort to hold
3 Defendant accountable for a pattern of appropriation and monetized ridicule that would
4 otherwise go unchecked and to deter ongoing abuse of YouTube’s DMCA counter-
5 notification process by Defendant and other creators who base their content upon stolen
6 videos.

7 **The Parties’ Respective Videos on YouTube.**

8 32. On or about March 16, 2022, Plaintiff published the Registered Video titled
9 “ANOTHER CHAD EXPOSED!!! Worthless Denver Cops...ASSAULTED!!!,” to his
10 YouTube channel (@DenverMetroAudits) where it was made available to the public. The
11 video was filmed, edited, and published by Plaintiff as part of his ongoing effort to
12 document public accountability and government conduct. Plaintiff’s video is available at
13 the URL <https://youtu.be/bhgHsPl4Mr0?si=F-7EgMg0bBZiy-QY>. To date, the Registered
14 Video has received over 66,000 views.

15 33. Plaintiff’s Registered Video documents real-time events with the purpose of
16 exposing governmental misconduct. The incident involved a tense public encounter
17 between Plaintiff and Denver police, culminating in a confrontation with a third-party
18 bystander who physically engaged with Plaintiff. These events were filmed live, with no
19 reenactments.

20 34. The Registered Video was filmed, edited, and released as an original,
21 standalone work.

22 35. Plaintiff intended to inform, educate, and provoke discussion regarding civil
23 rights.

24 36. Plaintiff registered the video with the U.S. Copyright Office under
25 Registration Number PA002457989 (the “Registered Video”) on February 6, 2024.

26 37. Defendant operates a YouTube channel under the name “Frauditor Troll,”
27 which routinely republishes infringing content from First Amendment auditors without
28 permission and adds commentary that mocks and insults the original creators.

1 38. On or about December 2, 2022, Defendant published a video using large
2 portions of Plaintiff’s Registered Video under the title “Frauditor DMA Gets Confronted
3 by Angry Citizen (Hilarious)” (the “Infringing Video”) to his Frauditor Troll YouTube
4 channel. Defendant’s video is available at the URL [https://youtu.be/I-](https://youtu.be/I-J8sdKZ504?si=s9kES3XTGpURZ1A3)
5 [J8sdKZ504?si=s9kES3XTGpURZ1A3](https://youtu.be/I-J8sdKZ504?si=s9kES3XTGpURZ1A3). To date, the Infringing Video has received over
6 75,000 views (more views than the Registered Video).

7 39. Defendant did not obtain permission or a license from Plaintiff to use the
8 Registered Video in the Infringing Video.

9 40. The Infringing Video is not a commentary or critique *of* Plaintiff’s work—it
10 is a commercial re-airing of it. Approximately 87% of the Infringing Video, excluding the
11 intro and outro, consists of unaltered footage taken directly from Plaintiff’s Registered
12 Video.

13 41. In total, Defendant used roughly 27 minutes and 3 seconds of a 48-minute,
14 14-second video—equating to 56% of the full work, but an even larger percentage of the
15 expressive core, including the key interactions and narrative structure.

16 42. These copied segments are presented in long, uninterrupted blocks, with no
17 attempt to edit, condense, or reinterpret the underlying footage. The visual and narrative
18 experience remains entirely controlled by Plaintiff’s original choices.

19 43. Defendant’s contribution amounts to just under four minutes of commentary,
20 scattered throughout the video. These brief interjections consist primarily of sarcasm,
21 mockery, and personal attacks—not meaningful analysis or critique.

22 44. At no point does Defendant engage with the actual message of Plaintiff’s
23 work, which centers on law enforcement conduct and public accountability. Instead,
24 Defendant reframes the entire encounter as a spectacle of ridicule.

25 45. The Infringing Video contains no substantive commentary on the journalistic
26 structure, intent, or legal implications of Plaintiff’s footage. It does not inform, educate, or
27 offer new insight. Its purpose is not discussion—it is derision.

28

1 46. The short introductory and concluding segments serve only to brand the video
2 and promote Defendant’s monetized channel. They do not transform the content or alter its
3 meaning.

4 **Defendant’s Video is Not Fair Use.**

5 47. The Infringing Video is not an original creation. It is Plaintiff’s work, lifted
6 almost wholesale, and re-used for clicks, ad revenue, and online engagement under the
7 false banner of “fair use.”

8 48. The Infringing Video does not qualify as a protected “fair use.” It consists
9 predominantly of Plaintiff’s copyrighted content, replayed in long, uninterrupted
10 sequences. Defendant’s minimal additions—less than four minutes of sarcastic narration—
11 do not meaningfully critique the Registered Video or transform its message.

12 49. At no point does Defendant address the themes, structure, or message of the
13 Registered Video. His commentary targets Plaintiff personally—mocking his voice,
14 demeanor, and perceived motives—without engaging with the video’s focus on law
15 enforcement conduct and constitutional rights.

16 50. Defendant could have made his point using short clips, summaries, or original
17 commentary. Instead, he used more than half of the Registered Video, including the
18 expressive core, in a manner that overwhelmingly supplanted the Registered Video’s
19 market.

20 51. Defendant also chose not to provide any link to Plaintiff’s Registered Video
21 or channel. Viewers who watch the Infringing Video are never directed to the source
22 material, nor are they encouraged to watch the unedited version. This omission reinforces
23 that the goal was not to comment on Plaintiff’s message or drive discussion—it was to
24 replace it. Defendant did everything possible to ensure his version would be the one that
25 generated attention, engagement, and ad revenue, while denying Plaintiff even the most
26 basic attribution.

1 52. By omitting attribution and links to the Registered Video, Defendant not only
2 usurped Plaintiff's work, but also deprived him of potential subscribers, engagement
3 metrics, and brand visibility that could have expanded Plaintiff's reach and monetization.

4 **Plaintiff's DMCA Takedown and Defendant's Abuse of the Counter-Notice System.**

5 53. After witnessing Defendant's blatant copyright infringement, Plaintiff
6 exercised his rights under copyright law. On or about June 5, 2023, Plaintiff submitted a
7 valid takedown notice to YouTube for the unauthorized use of the Registered Video.

8 54. Rather than remove the infringing content, Defendant submitted a counter-
9 notification on or about June 6, 2023, claiming—without merit—that the video was
10 protected by the fair use doctrine.

11 55. Although Defendant submitted a counter-notification under the DMCA,
12 Plaintiff could not file a lawsuit at that time because the currently Registered Video had
13 not yet been registered. As a result, and pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 512(g)(2)(C), YouTube
14 was required to restore the Infringing Video after the statutory waiting period expired
15 without Plaintiff being able to file suit.

16 56. Defendant has continued to display, distribute, and profit from the Infringing
17 Video since it was restored.

18 57. As discussed above, Defendant's use of the Registered Video does not qualify
19 as fair use. It is a commercial, non-transformative republishing of Plaintiff's Registered
20 Video. Defendant copied over 27 minutes of expressive footage without permission, added
21 minimal commentary that mocked Plaintiff personally, and offered no new meaning,
22 purpose or message.

23 58. The Infringing Video directly competes with and supplants the market for the
24 Registered Video. It delivers the same underlying content—without permission,
25 attribution, or transformative commentary—diverting viewers, ad revenue, and public
26 engagement from Plaintiff's YouTube channel. It's not fair use. It's a business model built
27 on copyright infringement.

28

1 59. Plaintiff now seeks damages, declaratory and injunctive relief for post-
2 registration infringement pursuant to the Copyright Act.

3 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

4 **Copyright Infringement, 17 U.S.C. § 501**

5 60. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1
6 through 59.

7 61. Plaintiff is the author and sole owner of all rights in the Registered Video
8 registered with the U.S. Copyright Office under Registration No. PA0002457989.

9 62. Defendant copied, displayed, and distributed substantial portions of Plaintiff's
10 video without authorization.

11 63. Defendant incorporated approximately 56% of Plaintiff's copyrighted work
12 into the Infringing Video published on YouTube, without a license or permission.
13 Excluding the intro and outro, approximately 87% of the Infringing Video is footage from
14 the Registered Video.

15 64. Defendant's use of the Registered Video was for commercial purposes,
16 including monetization through advertisements and promotion of merchandise.

17 65. Defendant's use of the Registered Video was not transformative and does not
18 qualify as Fair Use.

19 66. Defendant operates a channel known for targeting creators in the First
20 Amendment auditing community on YouTube. The widespread and repetitive use of
21 others' content without permission – coupled with Defendant's response to Plaintiff's
22 DMCA takedown notice—demonstrates actual knowledge or willful blindness to
23 Plaintiff's rights.

24 67. As a result of Defendant's infringement, Plaintiff has suffered actual damage
25 including lost viewership, lost revenue, reputational harm, and diminution of the market
26 value of the Registered Video.

1 68. Plaintiff is entitled to recover statutory damages pursuant to 17 U.S.C. §
2 504(c), or alternatively, actual damages and Defendant's profits pursuant to 17 U.S.C. §
3 504(b).

4 69. Plaintiff is further entitled to injunctive relief, attorney's fees, and costs
5 pursuant to 17 U.S.C. §§ 502 and 505.

6 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

7 **Declaration of Copyright Infringement, 28 U.S.C. § 2201**

8 70. Plaintiff incorporates by reference the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1
9 through 69.

10 71. An actual and justiciable controversy exists between Plaintiff and Defendant
11 concerning Defendant's use of Plaintiff's Registered Video.

12 72. Plaintiff contends that Defendant's use of Plaintiff's Registered Video
13 constitutes copyright infringement pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 501 and is not protected under
14 the doctrine of fair use.

15 73. Defendant has asserted that his use of Plaintiff's Registered Video is lawful
16 and non-infringing.

17 74. Plaintiff seeks a judicial declaration under 28 U.S.C. § 2201 that the
18 Defendant's unauthorized use of the Registered Video constitutes copyright infringement
19 and is not protected by the doctrine of fair use.

20 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

21 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff, Christopher J. Cordova, prays for judgment against
22 Defendant as follows:

- 23 A. That judgment be entered in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendant;
24
25 B. The Court enter a declaratory judgment that Defendant's use of the Registered
26 Video constitutes copyright infringement and is not protected by the doctrine
27 of fair use;
28

- 1 C. A permanent injunction enjoining Defendant from further use of the
2 Registered Video and requiring YouTube and any third-party platforms under
3 Defendant's control to remove the Infringing Video and prevent further
4 dissemination;
5 D. An award of monetary damages in an amount to be determined at trial;
6 E. An award of attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505;
7 F. Any other relief the Court deems just and proper.
8

9 **JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

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11 Dated: June 3, 2025

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