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JUDGE PERMITS HARVARD'S MOTION TO ALLOW INTERNET VIEWERS INTO THE COURTROOM

Courtroom Hearing to be Available Via Internet

Cambridge, MA (January 2009) – Today, Massachusetts District Court Judge Nancy Gertner, the judge hearing the case between Tenenbaum's Harvard Law legal team vs. the RIAA, authorized Courtroom View Network (CVN) to provide audio visual coverage of the proceedings in this case over the Internet.

Back in December, Professor Charles Nesson and his team of Harvard Law students filed a motion to admit the Internet into the courtroom, which is traditionally prohibited. Nesson is defending Joel Tenenbaum, who has been sued by the RIAA with punishment of more than a million dollars for downloading seven songs.

"In many ways, this case is about the so-called Internet Generation -- the generation that has grown up with computer technology in general, and the internet in particular, as commonplace," wrote Judge Gertner in her opinion. "It is reportedly a generation that does not read newspapers or watch the evening news, but gets its information largely, if not almost exclusively, over the internet." The full opinion can be viewed here: <http://joelfightsback.com/wp-content/uploads/730.pdf>.

CVN will provide a live feed to the Berkman Center, and although details are still being worked out, it is anticipated that the Berkman Center will make the stream publicly available on its website for free. The Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard Law School will be underwriting costs and making the content available to the public under a creative commons noncommercial license.

"The federal court is open not only as a court of justice but a forum of civic education," said Nesson. This opportunity will allow intelligent public domain to shape itself by attending and engaging in a public trial of issues conflicting our society."

"The immediacy of internet-based access to court opinions allows lawyers, professors, students, and reporters to better keep abreast of the most recent legal developments," said Aaron Dulles, one of Nesson's students. Debbie Rosenbaum, another student who is keeping a daily Twitter account of every development in the case, added, "It seems like the new media community is eagerly anticipating this opportunity. The response from people following the case has been tremendous."

For more information, please visit our new website: www.joelfightsback.com.
Follow our student team on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/joelfightsback>.

Questions about CVN and the cameras in the courtroom movement can be directed to Jonathan Sherman of Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP, CVN's regular outside counsel, at 202.237.9605.

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CyberOne is a course that teaches Harvard Law School students to use the tools of cyberspace to improve society, guide development of the law, and connect in creativity and peace. Professor Charles Nesson is the William F. Weld Professor of Law at Harvard Law School and Founder of the Berkman Center for Internet & Society.