

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
January 18, 2009

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## **HARVARD LEGAL TEAM COMMENTS ON RIAA'S EFFORTS TO BAR INTERNET IN COURTROOM**

*"Perhaps the RIAA would like to run the gavel-to-gavel feed on their website as well."*  
– Charles Nesson.

*"If the RIAA's campaign is about educating people, how could they possibly oppose this?"*  
– Joel Tenenbaum

Cambridge, MA (January 2009) – The Harvard legal team representing Joel Tenenbaum commented today on the appeal of Federal Judge Gertner's granted motion to allow the hearing on January 22 to be narrowcast over the Internet. Led by Professor Charles Nesson, this Harvard legal team is defending Tenenbaum, a graduate student at Boston University, who was accused of downloading seven songs from a popular file-sharing network and is being sued for over \$1M. Their statement is as follows.

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"If the RIAA's position is to educate people about the business and legal climate of the music industry, it is unclear to us why they are appealing this decision. Further, we believe that the true public interest in this case is permitting civil involvement in courtroom proceedings. Our case is fundamentally about the 'so-called Internet generation,' and it is seemingly appropriate that such an opportunity be made available to these individuals.

"We are working hard to ensure that the Berkman Center is not the exclusive distributor of the content, and we welcome the RIAA's help in finding additional websites through which the proceedings can be viewed. Other parties have approached and are planning to narrowcast the feed.

"Finally, one of the virtues of the Internet is that other sites are accessible by just a few clicks – that is the essence of the Internet's information democracy. For whatever it is worth, the Berkman Center's site links directly to the RIAA's site, whereas it does not even directly link to the websites the RIAA argues are prejudicial to their position."

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*CyberOne is a course for Harvard Law School students learning to make things happen in a cyber world. Projects include furthering work already ongoing, as well as new inspirations expressing our growing ability to use the tools of cyberspace to 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.*

